



2025 Annual Report

A Message from the President

Thank you for your steadfast support of Spring Arbor University. We deeply treasure your partnership as we continue to deliver a comprehensively Christian liberal arts education that prepares students to serve Christ and His Kingdom. In this season of multiple voices competing for our attention, we remain focused on listening to God Almighty – El Shaddai – whose voice alone guides our mission to educate for Christ and His Kingdom.

The current landscape in Michigan and nationally presents both significant challenges and opportunities for Spring Arbor University's distinctive mission. We are actively engaged in advocacy efforts regarding federal legislation that would potentially impact finances for our neediest students. One provision that could significantly impact Christian higher education includes "risk-sharing" requirements that would measure institutional success solely by reviewing graduates' median salaries – a metric that fails to capture our true purpose of Kingdom service and penalizes institutions for graduating students going into ministry and other service-oriented positions that traditionally provide lower salaries. Additionally, we continue defending religious liberty as state budget proposals attempt to restrict student grants at institutions that uphold biblical convictions about marriage, sexuality, and gender identity. Through it all, we choose not to fear what others fear, but to trust in God's sufficiency and faithfulness.

Despite these headwinds, God's blessings abound across our campus community. Here are key highlights that demonstrate our commitment to excellence while remaining anchored in Christ:

- **Spiritual Vitality:** God continues to move powerfully among our students, with numerous decisions for Christ and baptisms throughout the year. Our spiritual formation programs – Chapel services, discipleship groups, mission opportunities, and resident chaplain ministry – continue to shape students into mature followers of Christ who can engage culture with both truth and grace.
- **Strategic Growth:** As we prepare to launch our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, we celebrate the success of our newer programs in nursing and engineering while maintaining our commitment to the liberal arts. These additions strengthen rather than diminish our holistic educational approach, equipping students for diverse Kingdom callings.
- **Financial Stewardship:** God's provision has been evident through strong enrollment growth and fiscal management, effectively balancing our budget once again. Our Advancement team has also brought in more revenue than anticipated as we move into the public phase of our Ignite comprehensive campaign – having raised over \$65 million toward our \$80 million goal.
- **Academic Excellence:** We continue expanding quality programs that meet Kingdom needs while maintaining rigorous academic standards. Our graduates enter their vocations prepared not merely to earn a living, but to transform culture through Christ-centered service.

In an era of competing voices and fears, Spring Arbor University stands as a beacon of hope, preparing students who will not fear what the world fears but will set apart Christ as Lord in their hearts. Thank you for partnering with us in this vital work. Your prayers, support, and encouragement strengthen us as we remain faithful to our calling.

In the confidence of El Shaddai,



Dr. Brent Ellis
Spring Arbor University President



86%

of recent SAU graduates report having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ



98%

of SAU graduates are employed, enrolled in graduate school, or report other positive outcomes



71K+

Graduates impacting the world for Jesus Christ



2,441

Students in undergraduate and graduate programs

Enrollment & Academic Information

Undergraduate Students: 1,139

Graduate Students: 1,302

Undergraduate Students of Minority: 18.6%

Average Class Size: 15

Student to Faculty Ratio: 17:1

Freshman Retention Rate: 93%

Undergraduate Students Receiving Aid: 100%

Undergraduate Degrees Granted: 228

Graduate Degrees Granted: 495

Doctorate Degrees Granted: 13

Associate Degrees Granted: 1

Undergraduate Programs: 48

Graduate Programs: 12

Doctoral Programs: 1



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106 E Main St Spring Arbor, MI 49283 | 517.750.6684 | springarbor.edu