

Jerry M. Greiner President Arcadia University

## Message from the President

Making a promise usually requires follow-up action to ensure that the promise is kept. A year ago, this University articulated our core values as the Arcadia Promise. We identified these values as

- Global Perspectives in the classroom and through study abroad.
- Integrative Learning experiences such as student teaching, internships, research and capstone projects that integrate theory with real-world experiences.
- Personal Attention that has been the constant hallmark of Arcadia since its inception as Beaver College.

Our focus on integrative learning and personal connections infused with international experiences prepares students to contribute and prosper in an increasingly interconnected and competitive world. Over the last year, our faculty worked collegially and creatively on a new curriculum that would ensure that Arcadia keeps its Promise to new generations of students. We challenged ourselves to develop a flexible curriculum that exposes students to a world of knowledge in new ways. In May, our faculty overwhelmingly endorsed a whole new model for liberal arts education.

Starting with the Class of 2012, we are no longer following the traditional mode of a certain number of "general education" courses. Instead, students will explore Areas of Inquiry and master five Intellectual Practices. Team-taught courses and interdisciplinary seminars will span across disciplinary and geographical boundaries, and project-based learning will allow students to delve more deeply into their major. The Senior Capstone experience is one traditional element strongly emphasized in the new curriculum.

Most importantly, students will take part in a series of academic experiences throughout all four years of their undergraduate program that allow them to make illuminating intellectual and personal connections.

We believe that this new curriculum gives students the flexibility they need to explore the campus, the region, the nation and the world—and still graduate in four years. This atmosphere of exploration will include the student life experience beyond the classroom. While this is a new effort, I believe it builds upon the distinct elements that have characterized an Arcadia education since the days of Beaver College.

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