

The Ideal Adventist College Graduate

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What would the *ideal* Adventist college graduate look like?

On the weekend of March 14-16, 2008 presidents and others leaders of Adventist colleges and universities based in North America came up with the answer.

Actually, the *provisional* answer.

These leaders—presidents, academic deans, chief financial officers—were together at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee. They had gathered for a Mission Conference that a special taskforce, chaired by John McVay, president of Walla Walla University, had put together in cooperation with the Executive Committee of the Association of Adventist Colleges and Universities (AACU). During the weekend, conference participants worked on a document (following this story) that they hoped would fire up widespread conversation about the mission of Adventist higher education in the North American Division.

The document is short—a few points, without commentary. It sets forth an outcomes-focused vision. It is a draft.

Now the leadership of AACU is seeking comment from people who care about higher education in the church. Presidents are presenting the statement, for example, to faculties and staffs, as well as to boards and other stakeholders. They expect that revisions will follow. They also expect give-and-take on how Adventist colleges and universities can do a more effective job of instilling these values in their students. This latter expectation gave rise, at the Tennessee meeting, to the draft list of “commitments” that appear at the end of the statement.

If you are reading this, you have a perspective AACU leadership needs to hear. What do you think? Is the statement on target? Is it on the bull’s eye? Does it have any potential to revive passion for Adventist higher education? Or is it, perhaps, off the bull’s eye, or off target altogether?

Besides your perspective on these questions, your perspective on the draft list of commitments is also welcome. Send comments to this e-mail address: outcomes@puc.edu.

Leaders of Adventist higher education will not get this right unless you help them do so.

The Mission of Adventist Higher Education

Draft for Study – Spring 2008

Based on our commitment to Scripture, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and present truth, Adventist colleges and universities inspire our graduates to practice the Way of Christ through:

- God's transforming Grace
- Careful, logical thought about ideas and faith
- Wholeness as physical, intellectual, and spiritual beings
- Educated servant leadership in community and congregation
- The pursuit of truth and the pleasure of learning
- Authenticity toward self and others
- Life work as divine calling
- Compassion, peacemaking, and the stewardship of God's creation
- The blessing of Sabbath rest
- Hope for the future, as a basis for witness and action

AACU solicits feedback on these ten outcomes we would like to see in the graduates of Seventh-day Adventist colleges/universities. Please send your comments which will be shared with an AACU Mission Task Force chaired by John McVay, President of Walla Walla University, to: outcomes@puc.edu