

News Release

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WAU President Weymouth Spence Offers "State of the University" Update

Progress Continues in Vision 2020 - Growing with Excellence Plan

In a statement issued today by Washington Adventist University (WAU) President Dr. Weymouth Spence regarding the university's progress in its "transformative journey from a good university to a great one," he pointed to the importance of realigning resources as the next step in building a stronger and more vibrant school.

The university, located on 19 acres in suburban Takoma Park, Md., embarked last year upon a plan to create a culture of excellence and become a thriving university that is continuously fulfilling the vision of producing graduates that demonstrate competence and moral leadership in their communities. Known as the *Vision* 2020 – *Growing with Excellence* plan, which Spence instituted in May 2013, the university is moving forward in its journey towards excellence by more carefully aligning its resources with operational improvements and instructional efficiencies – all while providing support to students and keeping tuition and fees affordable.

"One of the many traits of thriving institutions of higher education is that the budgeting process aligns with the planning process," said Spence. "As we prepare our FY2015 budget for the Board of Trustees approval, we are intentional in not only aligning the proposed budget with the planning process, but are also very intentional in making sure that the FY2015 budget supports our institution's growth through identified action plans."

The following guidelines were used in developing the university's next budget, which is pending Board of Trustees approval on March 5. They include: ensuring that the university exceeds programmatic and institutional accreditation standards; enhancing programs for liberal arts, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and careers; enhancing academic support for students and maintaining affordable tuition and fees; investing in faculty compensation and development to improve academic quality; and implementing best practices to improve governance, effectiveness, efficiencies and relevance.

In his progress statement, Spence reminded faculty and staff, students and constituents that "moving forward together will help ensure that WAU emerges as a premier private Christian university that engages minds and transforms lives."