



Education Report Card

The North American Division (NAD) Office of Education embraces four domains through which it seeks to accomplish its goals: Purpose, Plan, Practice, and Product. These domains serve as a framework that guides our philosophy and mission, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Maintaining Our Philosophy and Mission: An Adventist Worldview

The Adventist worldview embraces the Bible as the standard by which everything else is measured. Four key concepts (with accompanying essential questions) emerge from a biblical worldview and can be used as a lens for the Adventist curriculum development: *CREATION* (What is God's intention?); *FALL* (How has God's purpose been distorted?); *REDEMPTION* (How does God help us to respond?); and *RE-CREATION* (How can we be restored

in the image of God?). The NAD is using this lens to make the Adventist worldview visible in student standards as well as classroom resources.

Blueprint Film

In addition to making the Adventist worldview visible to students, we seek to share it with constituents and communities. The NAD Office of Education collaborated with award-winning independent film maker Martin Doblmeier to produce *The Blueprint*. Released in 2012, this one-hour film on Adventist education was well received by audiences. An estimated 40-60 million people worldwide have had the opportunity to view the documentary on Public Broadcasting Stations. Doblmeier's vision and determination to see this film succeed has been inspiring.

Curriculum and Instruction Initiatives

- *ByDesign Science and Kindergarten Stepping Stones*. Two new, NAD-devel-

oped elementary programs have just been published—*ByDesign Science* for grades 1-8 and *Kindergarten Stepping Stones*. *ByDesign*, built on a foundation of inquiry, encourages wonderment, questioning, collaboration, and exploration of multiple resources. *Kindergarten Stepping Stones*, based on the belief that kindergarten is a stepping stone between early childhood education and the primary grades of school, integrates a rich array of children's literature and inquiry-based activities that encourage exploration and discovery.

- *Encounter Adventist Bible Curriculum*. In 2014, a number of NAD classrooms piloted the K-10 *Encounter* curriculum that was developed by Adventist Schools Australia, which advocates a head, heart, and hand approach to Bible instruction, rather than a purely content-based approach. Students are provided opportunities to expand their biblical knowledge, develop a personal relationship with God, and

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be involved in service to others. Ultimately, the *Encounter Bible* curriculum offers an experiential approach to Bible study using the Bible as the perfect standard of truth. Implementation will begin with grade 9 during the 2015-2016 school year, with other grade levels in successive years.

• **Early Childhood Curriculum.** NAD is developing three early childhood curriculum resources: *CREATIONKids*, *Be Like Jesus Faith-based Companion*, and *Cobblestones Pre-kindergarten Companion*—a companion to the *Kindergarten Stepping Stones* curriculum. The *CREATIONKids* curriculum is designed to help young children learn; communicate; adopt a healthy mind, body, and spirit; and grow secure in the love of Christ and the church. The *Be Like Jesus Faith-based Companion*, a Web-based resource, provides

more than 100 faith-integrated, biblically based lessons and activities. The *Cobblestones Pre-kindergarten Companion* is designed to assist teachers of pre-kindergarten students (age 4).

• **PhysicalGenesis.** The NAD Office of Education, in collaboration with Nico Rizzo of Loma Linda University and Rob Thomas of La Sierra University, is coordinating a division-wide health study called *PhysicalGenesis* for Adventist students in grades 5-11, which will focus on identifying health behaviors and fitness levels of children and adolescents across the North American Division. *PhysicalGenesis* data will provide valuable insights about health habits and lifestyles that can be used to inform teaching and learning practices within the division.

Higher Education

For more than a century, the North American Division's colleges and universities have provided quality Seventh-day Adventist education to hundreds of thousands of people from throughout the division and beyond. Enrollments have fluctuated somewhat in recent years because of economic conditions and the continued slide in the number of NAD academy graduates. During this past quinquennium, the number of undergraduate students, in general, decreased slightly, although the total graduate and adult education numbers rose. There were some notable exceptions, including La Sierra University and Pacific Union College, which have had all-time-high enrollments.

NAD colleges and universities have received many fantastic blessings and accomplished remarkable achievements. Notable happenings include the following:

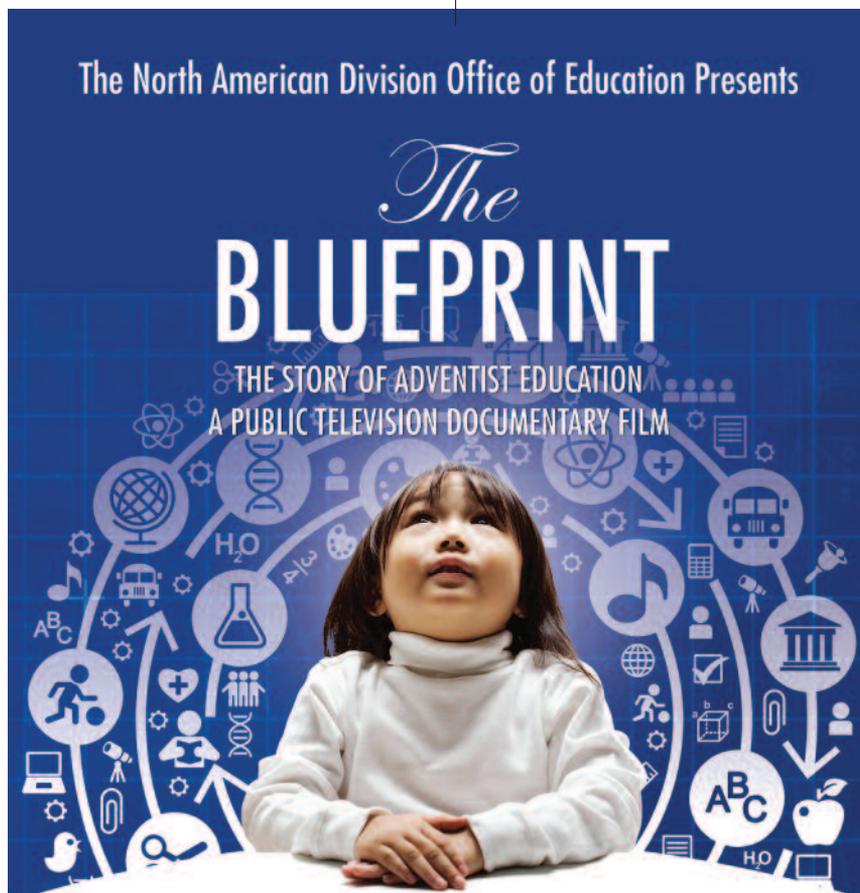
• **Adventist University of Health Sciences** in Orlando, Florida, underwent a name change in 2012 (previously Florida Hospital College of Health Science). In 2014, a new 66,000-square-foot Graduate Building was completed.

• **Andrews University** in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and **Griggs University** (formerly in Silver Spring, Maryland) merged. A new School of Distance Education was formed, and now more than 3,000 distance students study to obtain Andrews University credits and degrees. Even though **Griggs University** had merged with Andrews University, it was still named as one of the top distance-education programs in the U.S.A.

• **Atlantic Union College** in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, ceased operations in 2012 but hopes to resume classes in the fall of 2015.

• **Canadian University College** in Lacombe, Alberta, officially changed its name to **Burman University** on May 1, 2015, in honor of its founders, a husband-and-wife team, Charles A. and Leona Burman.

• **Kettering College** in Kettering,





Ohio, experienced record enrollments and recently transitioned from a mostly Associate Degree-granting college to a Bachelor of Arts, Master's, and doctoral degree-granting institution. In 2015, it began to offer one of the few U.S. direct-to-doctoral occupational-therapy programs.

- **La Sierra University** in Riverside, California, received several awards, including inclusion on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll (2015) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's community engagement reclassification (an honor first given to the school in 2008), which recognizes institutional collaboration with its local, national, and global communities. In 2013, the university hosted a grand opening for its new \$16 million, award-winning Vi and Tom Zapara School of Business building.

- **Loma Linda University** in Loma Linda, California, recently launched Vision 2020, the largest philanthropic campaign ever attempted by an Ad-

Top: In August 2012, 6,500 educators attended the NAD convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bottom: Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta, officially changed its name to Burman University on May 1, 2015.

ventist institution. The university is creating an additional campus in nearby downtown San Bernardino, where it will offer a number of certificate training programs for high school students.

- **Oakwood University** in Huntsville, Alabama, transferred, at their request, from a General Conference institution

to become the first North American Division-sponsored institution of higher education. The university conducted a series of studies on the spiritual needs of its students; purchased two nationally franchised businesses to increase its revenue and support its

mission; earned commendations from its accrediting body, the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges; and received a gift of \$2 million to aid in constructing a university health and wellness center.

- **Pacific Union College** in Angwin, California, celebrated its highest enrollment in 24 years in fall 2013 (1,678 students). In fall 2014, the college experienced the largest on-campus enrollment in 19 years. PUC is the only Adventist college or university recognized as a National Liberal Arts College by *U.S. News & World Report*, and has been ranked in the top tier of its Western regional category for 17 consecutive years.

- **Southern Adventist University** in Collegedale, Tennessee, recently graduated its first doctoral student (Doctor of Nursing Practice), and received nearly \$70,000 in grants for Christian service and outdoor-education programs for at-risk communities in nearby Chattanooga.

- **Southwestern Adventist University** in Keene, Texas, celebrated its 120th year of operation; began training firefighters through a new A.A.S. in Fire Science; was featured in a dinosaur documentary for the National Geographic Channel; and sent its students to build churches, conduct health screenings, install water purification systems, and teach English in countries across the globe.

- **Union College** in Lincoln, Nebraska, inaugurated the Krueger Center for Science and Mathematics, which contains many high-tech laboratories for biomedical science, biology, engineering, and physics, as well as seven labs dedicated to student and faculty research; added new scholarships and degree programs; and added a nursing early admission track. New students can sign up to be matched with a college employee as mentor to help them develop a personal spiritual-growth plan.

- **Walla Walla University** in College Place, Washington, initiated several new programs: in collaboration with the Walla Valley Medical Society, a

physician-shadowing pilot program; the Star Project, which supports people recently released from prison; and a Master's degree in media ministry, a Bachelor's degree in international business, and a global humanitarian engineering emphasis.

- **Washington Adventist University** in Takoma Park, Maryland, spearheaded the translation of the Russian Orthodox Bible into English; completed the Leroy & Lois Peters Music Building and a student-activity center; partnered with the REACH Columbia Union Urban Evangelism School; and rejoiced over more than 70 baptisms in 2014 alone.

Professional Growth

Two NAD system-wide professional conferences, the NAD teachers convention and the Association of Seventh-day Adventist School Administrators (ASDASA) conference, are scheduled every six years. In August 2012, 6,500 educators attended the NAD convention in Nashville, Tennessee, and in February 2015, ASDASA met in Dallas, Texas. Educators were inspired and had many opportunities for both professional and spiritual renewal.

Technology Tools

Two major online portals were developed during this quinquennium: Data Roll-up and eCertification. Data Roll-up consolidates classroom data (grades, attendance, demographic information, etc.), into one database. eCertification allows educators to review their denominational certification status online and determine what is needed to move from basic certification to professional certification. In addition, the newly revised NAD Website (adventisteducation.org) provides invaluable resources for early childhood, elementary, and secondary teachers and administrators, as well as pastors and parents.

Product: School Improvement Accreditation

The recently revised *Standards for*

Accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist Schools document addresses the NAD's commitment to continuous improvement in the attainment of excellence in student learning. The accreditation process outlined in this document provides North American Division schools with a robust structure for reflecting upon programs and practices, raising quality, achieving excellence, and delivering better outcomes for students and their families. The Core of Adventist Education Conceptual Framework organizes the accreditation standards within the context of four domains—Purpose, Plan, Practice, and Product. ✍



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