



Presidential Milestones & Accomplishments

William B. Greer, Ph.D. | 2011-2023

Dr. Bill Greer became Milligan's 15th president on July 1, 2011. As president, Greer focused his efforts on elevating Milligan's mission and reputation as a premier Christian liberal arts institution. He led the university to recognition as one of the Best Regional Universities and Best Values in the South and advanced the university's academic mission through the addition or revision of 25 academic programs and an academic restructuring that led to the renaming of Milligan College to Milligan University. In addition, he led the most ambitious fundraising campaigns in university history.

A look back shows a remarkable number of accomplishments during Greer's presidency. These represent the dedication and commitment of the entire campus, its leaders, students, and friends.

Under Greer's leadership, Milligan achieved unprecedented success in a variety of areas:

- **Educated and supported a record number of students in attaining their college degrees.**
 - Awarded nearly 4,000 degrees since 2011, a 26% increase over the previous decade.
 - Achieved several years of record enrollments, with an all-time high of 1,347 students in Fall 2020 and record applications and admissions for what is shaping up to be one of the largest entering classes in 2023.
 - Consistently welcomed strong academic classes, with an average ACT of 24 and an average high school GPA of 3.9 (increase from 3.6 in 2012).
 - Increased underrepresented minority students from 14% of undergrads in 2011 to 22% in 2022.
 - Expanded the geographic origin of Milligan students from 34 states and 15 countries in 2012 to 40 states and 27 countries in 2022.
 - More than tripled the international student population, from 2% (24 students) in 2011 to 7% (75 students) in 2022.
 - Doubled graduate student enrollment from 18% in 2011 to 32% in 2022.
 - Supported a commitment to student success as evidenced in retention rates that consistently exceed peer institutions regionally and nationally, with an overall undergraduate retention of 89% and freshman-to-sophomore retention of 76% in 2022.
 - Consistently achieved graduation rates well above state and national averages.
 - Consistently reported nearly 100% of Milligan graduates employed or in graduate school within one year of earning their degree.

- Prioritized the residential learning experience, with over 75% of traditional undergraduates living on campus.
 - Established the Milligan Counseling Center to provide professional, short-term, mental health counseling services for students, faculty, and staff.
 - Navigated successfully through COVID-19 pandemic and emerged as a stronger and more caring community.
- **Transformed the academic curriculum to meet workforce and student demands.**
 - Completed an academic reorganization in 2015 of nine academic areas into five schools, including the naming of the William B. Greene School, Jr. School of Business and Technology.
 - Led the integration of Emmanuel Christian Seminary into Milligan in 2015, which brought three master's programs and Milligan's first doctorate program into the School of Bible and Ministry.
 - Launched or revised over a dozen undergraduate programs, including computer science, criminology/criminal justice, cybersecurity, economics, electrical engineering, film, graphic design, interactive media design, international studies, mechanical engineering, multimedia journalism, musical theatre, political science, public relations/strategic communication, social work, and Spanish.
 - Added 10 graduate programs, including Master of Science in Counseling (MSC), Master of Arts in Coaching and Sport Management (MASM), Master of Arts in Humanities (MAH), Master of Arts in Physician Assistant Studies (MAPAS), the Education Specialist (Ed.S.), and Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), plus Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts in Religion (MAR), Master of Arts in Christian Ministries (MACM), and Doctor of Ministry (DMin) programs added with the integration of Emmanuel Christian Seminary.
 - Reclassified from a level 3 to level 5 institution with SACS and in the "Master's Colleges and Universities" category instead of "Baccalaureate" by the Carnegie Commission in 2016.
 - Concluded successful accreditation processes including:
 - SACSCOC - Milligan received reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in 2012 and 2021.
 - ATS – Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan received reaccreditation by the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in 2017.
 - CCNE – The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) reaffirmed the accreditation of Milligan's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in 2019.
 - CACREP – The Master of Science in Counseling clinical mental health counseling concentration received accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in 2020.
 - ACBSP – Business programs in the William B. Greene, Jr. School of Business and Technology received accreditation from the Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) in 2021.
 - ACOTE - The Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program received reaccreditation by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), a division of The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), in 2012 and 2022.
 - CAEP – The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) announced accreditation for its educator preparation programs in 2022.

- ARC-PA – The Master of Arts in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) received Accreditation-Continued status from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), in 2022.
 - ABET – Electrical and mechanical engineering majors were accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology, in 2022.
- Celebrated the first graduate from Milligan’s first major to be offered completely online, computer information systems.
- Established an Honors Program in 2014 that provides an advanced and enriching opportunity for high achieving undergraduate students to deepen their intellectual scholarship, engage in creative and professional work, and embrace their roles as servant-leaders.
- Launched accelerated three-year degrees in business administration, computer science, exercise science, information systems, and psychology; accelerated bachelor’s to master’s degrees in business, education, humanities, and divinity; and early acceptance programs for graduate programs in counseling and occupational therapy.
- Established the Office of Undergraduate Research and launched the RISE Above Undergraduate Research Conference in 2017.
- Started the Ministry Leadership Program in 2018, thanks to a generous \$1 million gift from First Christian Church, Johnson City, to build on Milligan’s existing academic strengths in Bible and ministry and provide practical ministry experience to prepare the next generation of ministers for lives of service to the Church.
- Celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Milligan Humanities program in 2019.
- Added an addictions counseling concentration to the Master of Science in Counseling (MSC) in 2019, thanks to a partnership with Ballard Health and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee Foundation.
- Launched the Ministry Resource Center in 2019, funded by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.’s Thriving in Ministry Initiative, to provide tools for placing and supporting seminary alumni and others in ministry, particularly within the independent Christian churches of the Stone-Campbell movement.
- Revived the Multicultural Education Resource Team (MERT) in 2020 to advance collaborative programming and campus initiatives that engage the ethnic diversity of the Kingdom of God both in academic and extra-curricular settings.
- Began a comprehensive review and redesign of the academic programs at Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan, including a hybrid Master of Divinity and a redesign of the Doctor of Ministry program, as well as establishing the Ministry Fellows Program and Bi-Vocational Ministry Program to integrate theological education with practical ministry experience, all supported through a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. in 2021.
- Launched two academic lecture series at Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan, including the Ross-Smith Lectures in Pastoral Care in 2013 and the Hayden Lectureship in 2019 to feature prominent scholars and authors in New Testament, Old Testament, and theology.
- In 2022, established the Magness Lectureship on Jesus in the Arts, which focuses on the person, teachings, and ministry of Jesus as reflected on and interpreted through the arts.

- Increased Milligan’s STEM strength and impact with the launch of a mission-focused engineering program, becoming the only institution in the region and one of only about a dozen Christian liberal arts universities in the nation to offer electrical and mechanical engineering majors. In 2022, the majors were accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the “gold standard” for engineering education.
 - Launched a new graduate physician assistant program in 2018, thanks to a partnership with Ballad Health, to meet a critical healthcare need both regionally and nationally. Its first class earned a 100% pass rate on the PA certification exam, and the program received Accreditation-Continued status from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).
- **Increased national recognition for Milligan’s quality, value, and mission.**
 - Led the successful transition of Milligan College to Milligan University in 2020, including a visual identity rebranding.
 - Celebrated the institution’s 150-year birthday during a yearlong sesquicentennial celebration in 2015-16.
 - Moved from “Best Regional Colleges” in the South to “Best Regional Universities” in the South category in U.S. News & World Report’s annual “Best Colleges” issues, landing at No. 12 in 2022 and becoming the only institution in Northeast Tennessee to be named among the top 20 regional universities in the South and one of only three Tennessee institutions listed among the top 20 in any category for both private or public colleges and universities.
 - Named No. 2 “Best Value Schools” and No. 32 “Top Performers on Social Mobility” in the South in U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” issue in 2022.
 - Ranked as 20th best Master’s University in the South by Washington Monthly in 2015.
 - Recognized as #2 best college in Tennessee, behind Vanderbilt, by BestColleges.com in 2016.
 - Recognized for over a decade as a Military Friendly® School by ViQtory Media, 2009-2019.
 - Named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction, the highest honor a college can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement; one of only six institutions in Tennessee and 100 in the U.S.
 - Named one of the “Great Colleges to Work For” by The Chronicle of Higher Education in 2013.
 - Supported numerous campus and student initiatives that embodied Milligan’s servant-leader mission, including short-term mission trips, community service, etc.
 - Served as president of Tennessee College Association (TCA), chair of the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA), member of NAIA Council of Presidents, and both chair and member of many visiting committees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
 - Developed strong relationships with public officials, making many visits to Capitol Hill in Washington and Nashville.
 - **Updated, expanded, and enhanced the campus.**
 - Expanded the university’s footprint from 195 to over 355 acres with the addition of 40 acres through the Emmanuel Christian Seminary addition of the B. D. Phillips Building, Emmanuel Village, and Thompson Community Center; several neighboring houses and properties; and an adjacent 120-acre parcel.

- Announced that the Gilliam Wellness Center was the recipient of an Award of Excellence in the 2011 Design Awards Program sponsored by General Shale Brick and the Northeast chapter of the American Institute of Architects.
 - Rededicated a newly renovated Steve Lacy Fieldhouse in 2012, including significant exterior and interior improvements.
 - Dedicated a fountain in 2012 honoring former president and first lady Dr. Don and Clarinda Jeanes and their impact on the Milligan community.
 - Completed the first phase of the Milligan Village and opening of five residence halls – Hampton, Jeanes, McAnally, Pardee, and Wigginton – in 2013.
 - Received the generous in-kind donation of Tara Court, a hilltop hospitality venue and presidential residence in 2014, complemented in 2016 with the construction of the Perry Pavilion, an outdoor entertaining space.
 - Created Sesquicentennial Plaza in celebration of Milligan’s 150th anniversary in 2016.
 - Constructed engineering labs named for Eastman; Eastman Credit Union; Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.; and TPI Corporation in 2016-17.
 - Renovated the P. H. Welshimer Library to provide more accommodating space for both research and study in 2016.
 - Upgraded and enhanced the B. D. Phillips Building to serve seminary, engineering, and physician assistant programs in 2016.
 - Relocated the McGlothlin-Street Occupational Therapy Center to The Thompson Center on Emmanuel Hill in 2016.
 - Completed the Ballard Health Physician Assistant Center in Milligan’s B. D. Phillips Building in 2017 to house the new Master of Arts in Physician Assistant Studies (MAPAS) program.
 - Celebrated the 50th anniversary of Seeger Memorial Chapel in 2017.
 - Renovated the McMahan Student Center in 2020 thanks to a generous donation from 3CLANE Family Foundation, Inc., expanding interior and exterior student gathering space.
 - Renovated the Mildred Welshimer Phillips Memorial Chapel in the B. D. Phillips Building, thanks to generous funding from the United Company Foundation and the James W. & Frances G. McGlothlin Foundation, in 2022.
 - Upgraded numerous academic facilities, including the Science Building, the Arnold Nursing Science Center, and the Lowell W. Paxson Communications Center.
 - Dedicated the Wetzel Terrace on Emmanuel Hill.
 - Created additional parking and green spaces and completed lighting and security upgrades throughout campus.
- **Solidified Milligan’s long-term financial security and affordability.**
 - Led the second phase of the successful “Forward Ever” fundraising effort and the current “On Mission” fundraising campaign, resulting in more than \$80 million raised for the university.
 - More than tripled the endowment since 2011, growing from just over \$16 million to over \$50 million.
 - Grew total net assets from \$45 million in 2011 to over \$108 million in 2022, with increases in total net assets occurring each year.
 - Increased the annual budget by more than \$17.5 million, to \$46 million, over the last decade as the university employs close to 500 people in the region.

- Ensured financial support to make Milligan affordable for students, maintaining a total cost and average federal debt at graduation below the national average for private colleges.
 - Awarded over \$16 million in need- and merit-based scholarship awards in 2022, a 50% increase over 2011, to drive student success and diversity with 99% of students receiving grants or scholarships provided by the university.
 - Secured a \$4.7 million gift, the largest single gift in Milligan history, thanks to the generosity of Richard and Leslie Gilliam, which provided funding for site preparation and construction of the Milligan Village student housing community.
 - Secured multiple grants, including several million-dollar grants, to launch critical initiatives like those to further build upon the work and reach of Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan.
 - Established nearly 60 endowed funds and scholarships.
 - Established the Jeanes Scholarship, the university's most prestigious undergraduate scholarship, in 2013. In 2017, the John Robert Neely, Jr. Scholarship was established as the seminary's top student scholarship.
 - Established several new endowed faculty chairs, including the Don and Clarinda Jeanes Chair of Servant Leadership (2011), the Malcolm C. and Ruth G. Myers Chair of Engineering (2016), and the W. Edward and Billye Joyce Fine Chair of Education (2018).
 - Implemented campus-wide effort in 2016 to make the university more energy efficient.
 - Revised strategic plan in 2022 to guide Milligan's prioritized actions to transform the institution, ensure excellence, and sustain success.
- **Advanced Milligan University athletics to levels of national prominence.**
 - Expanded intercollegiate programs from 24 in 2011 to 31 in 2023.
 - Won numerous Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) All-Sports Championships.
 - Received multiple Champions of Character Five Star Institution Gold Awards through the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).
 - Secured multiple national championships, both individual and team, in cycling, cross country, track and field, and swimming.
 - Captured nine national championship titles during the 2021-22 season, more than any other school in Tennessee.
 - Became only the third NAIA institution to capture both Men's and Women's Cross Country National Championships in 2021.
 - Celebrated the first Olympic medalist in Milligan history when then-junior Megan Jastrab earned a bronze medal for Team USA Cycling and set a national record in the Women's Team Pursuit at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
 - Finished 13th in the final Learfield College Directors' Cup 2020-21 NAIA Standings, eclipsing its previous top finish of 31st in 2018-19.
 - Added club sports in competitive fly fishing, disc golf, and drumline in 2019.
 - Honored multiple coaches as Appalachian Athletic Conference Coaches of the Year, NAIA National Coaches of the Year, and NAIA Coaches of Character, plus the AAC Athletic Director of the Year.
 - Celebrated more than 100 NAIA All-Americans.
 - Added lights and irrigation to the soccer field in 2012.
 - Rededicated a newly renovated Steve Lacy Fieldhouse in 2012, including significant exterior and interior improvements.
 - Installed lighting at Anglin softball field, made possible through a generous donation from Milligan alumni Denny ('76) and Cindy ('79) Mayes, in 2019.
 - Resurfaced courts at the Mathes Tennis Center in 2019.
 - Completed improvements to swimming pool in Steve Lacy Fieldhouse in 2019.