



ROBERTS & NORTHEASTERN ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from the President *To know, and be known*

Earlier this year, when I announced the theme of our academic year to be “God is Moving. Even Now,” anchored in Isaiah 43:19, I had no idea what God would be doing on our campus and in my own journey. These past few months I have been emphatically reminded that when we are open, we can trust his purposes and plans - even in transition.

These past nine years at Roberts Wesleyan University and Northeastern Seminary have been an amazing journey of leaning into God’s faithfulness and feeling his loving presence, through the relationships of a wonderful and talented team of partners, and through colleagues and friends who have partnered to advance the mission of both institutions. Together, we have worked, laughed, lost and lived deeply. We have come to know ourselves, and be known. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Even now, when I consider all that has happened in our years here, I am most encouraged about the time and effort we have spent on clarifying our institutional identity. From the time I arrived in 2014, and continuing to the present, the conversations about who we are and who we are called to be have been transformational. Without a doubt, the clarity of identity strengthens us and propels us forward into the future. Together, we have studied the life, faith and passions of our founders - B.T and Ellen Roberts. We have listened to the stories of our alumni who experienced a Roberts or Northeastern education (head, heart and hands!) and have then gone into the world to work and serve in ways that make an impact in their communities. Together, we were (and still are) responding to the needs of today’s world, willing to hold the space of tension when good people have disagreed about issues and policies, while holding true to our Christian faith. Because we, as a community of learners, have done this together for the past nine years, we know who we are, and other people know who we are: we are New York’s leading university for character education.

Even now, as we continue to delineate the promises (the “Pillars”) that support that bold new market position, map out our next Strategic Plan with priorities of new and improved programs, and identify the initiatives and goals for a sustainable future, we are reminding ourselves and others that the reason that marketing position statement has credibility is because education for character has already been tested, proven and affirmed for 157 years. We can boldly say it is right and true, even now.

As I end my presidency at Roberts and Northeastern I want to say thank you for welcoming us into this beautiful community. My life has been changed in ways too great to articulate in one letter. Even as I leave, I carry with me the Roberts community, which has shaped me and influenced my leadership in how I connect my head to my heart, and engage my hands in service going forward. May God’s hand of guidance, blessing and faithfulness to this community continue for years to come.

With Prayer and Optimism,

Dr. Deana L. Porterfield, President



ROBERTS
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



NORTHEASTERN
SEMINARY



“Roberts helped me to discover myself and develop a relationship with the Lord. When I chose Roberts, I wasn’t a Christian, but I came here anyway because I felt the community had something unique to offer that other schools were missing. At the time, I wasn’t sure what that “thing” was, but I would later learn it was faith among the staff and students. During my first year here, I had a classmate who knew nothing about me but prayed that I would one day experience and know Jesus for myself. Only a few months after this encounter, I gave my life to Christ. Roberts is full of people willing and striving to exemplify Christ in everything they do. I’m forever grateful for the people on this campus who have cared enough to watch out for me and provide me with unique and impactful opportunities.”

– *Georgia Haverlock, Marketing*



“Receiving a scholarship to Roberts gave me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Not many people in my hometown have the chance to go to college. I’m grateful that donors gave me this opportunity and changed that narrative in my life. I come from two immigrant parents who both work really hard trying to make sure I have enough. Getting a degree from Roberts will help me go full circle so that I can get a good job and take care of them.”

– *Jaime Sifuentes-Lopez, Biology*



“I am so excited to be attending Northeastern Seminary. I grew up in a pastor’s home across the border in Canada and have always known I was called to the pastoral ministry. In the last several years the Lord has done some amazing things in my life, bringing me into a deeper relationship with him, and surrendering my own will to His. After serving a year on the mission field in West Africa, coming back to the US, and eventually leaving the church and denomination I grew up in, I have had to learn to trust the Lord. And just when things seemed settled, I felt called to start my graduate work. I am excited to see what God will do!”

– *Joel Webb, Masters of Divinity*

2022 was an exciting year at Roberts and Northeastern! In September, we transitioned to Roberts Wesleyan University - a momentous occasion in our history. We also witnessed construction on the new Golisano Community Engagement Center throughout 2022, with doors officially opening in January 2023! We’re excited to be a University with a new building for our Roberts and Rochester community to learn, grow, and connect!

We are grateful for God’s blessings and are also thankful for our generous alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who gave to help make an education possible for our students. Here’s a glimpse of 2022 in the numbers...



1,527 Donors **100%** of Students Impacted
1,579 Roberts Students **200** Northeastern Students

