



Wesley's Popularity Reflected with Record High Enrollment

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Dover, DE ([PRWEB](#)) August 22, 2009 -- Consistently recognized as one of America's best small colleges, Wesley College's status as a leading private liberal arts institution has been affirmed with a record number of freshmen enrolled for the 2009 fall semester. Data released by college officials showed a 65 percent increase in admission applications and a 26 percent rise in new students attending the Dover, Del., campus, making the 673 students the largest freshmen class in the history of the College. Wesley administrators also issued a projections report showing the total full-time undergraduate population for the fall semester to be at 1,537 students, surpassing the previous high set in 2006. While many colleges and universities have experienced a decline in enrollment this year, the increase in enrollment at Wesley is a very positive indicator of the College's appeal in the face of these trends.

"This is the result of exceptional work by a dedicated group of admissions counselors, faculty and staff. That, combined with our geographic location and competitive tuition contributed to this exceptional class," said Bill Firman, Dean of Enrollment Management at Wesley.

According to institutional figures, the College has had an extraordinary year and the recruitment efforts during this cycle have broke every historical admission record at the College. The number of admission applications has soared despite the worst economic conditions in decades. Firman added that the freshmen class profile is very impressive and the College has secured the greatest increase in academic quality in at least the last ten years. Other staff members agree that Wesley is at an exciting stage in its growth and development. The College's vice-president for academic affairs, Patricia Dwyer, said the record-breaking first-year class and the high quality students that the campus is attracting are a testament to the excellent academic programs, dedicated and highly qualified faculty and staff, and the supportive campus community that our students experience. Officials also believe that the College's enrollment jump will more than likely produce a positive economic impact on the local area by increasing employment opportunities and revenue for merchants.

The good news for Wesley continues on many different fronts. The school recently completed the framework for a new strategic plan and campus master plan - both contain many bold initiatives designed to create an even more vibrant campus community. The Dover campus also invested around \$650,000 in beautification projects purchasing new furniture for students, expanding a fast food dining area, remodeling the campus bookstore and renovating a science laboratory. Research dollars at Wesley College has increased significantly and the institution continues to be one of the best student-centered learning environments in the region.

"By improving our physical spaces, we make a statement to our students about how much we value them as members of the Wesley community," said Mary-Alice Ozechoski, dean of student affairs.

Located in the heart of historic Dover, Delaware, the campus lies within four major metropolitan areas Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, DC and New York City. With nearly 30 undergraduate and graduate degree



programs readily available, the College offers classes at its main campus in Dover, as well as a satellite location in New Castle, Delaware. Through a personalized experience, Wesley College has a long and distinguished record of educating students for a wide variety of careers.

In speaking of the new class, Dr. William N. Johnston, president of Wesley College stated that, "Wesley is proud to enter an era of growth and expansion. The size and quality of the freshman class affirms the strength of the faculty and the reputation of this grand institution."

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