

E-News Special Edition
Now is the time...
June 2021

You are making a difference in the world...at this time...right now! By partnering with Dallas Christian College, you are helping to change the world one student at a time. Your prayers, your generosity, and your partnership are more important than ever as we navigate the challenges of this unique moment in history. In this special edition of the DCC E-News, we share with you some of what God has accomplished this past year:



photo credit: Stephen Gould, Aperture Photography

DCC'S COMMENCEMENT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

One of the newest trustees, David Peters, stated, "This is more than a commencement, this is a worship experience. This is amazing!" DCC alumnus and president of Casas por Cristo, David Robertson, shared a challenging message as this year's commencement speaker. David was chosen to speak because President Brian Smith wanted an alumnus who would be an example to the graduates of ministry and service for the Kingdom of God.



David has served in student ministries in several different churches and accepted the challenge of leading Casas por Cristo, a ministry of building homes for the homeless in Mexico, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic. "Thirty years ago," David said, "I walked across the stage and received my diploma from DCC, and I knew I was called to serve." You may view the complete commencement service ([HERE](#))

"This is an incredible graduating class. They weathered COVID-19 and finished strong," said Mark Worley, VP for Institutional Advancement. Crystal Laidacker, DCC Registrar, reported that "the average cumulative GPA of this class is 3.23 and 41% are graduating with honors. The average age of this class is 25. They came to Dallas Christian College from Texas, Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. Several have international backgrounds. Forty percent of this class will serve in local churches, para-church ministries, or intercultural ministries. Twenty-seven percent will provide Christian leadership in local businesses, 33% will teach in the field of education, and 40% plan to further their education through graduate school."

At the end of every year the trustees and faculty and staff share lunch together and hear testimonies from several graduating seniors (you can see some of their testimonies on the DCC website: www.dallas.edu/stories). It's a powerful time for trustees, faculty, and staff to see the culmination of their efforts. Usually a graduating senior from every educational department shares. President Smith stated, "This year it was hard for us to decide on just one from each department. This class is really a strong class of graduates." The graduating class' ethnic diversity emphasizes another distinctive of the DCC experience: 52% of this class are Caucasian, 30% are African-American, and 17% are Hispanic.

In a recent letter, President Smith shared:

*"My wife and I were watching the news recently and my wife said, 'I get so frustrated hearing about all of these problems in our society, but no real solutions.' That struck a chord with me – have you ever felt that way? It frustrates me as well. "Then I went to Dallas Christian College's graduation ceremony, which frankly was more like a worship experience. I saw a young Hispanic woman who came from a small town in Texas receive the award for valedictorian. I knew the transformation that she had experienced at DCC. She's already in ministry in Utah. I saw a young Caucasian man who had struggled with teenage arthritis and at one time had questioned God because of that disease walk across the stage to receive his diploma. He is already in ministry in Dallas at Compass Christian Church. I saw a young African-American woman from a single-parent home who came to DCC to play basketball and walked across the stage a confident woman of God who graduated with honors. She plans to be an influence for Christ in the business world. I could go on and on because that's what happens at DCC, but I think you get the point – **I was watching the solution!**"*

COMPASS ACADEMY GRADUATION

Two years ago, Dallas Christian College and Compass Christian Church partnered in creating Compass Academy. Dr. Rob Maupin, Compass Christian Church Executive Pastor, dreamed of a way to educate leader/volunteers for service in the church. Compass wanted a robust educational process for training volunteers in Christian leadership. The church partnered with DCC to help in this process. The plan was for each student to study Christian leadership for the first year and biblical study for the second year. Dr. Lyndsey Neal, psychology chair at DCC, coordinated with Dr. Maupin on the leadership year, and Dr. Mark Hahlen, Bible chair at DCC, worked with the biblical study year. Dr. John Derry, academic dean at DCC, and Bruce Long, associate dean, worked with Dr. Maupin on coordination with DCC as well. As Dr. Maupin said, "It was a daunting project but well worth it."

Recently, Compass Academy held the first graduation for the students who had completed their two-year program and the second graduation for the first-year graduates. It was an exciting night for the graduates, especially experiencing the pride of completing such a strong program. Cara Richardson, staff member at Compass, said, "I didn't think I would make it through the Bible part – I thought I knew the Bible, but Dr. Hahlen and Compass Academy took it to a whole other level. I have grown so much!" Clif Davis, an elder at Compass and former chairman of the Board of Trustees at DCC, said, "It feels great to be a part of the first graduating class of Compass Academy! I can't thank Compass and DCC enough for this incredible program!"



FISCAL YEAR-END APPEAL

Mark Worley, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, says, "There are two especially critical times of year for fund-raising – the end of the calendar year and the end of the fiscal year. The end of the calendar year benefits DCC and the donor (for tax purposes). The end of the fiscal year primarily benefits DCC in ending the year strong." President Smith says, "We always appreciate those who are monthly donors because that helps us throughout the year, but it's extremely important for a variety of reasons for us to end the fiscal year in the black, or at least close to the

black.”

Please help DCC end the fiscal year in a bold way by donating through the DCC website (www.dallas.edu/thrivegive) or clicking the button below.

GIVE TO DCC



ART OF THE RESTART SEMINAR A SUCCESS!

DCC recently hosted a seminar brought by Nexus, a church planting ministry out of Dallas. The director of Nexus, Phil Claycomb, and assistant director, Greg Garcia, shared a powerful seminar focusing on the church after COVID-19. Those who attended in-person on the DCC campus or virtually via Zoom received excellent insights on the advantages and ideas of moving forward after the pandemic. If you would like to view a recording of this seminar, click ([HERE](#)).

DCC|LEADERSHIP PODCASTS NOW AVAILABLE

Director of Advancement Scott Spies and VP for Advancement Mark Worley host a weekly podcast focused on Christian leadership. Each episode consists of approximately twenty minutes of interviews and insights from a variety of different perspectives. From faculty members to coaches to educators to mentors to online leadership professionals, Scott and Mark bring out the very best of leadership conversations. Subjects vary from Christian worldview to mentoring, leadership styles, leadership in coaching, history, biblical insights, and more. To begin your leadership podcast journey, click ([HERE](#)).

DCC | Leadership
PODCAST
www.dallas.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 23 – Summer II online classes begin – sign up for one now!

June 27 – [SALTeens 45th Year Facebook Live Celebration](#)

June 30 – End of DCC fiscal year! Please be generous!

August 25 – DCC classes begin

November 12-13 – DCC In-Person Homecoming Celebration

PRAYER

- Please pray for DCC graduates as they become an influence for Christ in the world.
 - Please pray for NEW DCC students as they prepare for their DCC experience.
 - Please pray for the faculty and staff as they prepare for what could be the largest incoming class in DCC history!
 - Please pray for a strong finish for our fiscal year end.
 - Pray for DCC and our sister Bible colleges as we continue to teach students with a Christian worldview.
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WE CARE

You are part of the DCC Family and we are praying for you during this unprecedented time, that you will be safe and healthy. The DCC family chooses faith over fear because we know God has a plan and a purpose in all of this. We encourage you to look to God's Word and seek His face in prayer to find peace and comfort.

Please know that if you are in need, we are here for you. Don't hesitate to reach out so that we can connect.

wecare@dallas.edu goes directly to the President's Office. If you have an issue that you have not been able to resolve or if you want to acknowledge someone in the DCC family that has gone the extra mile serving you, please let us know.

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