

News Release



Luther College Hits \$13.5 Million Capital Campaign Goal

Thursday, May 16 - For immediate release

A historic fundraising campaign at Luther College High School has reached its \$13.5 million goal. The *A Time To Build* capital campaign, which launched publicly in June 2012, was the most ambitious ever undertaken by Luther College.

More than 700 donors, including 112 first-time donors, contributed to the campaign. This included alumni, parents, faculty and staff, board members and other friends of the College. The last \$2 million was raised over the past 12 months. This was made possible through additional pledges from the campaign's two lead donors, Merlis Belsher and Gavin Semple, along with a group of 15 other donors who came together to help finish off the campaign.

"We are very grateful to all of our donors for their extraordinary generosity which has brought us to this remarkable conclusion," said President Bryan Hillis. "Luther College is a school that prides itself on its rich history of achievements and high standards. *A Time To Build* has positioned Luther for a strong future."

The *A Time to Build* campaign marked an incredible period of growth and renewal for Luther College. The building project supported by this campaign has transformed the campus including new and renovated facilities. Some highlights:

- A first-class fitness facility in the new state-of-the-art Semple Gymnasium
- A rejuvenated gym and stage now called the Merlis Belsher Heritage Center
- A new fine arts wing, including a band room and film classroom
- A Student Commons area.

The new facilities were officially opened in September 2014, but fundraising continued until earlier this month when the final gift to the campaign was made, bringing the total raised to \$13,505,685. The successful completion of the campaign was announced at an alumni reception in Saskatoon at Merlis Belsher Place.

With the closing of the *A Time to Build* capital campaign, continued fundraising will focus on strategic priorities including financial assistance for students, the next phase of capital projects, and enhanced academic and co-curricular programs at the school.

Luther College High School provides day and boarding school for 450 students from more than 30 countries in Grades 9 through 12.

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For photos, video or to arrange interviews with President Bryan Hillis, please contact:

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Background on Luther College High School

- Luther College High School is a historical independent high school situated in Regina providing quality education in a Christian context to students from Grade 9 to 12.
- Enrolment of the school is approximately 450 students, many from Regina but also those from around the world who live in our residence.
- Luther College has an outstanding academic program including the university recognized International Baccalaureate program with at least 96 percent of graduates going on to post-secondary education.
- Luther College charges tuition but also relies on the generosity and philanthropy of alumni and donors to support our programs, facilities and scholarships.

Background on the *A Time To Build* campaign

- The school launched a \$13.5 million capital campaign in June 2012 to fund the construction of new facilities and the renovation of the historic campus buildings located at the corner of Royal Street and Dewdney Avenue.
- A Time To Build included construction and renovation of:
 - Semple Gym, the largest high school gym in Regina
 - Merlis Belsher Heritage Center, a historic gym originally constructed in 1951, including new green room and stage
 - New fine arts wing and classrooms, including band room and film room
 - New change rooms and washrooms
 - New weight training room
 - New Student Commons
 - John Chomay Outdoor Team Room
- Merlis Belsher and Gavin Semple, both alumni of the school, were the two lead donors for the campaign. Belsher graduated in 1953 and Semple in 1963.
- The name of the campaign comes from this verse in the Bible
*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
... a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them
Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.”*
—Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 3b-5a, 15 NIV