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The EMU Impact on the Sarasota community

One of the most significant indicators of a college's impact can be seen in the life work of its alumni. A review of EMU and Seminary alumni reveals a strong commitment to Christian service and leadership both within the church and in all walks of life. More than 125 EMU alumni live and serve in the Sarasota area as business leaders, pastors, medical professionals, teachers, school administrators, financial advisers, and more.

Consider these important leadership roles in Sarasota area organizations and the fact that those at the helm are EMU alumni. And this is only a sampling; dozens more EMU alumni are serving and leading in workplaces throughout the Sarasota area as well as lay leaders in local churches.

Congregational leadership – 10*

Abundant Life Church: Pastor Vernon Zook, '89
Abundant Life Church: Assistant Youth Pastor Steve Christner, '06
Bahia Vista Mennonite Church: Interim Pastor David Kniss, '74
Bahia Vista Mennonite Church: Interim Administrative Pastor Gene Yoder '66
Bahia Vista Mennonite Church: Secretary Treva Yoder Kurtz '62
Bahia Vista Mennonite Church: Volunteer Director of Visitation Harold Shearer '73
Bay Shore Mennonite Church: Pastor Albert "Rocky" Miller, '79
Bethel Mennonite Church: Youth Minister, Matthew Showalter, '99
Doctors Hospital, Pastor: Lyle Martin '80
Youth With a Mission: Stacey Ropp '97

Business Leadership – 13*

Education & Non-Profit Sector – 16*

Medical/Health Services – 13*

Construction – 9*

Financial Services - 3*

**Number of EMU alumni currently serving in the specific field*



J. David Yoder, '70, Executive Director, Sunnyside Retirement Community



Jen Christner, '09, Visual and Communication Arts major from Sarasota



Jeff Shank, '95, Superintendent, Sarasota Christian School

EMU is the largest training ground for Mennonite undergraduate and seminary students in the United States.

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Why be passionate about encouraging the youth of Sarasota Mennonite affiliated congregations to attend EMU?

Experts agree that it is in college that young adults 1) form their most lasting friendships, 2) internalize a religious worldview, usually quite similar to that of their professors, and 3) decide how their faith will impact their vocation. In addition, many students will meet their future spouse!

These outcomes, though often not fully appreciated until age 35 or 40, may be radically different for students who attend a secular school. For these and other reasons, President Swartzendruber invites the parents and congregational leaders of the Sarasota community to be actively involved in the college search process with your youth, and to advocate passionately for EMU and all Mennonite colleges.

EMU is the largest training ground for Mennonite undergraduate and seminary students in the United States. It also trains more peace builders (3000+ since 1994) than any other Mennonite Church USA organization.

Since 2007, 11 youth from the Sarasota community have been enrolled at EMU and have benefitted from more than \$368,078 of financial aid through the combined support of EMU and the Florida Grant In Aid Fund coordinated by EMU Advocate Merv Hess.

(540) 432-4589 • churchrelations@emu.edu

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Levi '67 and Lillis Troyer

Volunteer leadership from the area

EMU Board of Trustees

Lillis Troyer
Nora Hess - Former
Ammon Schrock - Former
Levi Troyer '67 - Former

Alumni Council

Jewel Shenk - '65
Mary Ellen Miller - Former

Constituent Conference Committee

Linda Gingerich '76
Rocky Miller '79

Advocate for Florida Grant in Aid Fund

Merv Hess

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