

Message from the President

Stetson University dares its undergraduate and graduate students to go beyond success – to go instead to significance. For more than 130 years, Stetson’s mission has remained constant, engaging students with rigorous academics and instilling civic values for life.

Stetson is an independent university offering a comprehensive education in the arts and sciences, business, law, and music. Founded in 1883 as Florida’s first private university, Stetson today has four locations across Central Florida: DeLand, Celebration, Tampa, and Gulfport. The College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Business Administration, and the School of Music are on the historic campus in DeLand, a community-minded city between Daytona Beach and Orlando. The university also includes the Tampa Law Center, the College of Law in the Gulfport and St. Petersburg area, and the Stetson University Center at Celebration just south of Orlando.

The university has achieved national distinction through special programs and accreditations. Stetson was the first private university in Florida to be awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa--the nation’s oldest and most prestigious undergraduate honor society--and consistently earns high national rankings for academic excellence and community-engaged learning.

Stetson University’s mission is to provide a transformational education in a creative community where learning and values meet. Committed to scholarship and the liberal arts tradition, Stetson seeks to foster the qualities of mind and heart that will prepare students to reach their full potential as individuals, informed citizens, and responsible participants in their local and global communities.

Stetson’s academic disciplines are unified by a profound commitment to interdisciplinary programs; teaching, values, and social responsibility; and the pursuit of intellectual excellence. The teaching-learning process focuses on the whole person, sustaining deep engagement and dialogue among students and faculty; active forms of citizenship; and social justice-based community engagement. The undergraduate student-faculty ratio is 12-to-1, which allows students and faculty to participate in innovative approaches to tackling complex challenges.

It is a privilege to serve as president of an institution that honors its heritage while embracing innovation in an ever-changing world.

I encourage you to make the most of your Stetson experience. We are glad to have you with us!

Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D
President