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## Enlarging and Improving the Campus Living and Learning Environment

- In 2001, Fr. Schlegel outlined his vision to grow and enhance the campus: “The time is now, the time is right for Creighton to be engaged in enlarging its physical footprint . . . in creating a living and learning environment for our students.”
- Living-Learning Environment milestones: In 2003, the strategic plan was unveiled, designed to secure a position of leadership in the 21st century. This strategy included a Campus Master Plan, which called for the largest expansion in the University’s history. Much of the expansion has materialized, as the campus has grown by 40 acres to a total of 130 acres. This strategic expansion includes more than \$250 million in new construction and campus improvements and acquisitions. Creighton’s growth has complemented Omaha’s downtown renaissance, riverfront development and other urban renewal.

- New campus elements include: Hixson-Lied Science Building; upgraded Rigge and Criss teaching and research space; junior/senior town homes Davis Square and Opus Hall; new parking garages, enhanced landscaping and renovated central mall; Morrison Soccer Stadium; Venteicher Mall; St. John’s Church renovations; Mike and Josie Harper Center for Student Life and Learning; renovated Wareham Building and exterior renovation of Creighton Hall; and Wayne and Eileen Ryan Athletic Center and D.J. Sokol Arena.

## Realizing Unprecedented Philanthropic Impact

- *The Willing to Lead* campaign raised more than \$400 million against a \$350 million goal, with more than 63,000 donors investing in Creighton — more than half were new donors. Fifty-five percent of the campaign’s dollars raised have supported people and programs, with 45 percent directed to land acquisition and capital projects.
- The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) recognized Creighton University with a 2008 Educational Fundraising Award. The Overall Performance award honors superior higher education fundraising programs across the country as selected by a panel of peers. Institutions do not apply for the award; consideration is based on three years of data submitted. Only 37 institutions received this award from a field of more than 4,000. This was the third year Creighton has received national recognition for its philanthropic efforts. In 2007, the University was one of only 30 institutions of higher learning to receive the CASE Overall Performance award. Creighton was also recognized by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* as one of the top 400 nonprofit organizations based upon ability to attract private support. The University reached the list for the first time (ranking 351) for its performance in 2006 from a field of more than 300,000 nonprofits.
- In 2009, Creighton received the largest bequest commitment in its history—\$40 million—specifically designated for undergraduate scholarships.

## Setting the Pace for Technology

- Implemented unified e-mail and calendar system; recognized as one of the 50 best campuses with wireless access; almost doubled our technology-rich teaching spaces.
- New web strategy for the campus; podcasting of medical lectures; texting prospective students about admissions status; use of blogs in courses.
- Creighton is a recognized leader in wireless technology; applications developed here have been sold nationwide.
- Deploying a comprehensive Ambulatory Electronic Health Record for the clinicians and care team at Creighton Medical Associates clinic sites. The system’s automation at this level will significantly improve the quality of care, improve clinical encounter documentation and access, reduce costs and introduce a new patient-centered process.



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**Presidential Accomplishments of  
The Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J.  
Creighton University**

## Reinforcing and Strengthening Creighton’s Jesuit and Catholic Identity

- Established five themes at his First Founders Day Convocation in 2001 that would shape his presidency: Creighton is Jesuit and Catholic, inclusive, engaged, educationally purposeful and fiscally responsible.
- Strengthened ties with Omaha Archdiocese and developed mutually satisfactory approach to implementing *ex corde ecclesiae*. Creighton established a Master of Arts in Ministry to address the formation of lay men and women who want to prepare for professional ministry in the Catholic Church — especially from more rural dioceses.
- In 2006, visiting Archbishop Michael Miller noted: “Creighton’s service to the local church and its bishop is distinct among America’s 220 Catholic universities,” and spirit of celebration gives a “strong witness to Creighton as a Catholic university.”
- The Academic Council approved requiring courses in ethics and/or moral decision-making across the curriculum. This endorsement to implement Creighton's faith-based identity in its academic missions of teaching, scholarship and service may be unique among America's Jesuit universities.
- Collaborative Ministries online reflections visits tripled from 500,000 a month in 2003 to approximately 20 million a year. Online Ministry site attracts visitors from around the world; the online retreat is now available in Spanish, Japanese, Russian, Swedish, Chinese and Kiswahili.
- 3,500 students have experienced spiritual retreats this past decade, and students are heavily involved in the liturgical life of St. John’s Parish.
- The Center for Catholic Thought at Creighton University was created to serve students, faculty and the Catholic community through programs that explore and promote the Church’s intellectual tradition.
- The Ratio Studiorum Program, Creighton’s innovative advising program for first- and second-year students, was instituted. The unique program, which offers not only academic advising but academic growth, career exploration and personal development opportunities, is modeled after the historic Jesuit “plan of studies” dating back to 1599.

## Leading Institution-wide Strategic Planning

- In 2001, announced Academic/Strategic Planning with all sectors of the University to be represented, half from faculty.
- Initiated significant strategic planning process with a 19-member steering committee, nine subcommittees involving 92 additional members. Established comprehensive goals for the process. Initiated change from an inward-directed planning philosophy to an outward-directed “marketing” philosophy, based upon the long-term relationship of both external and internal students, clients and patients.
- In 2003, introduced the concept of a “*Willed Future*,” defined as a process through which an institution studies its options and deliberately chooses what it wants to achieve.
- Strategic Plan keyed to vision statement: “Creighton University will be a national leader in preparing students in a faith-based setting for responsible leadership, professional distinction and committed citizenship.”
- Established Board of Undergraduate Studies; Director of Freshman Programs; Office of Teaching, Learning and Assessment working to instill University-wide culture of assessment.

Increasing Creighton’s Engagement with the Community

- Fr. Schlegel’s 2000 Inaugural Address stated his goal of higher visibility in the Omaha community and emphasized that Creighton will be a “good neighbor,” especially to the African American community of north Omaha and the Hispanic community of south Omaha
- Creighton twice named a “Best Neighbor” among the nation’s urban colleges and universities, ranking No. 6 in 2009 for engagement with the city of Omaha.
- Awarded the 2007, 2008 and 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Award with Distinction by the American Council on Education, for community service and outreach in Omaha and beyond.
- Fr. Schlegel serves on many boards of trustees of colleges and universities across the country and served on regional accreditation review committees. Additionally, Fr. Schlegel served on numerous local boards in the arts, education and not-for-profit areas, including:
  - **Civic**
    - USSTRATCOM Consultation Committee, 2006-present
    - Cathedral Arts Project, 2001-present
    - Board of Directors, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, 2001-present
    - Executive Committee, Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, 2003-2007
    - Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Joslyn Art Museum, 2001-present
    - Board of Directors, Mid-America Council of the Boys Scouts of America, 2001-present; Council Chairman, 2006-07
    - Board of Directors, Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, 2000-present
    - Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Opera Omaha, 2003-2010
    - Board of Directors, United Way of the Midlands, 2001-2004, 2007-present
  - **Professional**
    - Board of Directors, Saint Joseph Hospital, Creighton University Medical Center, 2002-present
    - Board of Directors, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Nebraska, 2000-present; Executive Committee, 2000-present
    - Board of Directors, Creighton Preparatory School, 2000-2006
    - Board of Directors, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, 2000-2006

Enhancing Academic Excellence

- Fr. Schlegel set the stage in 2000 by reaffirming the student-centered heart of Creighton that offers personal mentoring relationships, unlike mega-universities, and a multitude of disciplines and professional perspectives, unlike exclusively liberal arts schools.
- Held listening sessions with departments and faculty groups and began weekly breakfast conversations with students, later adding monthly faculty/staff dialogue sessions.
- Creighton introduced its web-based Doctor of Pharmacy degree, a pioneering academic innovation.
- Intensified, purposeful approach to recruiting undergraduate classes. In 2004, Creighton established a formal enrollment management model that incorporated student recruitment, financial aid and retention, and as a result, the freshman academic profile grew each year. Today, the freshman academic profile places Creighton among the top 10 Midwestern private universities with undergraduate enrollments above 4,000 and among the top 10 Catholic universities in the nation.
- The College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Business expanded faculties to meet student needs and embrace opportunities for student travel, student summer research and student community life.
- In all, 57 new undergraduate and graduate degrees have been developed over the decade, including: the online Master of Arts in Ministry; the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP); Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degree in bioscience management; the BA/MA in theology with religious teaching certification; the online Master of Science in Health Care Ethics and more. Many feature interdisciplinary approaches to courses across multiple educational disciplines.
  - Creighton is committed to selectively expand graduate and professional programs and explore integration of online learning in all programs; we realized a 43 percent increase in Graduate School enrollment from 2008-09, primarily due to the increase in online programming.
  - The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication is home to an Apple Regional Training Center – one of the few in the region.
  - The Department of Physics established a new energy technology major in 2010. The new degree program will include courses on the science, public policy and ethics of alternative energy.

- The College of Business has developed an innovative Bioscience Entrepreneurship Program for students of bioscience, business and law.
- The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions earned accreditation for a community pharmacy residency program. The 12-month residency offers pharmacy graduates the opportunity to apply what they’ve learned in school to the real world of pharmacy while enhancing their clinical knowledge as well as patients’ medication management.
- The Creighton School of Dentistry’s Native American Enrichment program serves students who are interested in a career as a dentist. Creighton is meeting a crippling need for Native American dentists and addressing a persistent health disparity. There are over 4.5 million Native Americans in the United States, but fewer than 150 Native American dentists to serve this population.

- Creighton became the *only Catholic and Nebraska university* recognized nationally by *U.S. News and World Report* for faculty-mentored undergraduate research opportunities.

- Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution has exceeded enrollment projections by threefold. Sources report that dispute resolution is among the fastest-growing professions. In 2006, the institute received federal grant to develop a model to bilaterally negotiate U.S.-Cuban property claims and initiated an online-based Master of Science degree program in 2008.

- In the spring of 2010, Creighton student-athletes in 14 sports achieved their highest grade point average: 3.35 on a 4.0 scale. Sixteen student-athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA for the semester. Creighton was awarded NCAA Public Recognition Awards for ranking in the top 10 percent of all squads in men’s golf and women’s volleyball, women’s cross country and women’s golf. Creighton has won the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) All-Academic Award in five of the past six seasons.

- Success has been achieved in enrolling first-generation and lower-income students, much higher than nearly all other universities rated in the nation’s top 150 institutions. We enroll as many with household incomes below \$50,000 as with incomes above \$200,000.

- The Physics Department has been recognized by the American Institute of Physics as one of the top 16 master’s-granting physics departments in U.S.

- Creighton’s undergraduate applications in 2009 were 82 percent greater than in 2001, and we have increased the size of the freshman class by 38 percent with a record 1,054 freshman students in 2009-10.

- Retention of first-year students continues to be steady and reached a decade high of 88.8 percent in 2009. The national average at private schools is 73 percent.

- Since 2000, Creighton has grown overall enrollment by 1,150 students, reaching an all-time high of nearly 7,400 students in fall 2009.

- In 2009, Creighton was ranked the No. 1 Midwest master’s-level university by *U.S. News and World Report* for the 7th straight year.

- Recognized by the Fulbright Program for developing Fulbright Fellows.

Raising Creighton’s Profile in the Health Sciences

- Creighton is recognized for national leadership in research in hereditary cancer, bone density, osteoporosis and Alzheimer’s disease.

- Creighton University Medical Center was branded to create a unified clinical presence in the community in 2004.

- Health sciences schools have updated strategic plans (2007-2008); collaborative efforts are underway to incorporate Ignatian values into curricula, research and program development.

- In June 2009, the School of Medicine and St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix announced an academic affiliation to create Creighton University School of Medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, a member of Catholic Healthcare West.

- Since 2000, Creighton has seen tremendous growth in externally funded research—from \$23 million to \$46 million.

- A new spirit of cooperation and purpose now binds Creighton and Creighton University Medical Center; a new affiliation agreement, renewable at two-year intervals, provides a platform for hospital renovation, aesthetic improvements, technological upgrades, and physician recruitment.