

## Belmont Abbey College Recognized Again by U.S. News & World Report & Welcomes Record New Student Enrollment

BELMONT, N.C. (September 14, 2020) Today U.S. News & World Report recognizes Belmont Abbey College as one of the Best Regional Colleges in the South, one of the Best Values, and one of the Best in Undergraduate Teaching in the 2021 edition of U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges. The recognition places it among the best colleges in the nation. The college also welcomed its largest new student enrollment in its history this fall with 523 students.

"As students seek to decide on their college experience it is gratifying to know that our college rises to the top for overall performance, for our undergraduate focus, and our value," said Dr. Bill Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College. "Our faculty are at the heart of that quality, their dedication to our students shines through these rankings."

Indicators used by the Best Colleges guide include input measures, which reflect the quality of students, faculty and other resources used in education; and outcome measures, such as graduation and freshman retention rates and graduation rate performance, which signal how well the institution educates its student body.

"Creating an academic experience that is then recognized for its quality finds its foundation with our faculty," said Dr. Travis Feezell, Provost. "Despite unforeseen challenges like converting our curriculum to online this spring, to rolling with new protocols this fall our faculty continue delivering teaching excellence every day."

In addition to being one of the Best Regional Colleges, *U.S. News* also distinguished Belmont Abbey College as the #9 college for undergraduate teaching in the south region. The student teacher relationship is at the core of Belmont Abbey College's academics so it comes as no surprise that peers at other Colleges named Belmont Abbey College as an example of excellent undergraduate teaching.

The Abbey's exceptional value was also recognized reflecting the College's commitment to affordable, high quality education. Belmont Abbey College lowered its tuition by 33% in 2013 and has not raised tuition or room and board since.

With excellent faculty now teaching several new degree programs, the record new student enrollment certainly reflects the ongoing commitment to quality by the college as well as program growth. This year new students enrolled in new healthcare programs, new programs in business, and the sciences. In 2020 Belmont Abbey College has added five new degree programs.

**About Belmont Abbey College**: Founded in 1876, Belmont Abbey College is a private, Catholic, baccalaureate and liberal arts institution. Our mission is to educate students in the liberal arts and sciences so that in all things God may be glorified. Guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and the Benedictine spirit of prayer and learning, we welcome a diverse body of students and provide them with an education that will enable them to lead lives of integrity, to succeed professionally, to become responsible citizens, and to be a blessing to themselves and to others. Our beautiful and historic campus is conveniently located just 10 miles west of Charlotte, N.C., and is currently home to more than 1500 students. For more information, visit