**2015-16 enrollment** – Official fall enrollment numbers show a greater percentage of students returned to Hesston College in the fall of 2015 as compared to returning students a year prior. The increase is about 10 percent in nearly all primary areas. Total enrollment for the year is 409 students from 31 states and 13 countries, including 46 percent from Kansas, 43 percent from other U.S. states and 11 percent international. Mennonite students make up 31 percent of the student population.

**Campus theme** - The 15-16 First-year Experience course invited the local community to participate in its "common read" with the theme, “Be the Change that Matters.” Regina Calcaterra's memoir *Etched in Sand* traces her childhood experiences of abandonment, physical abuse and fear of the foster system she and her four siblings endured. The common read serves as a catalyst for a series of student projects, campus forums, community discussions and service activities. Calcaterra visited campus Oct. 5.

**Homecoming 2015** - Campus Transformation was the theme for A Hesston College Homecoming Sept. 24 to 27. The weekend celebrated a new north entryway to campus, renovations to the Northlawn performing arts building and the first official chiming of the new alumni carillon bells. A scale replica of Green Gables, the campus' first visual marker, was unveiled, emeritus faculty were recognized and outstanding performers who got their START at Hesston College participated in a Performing Arts Showcase following the Saturday evening alumni banquet.

**AVDS conference encouraged vibrant faith practices every day -**Ordinary Radical and follower of Christ, Shane Claiborne, founder and board member of *The Simple Way,*joined other peacebuilders, youth leaders and social justice advocates at the college's Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series conference Feb. 19 to 21, 2016. The conference theme, “Not Just on Sunday”helped attendees explore what it looks like to live a vibrant Sunday through Saturday faith - to live as if Jesus meant what he said and he was talking to us. Claiborne is the author of over a dozen books and was a worship speaker at MCUSA Convention 2015.

**Presidential transition** – Hesston College President Howard Keim announced that he will transition away from his role at the college at the end of the 2015-16 academic year, concluding 11 years of leadership as the college’s eighth president. “I have always viewed myself as a steward, not an owner of the office of president, and it has been my goal to ensure students are well-served and the mission of the college was advanced and strengthened and for the future,” said Keim. A search for the college’s next president began in January with Ken G Kabira, Hesston College Board of Directors member, as search committee chairperson.

**Congregational student aid**– Hesston College offers a match grant for scholarships provided by students’ churches. During the 2014-15 year, 87 churches contributed $195,193 in congregational aid to 121 recipients. Hesston College matched a total of $127,621. The average church aid per student was $1,613 while the average church-and-college aid per student was $2,667. **If your congregation is interested in providing a scholarship program to support Mennonite higher education, contact the Church Relations Office at 866-437-7866.**

Read these full stories and more at hesston.edu. For questions or more information, contact Dallas Stutzman, director of Alumni and Church Relations toll free at 866-437-7866.

**2015-16 campus theme verse**

"The Greatest Commandment"

Mark 12:30-31(New International Version)

**Central Plains Conference of Mennonite Church USA**

**Statistics and Connections**

**2015-2016 Academic Year Students** – 12

**Congregational Student Aid –** 8congregations provided $12,000.00 in tuition assistance for 12 students as of April 30, 2016.

**Hesston College Board of Directors** – Steve Ropp, First Mennonite Church, Iowa City, IA.

**Unified and Designated Giving –** We are grateful for the financial support of conference churches to Mennonite colleges and Mennonite Education Agency through Unified and Designated Giving and for personal contributions given from individuals.

 Howard Keim, President

 Dallas Stutzman, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

 Mike Zucconi, Director of Development and Phyllis Weaver,

 Development Officer

 Bethany Miller, Admissions Representative