

Southwestern Christian College

P. O. Box 10, Terrell, TX 75160-9002



July 29, 2017

Dear Southwestern Family,

What a difference seven months has made! My God, what a tremendous difference 210 days has made on the journey of a lifetime. Thank you for being on this journey with me as we work to save Southwestern Christian College and preserve its one of a kind legacy.

In just a few days, a new semester will begin at SwCC. It is a good time for us to pause, reflect, and take stock of the progress and struggles. You must bear with me as you read. My heart is full. My tears flow freely. God is good.

I write those last three words—God is good—because in spite of **unrelenting obstacles**, the victory is ours. Southwestern has remained open. Despite an avalanche of challenges, God was always at the helm. I worked. I am deeply grateful for those who never quit, who worked alongside a chosen few in the vineyard. Thank you, thank you, and God forever bless you.

Even when it seemed summer break would never end and the repairs would never be done, I continued on the journey, safe, so safe, in Him. Along with many of you—students, parents, faculty, donors, staff, board members—we stayed **on the move**. Churches stayed at the ready.

Here are a few reasons we can celebrate a new semester:

- We will have three times as many students in August than when I was first appointed President and frustrated students were leaving
- More of those incoming freshmen will arrive with a 3.0 or higher GPA which is a better academic percentage than the last two decades
- SwCC is set to award more academic scholarships and achieve the highest retention rate in the school's contemporary history
- Scheduled repairs to the Girl's Dorm were made over the summer break and a list of those extensive repairs can be found at website
- EDS and Associates absorbed a \$200,000 cost to cover all necessary labor associated with renovations and repairs
- The campus beautification has included landscaping, tree removal, trailers hauled away and adding environmentally-friendly recycling

Indeed, we have had a fruitful summer of labor and love! While the critics sat on the sidelines, we worked harder. As Southwestern edged near the brink of collapse, we prayed longer. Though we are **on the mend**, we are determined to find greater security **on the mountain**.

I am also happy to share with SwCC supporters that we have hired several new instructors to bolster the academic reputation that our school deserves. We have been blessed to attract a nationally-known choral director to join us and a new athletic director and coach. We will also be affiliated with a roster of quality teachers and staffers—many of them outstanding PhD candidates, including our own **Vernesha Cathey**. Joining them to do occasional lectures is a gifted theologian trained by the very best—**Stanley Talbert**.

For anyone still in doubt about what God can do and what hard work can do, you are invited to think about where you want to stand in the future. Is it with Southwestern? Is it with her new President? Will you work with us? I sincerely pray you decide to work today, **with us**, for what is right, what is true, and what will be our finest hour.

Your affectionate servant and friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. D. Seamster". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Dr. E. D. Seamster, Jr.
President and CEO