



MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY 2016-2017 REPORT TO DELEGATES

Greetings from MEA! In this report, you can get a glimpse of some of the work we do in cooperation with five colleges and universities, two seminaries, two Ministerios Hispanos programs, more than two dozen primary and secondary schools in the Mennonite Schools Council (MSC), Mennonite Early Childhood Network (MECN), and others. In 2016-2017, a total of 10,787 students were enrolled at Mennonite institutions (not including Ministerios Hispanos).

By providing networking, support, collaboration, resources, professional growth opportunities, scholarships and more, we ensure the opportunity to provide exceptional academics with Anabaptist values. Our distinctives include: following Jesus Christ, being peacemakers, intentionally building community, developing dedicated and disciplined learners, serving others, and embracing differences. Some of the particular activities and initiatives of the past year include the following:

- MEA staff assisted with the search for and **calling of several new presidents** for Mennonite higher education. Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Virginia) called Dr. Susan Schultz Huxman, and Hesston College (Kansas) called Dr. Joseph Manickam. In addition, MEA continues to work with Goshen College (Indiana), which has announced its candidate of choice, Dr. Rebecca Stoltzfus, and it is also supporting Bethel College (North Newton, Kansas) in its presidential search.
- A committee has been appointed to examine the relationship between MEA and the six Mennonite colleges/seminary. **The Higher Education Future Church/School Relations Committee** includes representatives from MEA, each of the six schools, Executive Board and Mennonite Church USA at-large representatives. The committee hopes to have a proposal ready for all boards involved to review by October 2017.

Through this process, MEA seeks to facilitate the creation of a new paradigm for church-school relationships through the engagement of Mennonite Church USA institutions of higher education and the church and its constituency groups. The MEA board has a missional vision for Mennonite education as transformative, permeated by Anabaptist Mennonite theological understandings and values. It is education for the

world rather than education that primarily seeks to serve Mennonites. The process envisioned by MEA is not about combining the past educational polities of the General Conference Mennonite Church and Mennonite Church but rather clarifying church/school relationships in the midst of new realities.

The committee is charged with creating a proposal with a corresponding timeline for revised mutual understandings and a common structure that will support long-term connections and linkages between Mennonite Church USA church-related institutions of higher education and an educationally-supportive denomination.

- The March 2017 **Education Leaders Gathering**, "Beyond Buried Treasure," was held in partnership with MHS in Jacksonville, Florida. It was the second joint conference for Mennonite Health Assembly and MEA.
- The **Anabaptist Biblical Institute (IBA)** and the **Anabaptist Hispanic Seminary (SeBAH)** continue to expand and serve the church. New IBA centers recently opened in Lancaster, Miami and Orlando in addition to the 34 centers already operating. SeBAH continues to expand online course offerings and is presently running its second test course with students from Mennonite Church USA and Colombia Mennonite Church.

- The annual **Hope for the Future** event, co-sponsored by MEA, brings together people of color who are leaders in Mennonite churches and institutions to network and generate change. About 70 people participated in 2017.
- MEA executive director Carlos Romero continues to assist with administration of the **Intercultural Development Inventory**, providing the training for Mennonite college, university and seminary boards and other Mennonite Church USA organizations.
- A monthly calendar of **Prayers for Faith and Learning** is sent out to help people focus their prayers for schools affiliated with MEA.
- MEA expanded its advertising and outreach with a **four-page color insert** in the January 2017 issue of *The Mennonite*, which can be used as an ongoing promotional piece.
- A group of 36 people began training in this year's **Values-Based Leadership** program in October. The program, co-sponsored by MEA, has seen more than 500 people take part since it began in 2001.

Finally, from all of MEA, we want to say THANK YOU!

Thank you to members of your conference who are serving on Mennonite educational boards and committees. And thank you to all the congregations who supported Mennonite education with their giving, their support and their prayers.



INFORME DE LA AGENCIA MENONITA DE EDUCACIÓN PARA LAS CONFERENCIAS REGIONALES EN EL 2016-2017

¡Reciba el saludo de MEA, la Agencia Menonita de Educación! En este informe, podrá echarle un vistazo al trabajo cooperativo que hacemos con cinco universidades, dos seminarios, dos programas de ministerios hispanos, más de dos docenas de escuelas primarias y secundarias del Consejo de Escuelas Menonitas (MCS, por sus siglas en inglés), la Red Menonita de Infancia Temprana (MECN, por sus siglas en inglés) y otros. Para el ciclo 2016-2017, contamos con 10.787 estudiantes matriculados en instituciones menonitas (sin incluir a Ministerios Hispanos).

Al proveer trabajo en red, apoyo, colaboración, recursos, oportunidades de crecimiento profesional, becas y más, aseguramos la posibilidad de brindar estudios excepcionales con valores anabautistas. Nuestras características distintivas incluyen: seguir a Jesucristo, ser hacedores de paz, construir intencionalmente la comunidad, desarrollar estudiantes dedicados y disciplinados, servir a otros y abrazar las diferencias. Las siguientes son algunas de las actividades e iniciativas particulares del año pasado:

- El personal de MEA asistió en la búsqueda y la **convocatoria de dos nuevos presidentes** para la educación superior menonita. *Eastern Mennonite University* (Harrisonburg, VA) convocó a la Dra. Susan Schultz Huxman, mientras que *Hesston College* (Kansas) convocó al Dr. Joseph Manickam. Además, MEA continúa su trabajo con *Goshen College* (Indiana) en su búsqueda de un sucesor para el Dr. Jim Brenneman y está apoyando también a *Bethel College* (North Newton, Kansas) en su búsqueda de presidente.
 - El personal de MEA trabajó con *Eastern Mennonite University* en un **proceso de investigación** por alegaciones contra Luke Hartman, exvicepresidente de matriculación de EMU, y en una revisión de las políticas de EMU relacionadas con el Título IX.
 - Se planificó y preparó el **Encuentro de Líderes de la Educación** “Más allá del Tesoro Escondido” de marzo del 2017 en Florida, en colaboración con Servicios Menonitas de Salud (MHS, por sus siglas en inglés). Esta será la segunda conferencia conjunta de la Asamblea Menonita de Salud y MEA.
 - Se envía un almanaque mensual de **Oraciones para la fe y el aprendizaje** para ayudar a las personas a concentrar sus oraciones por las escuelas de MEA.
 - El evento anual de **Esperanza para el futuro**, copatrocinado por MEA, reúne a personas de color que ejercen el liderazgo en iglesias e instituciones menonitas para construir redes y generar cambios. En el 2017, participaron aproximadamente 70 personas.
 - Carlos Romero, director ejecutivo de MEA, continúa asistiendo en la administración del **Inventario de Desarrollo Intercultural**, que provee capacitación para juntas de universidades y seminarios menonitas y otras organizaciones de la Iglesia Menonita.
 - MEA expandió su publicidad y extensión con un **folleto de cuatro páginas a color** en la edición de *The Mennonite* de enero del 2017, para ser utilizado como elemento de promoción continua.
 - En octubre de este año, un grupo de 36 personas comenzó la capacitación del programa de **Liderazgo Basado en Valores**. El programa, patrocinado por MEA, ha visto participar a más de 500 personas desde sus inicios en el 2001.
- Finalmente, todos los que formamos parte de MEA queremos decir ¡GRACIAS!** Gracias a los miembros de su conferencia que sirven en juntas y comités educativos menonitas. Y gracias a todos las congregaciones que apoyan la educación menonita.

