

Shaping Forces



President Bob Brower

A university is a place that is dynamic, characterized by change and development in the context of stability and lasting commitment. While on the surface this characterization appears to be a conflict of forces, it is the reality of a community based on sustaining values—a community that adapts and applies those values to the needs of the changing times it serves. That is the reality of the time and setting of PLNU and the foundation for envisioning our future.

The guiding forces for the shaping of the vision for PLNU were the mission and core values of the university. The future can be envisioned and pursued successfully only when it is built on a strong base—on values which are expressed in the life and work of the university, its programs, and people. These are the shaping forces which will develop Point Loma as a “leading Wesleyan voice in higher education and the church.”

PLNU’s core values are brief but powerful expressions of the foundation upon which we work and develop. During development of the vision, each of these core values was expanded upon in an essay, far longer than space here allows us to share. I’ve summarized each core value to present the sustaining commitments of PLNU.

Out of these core values, vision has been cast, and the future is hopeful and exciting!

PLNU’s Core Values

Excellence in teaching and learning

Teaching and learning constitute the central and defining activities of PLNU. Although both disciplines depend on the entire community—faculty, students, staff, and administration—Point Loma professors recognize themselves as principally responsible for student learning. Effective teaching involves three key emphases:

- maintaining a vital relationship with one’s discipline
- establishing a positive connection to students
- building a bridge between students and academic material

An intentionally Christian community

The integration of faith and learning—the uniting of heart and mind—is a challenge we take seriously at PLNU. We want students not only to accumulate credits toward a degree, but to become individuals who think and behave intentionally as Christians in all of their endeavors.

Faithfulness to our Nazarene heritage and a Wesleyan theological perspective

PLNU understands the importance of the unique accents in Wesley’s practice and thinking. These include optimism about God’s loving nearness as prevenient grace; a sure confidence that, in and through Jesus, God is revealed to us as self-giving, other-receiving love; and an expectation that, as we practice Christian discipleship in community, we may experience this divine love for ourselves and subsequently share it in practical ways with others.

The development of students as whole persons

We believe that the most complete education prepares a person to live a full life that incorporates intelligence and reason as well as character, integrity, commitment, and faith. PLNU strives to educate the “whole” student. This holistic approach challenges students to integrate their pursuit of knowledge with their beliefs, values, and actions.

A global perspective and experience

Educated Christians in the 21st century recognize the importance of having a global perspective. PLNU expands each student’s vision of the world, teaching and challenging them to think deeply about how they might bring about change in their families, communities and other countries.

Ethnic and cultural diversity

PLNU values and promotes diversity. Scripture calls us to love others and to reach out to people from diverse backgrounds. We respond to a moral imperative to diversify the University community by recruiting students, faculty and staff from a variety of cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. We are committed to creating a hospitable learning environment and maintaining policies and practices that reflect our institutional mission.

The stewardship of resources

We believe that learning is enhanced, community is fostered, and God is honored when we practice biblical stewardship. Biblical stewardship is comprised of two key concepts: 1) God is the creator, the owner of everything; 2) the steward is expected to freely determine how to use the owner’s resources. The Christian steward acts with the fullest liberty, but also with the mind of Christ. Through biblical stewardship, both the steward and the resources are redeemed. Self-interest, though not completely excised, mirrors the interests of God. Resources are used for a greater and higher good with eternal possibilities.

Service as an expression of faith

The university community serves others; we grow and develop skills to become practitioners of the “redeemed life,” working to transform physical creation, the family, society, the human condition and corporate church life.

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ON THE COVER

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Teach, Shape and Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

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viewpoint

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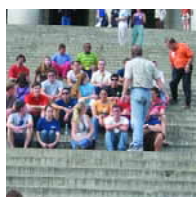
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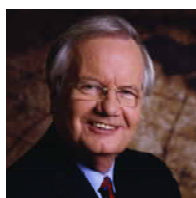
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President Brower with Mrs. Frances (Draper) Warren at the dedication ceremony.

DRAPER HALL DEDICATED TO SERVE STUDENTS

PLNU's new administration building was dedicated and named Draper Hall on Nov. 19, 2004, in honor of former President Bill Draper and his wife, now Mrs. Frances (Draper) Warren. President Draper served the university from 1978 to 1983.

Family, friends, and former colleagues were on hand, along with PLNU's current administration, staff, faculty and supporters, to welcome the newly finished 17,200 square-foot two-level building near the entrance of the university. Draper Hall now

houses the offices a number of student services including Admissions, Student Financial Services, Student Accounts and Business.

Frances has continued to fulfill a significant role in the life and support of PLNU across many years. The Draper's children, Robbin, Russell and Sheryl also attended the dedication.