



THIEL COLLEGE

Office of the President

Phone: 1 (800) 24-THIEL

www.thiel.edu

TO: Campus Community

FROM: President Traverso

DATE: June 23, 2025

RE: Campus Update

With summer well underway, a lot is happening on campus. Earlier this month, camps and conferences hosted the MS Bike Race which brought over 440 people to campus followed by the annual gathering of the Northwestern PA Synod of the ELCA attended by 175 people. Several departments across campus made these large summer events a success. Additional summer programs, including several athletic camps, are scheduled in the coming weeks. I am grateful for the positive collaboration around the strategic goal of having summer events and programs on campus. In addition to generating auxiliary revenue for the College, summer programs introduce Thiel to people from near and far.

It's wonderful to see the progress on Phase II of the Spence Academic Center renovation. Behind the construction barriers, a new home for Business, Accounting, Math and Computer Science is taking shape together with a redesigned courtyard and two fully upgraded larger classrooms. Other construction projects, including a new roof section on the Academic Center, sidewalk repairs around the Passavant Center, and heating repairs in Roth Hall, are underway along with the restoration of the Howard Miller Student Center. Accomplishing this much work in a single summer would not be possible without the dedicated work of our Facilities team who, together with Hudson Construction, are moving these projects ahead, on time and on budget. Beyond the construction on campus, the state highway project is making progress—even as it slows traffic on College Avenue.

It was a pleasure to welcome the new cohort of Physician Assistant graduate students last week. At capacity, this cohort of 40 students comes from eight different states. They are graduates of 32 different colleges and universities, with about half of the cohort having just completed their undergraduate degrees this spring, including one Thiel graduate. The new SLP graduate students have also arrived. With eight in that group, it is a smaller cohort than in previous years, but they are a strong group including four Thiel graduates. The MBA program will welcome nine new students this summer, including eight Thiel graduates and one employee. During the summer

months, three PA cohorts and two SLP cohorts overlap on campus, making these weeks a very active time for those program directors and faculty. In addition, planning is underway for the SLP Commencement on July 31, and then the PA Commencement on September 6.

Undergraduate recruitment for the fall continues with Admissions counselors and coaches working with current prospective students even as they start next year's recruitment cycle. Fall first-year deposits stand at 239 as of last Friday, 4 ahead of last year at the same time. Transfer deposits are at 12, but there is confidence that the goal of 20 transfer deposits is within reach. With visas for international students disrupted, we do not currently have any international deposits. The Financial Aid office has issued 899 first-year packages, over 100 more than at this time last year. I want to thank the many faculty and staff who are working together to welcome new students and families during the Summer Orientations days. These important events engage incoming students with the College, helping them with the transition from high school. Summer Orientations – and the follow-up afterward – also help to stem summer melt.

The implementation of Slate, the College's new CRM, continues to go well. New applications are now being processed through Slate, and data management through Radius is winding down as we switch over to Slate. The Admissions, Marketing, Financial Aid, and Athletics staff, together with ITS, will continue to build the capacity of Slate over the coming months. This new tool will significantly strengthen recruitment strategies and communication. The campus implementation team has done remarkable work over the past several months to prepare for the launch of Slate.

The staff in the Business Office are preparing for the close of the fiscal year, and I want to thank budget managers across campus for working closely with them as they finalize revenue and expenses for the year in advance of the annual audit. Throughout the summer, Human Resources supports new staff and faculty as they onboard at the College, and I know you share my gratitude for all they do to support those transitions.

There will be more news about the *Join the Journey* campaign after July 1, but as we approach the end of the fiscal year, we can share that last year's fundraising results have been among the highest not only in this campaign but in the history of the College. The team in Advancement and Alumni Affairs continues to do amazing work, connecting people with the College and telling the Thiel story. I am thankful for their dedication and also to every member of the Thiel community who supported the College's fundraising efforts.

Let me end by sharing a wonderful montage of photos from the past academic year, recently posted by the Office of Communications and Marketing to social media: <https://youtu.be/aE8nN1Y5YuQ>. The accomplishments, friendships, and joy of our students are an inspiration to us all.