



# VIEW*S* & VISIONS

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## Shepherding the Next Generation

Dr. Mary J. C. Hendrix, President  
Shepherd University

Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix is Shepherd University's 16th president and is the first graduate to lead the school in its history. Hendrix graduated from Shepherd in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in pre-medicine/biology. She went on to earn a doctorate in anatomy/cell biology from George Washington University, and served as a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School. She holds seven patents related to her work in cancer research.

Hendrix is currently on the board of directors at the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences; she chairs the National Disease Research Interchange board; and, she serves on the board of directors for Research!America.

Before coming to Shepherd, Hendrix was president and chief scientific officer of the Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Prior to that, she held various positions at the University of Iowa, Saint Louis University Health Sciences Center, the University of Arizona and the University of California, San Francisco.

She has written more than 250 publications on biomedical research and is the recipient of numerous awards, including a MERIT Award from the National Cancer Institute.

Recognizing an opportunity in 1871 when the Jefferson County seat moved back to Charles Town, a group of enterprising citizens decided to use the empty building, McMurrin Hall, to open a modest, private school named Shepherd College. When Shepherd opened its doors, it had only 42 students, two faculty members and a principal.

Much has changed in the intervening years. As Shepherd grew, becoming part of the state college system the year after it opened its doors and eventually obtaining university status in 2004, so did its reputation as a hub for quality education, the arts and economic development.

With an annual operating budget of \$61.7 million, which includes a payroll of \$28.3 million, Shepherd and its 438 full-time and 260 part-time employees have impressive spending clout in the Eastern Panhandle and the region. In 2015, Shepherd was No. 3 on the Top 10 Employers List for Jefferson County, according to WorkForce West Virginia.

As Shepherd has grown to nearly 4,000 students, so has the need for new facilities. In the past 20 years, Shepherd has spent \$128.2 million on 13 new buildings and projects, including our latest project, a five-story residence hall being financed through a public-private partnership with the Shepherd University Foundation, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that raises money to support the university and its programs. Collectively, this represents a significant amount of construction dollars pumped into the local economy.

Shepherd's spending outreach extends into Berkeley County, where Shepherd established the Martinsburg Center in 2013 to make education accessible along the Interstate 81 corridor. The facility has an annual operating budget of



\$1.6 million. An initial capital investment of \$2.5 million was made for renovation of the facility to meet Shepherd's educational needs.

As a cultural hub, Shepherd brings tourist and visitor dollars to the area for events including homecoming, commencement, the Performing Arts Series and the Contemporary American Theater Festival. Last fall, Shepherd hosted three NCAA Division II playoff games at Ram Stadium that brought more than 5,000 Shepherd football fans to Shepherdstown each game. On October 8, Shepherd will welcome Glenville State College for a Mountain East Conference game that will be televised on the American Sports Network.

On a daily basis during the academic year, approximately 2,500 Shepherd students commute to the Shepherdstown campus, bringing their spending power to the local community including its restaurants, businesses and gas stations.

Shepherd is poised to become the regional leader in developing the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders when it opens a School of Business in 2017. We have hired a



*An aerial view of the Shepherd University campus*

new chair of business administration, Dr. Ben Martz, who will spend the 2016-2017 academic year supervising the creation of the School of Business, to include the Departments of Business Administration, Economics and Finance, and Accounting. He will become dean of the School of Business in July 2017. Shepherd has a long history of educating and producing successful business leaders, and we are excited at the prospect of establishing a freestanding business school.

We are currently exploring ways to develop alternate energy sources, primarily solar power, using the Tabler Farm portion of the Shepherd campus, with the goal of meeting our own energy demands and reducing our utility expenses.

We have engaged members of the community to serve in an advisory capacity on an economic development committee to help create a plan, in collaboration with Shepherd's academic members, to advance the institution, the community and West Virginia.

Shepherd's future is bright. As the state wrestles with a declining revenue stream that supports a portion of the public higher education budget (we receive just 15.48 percent of our budget from the state), we continue to seek creative ways to attract the best and brightest students and to find new sources of revenue to train the next generation.

While Shepherd has a significant impact on the economy of the Eastern Panhandle, our alumni are also important drivers of the region's economic success. Everywhere you look, you can find Shepherd's 20,000 alumni among the ranks of our teachers, social workers, business owners, nurses and accountants, to name a few. Our alumni, students and employees are important reasons why the Eastern Panhandle and the quad-state region (West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania) enjoy economic success. Expanding our public-private partnerships is key to continued, mutually beneficial, financial achievements. ♪