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Another Record Enrollment at Cedarville? Students Moving Into Residence Halls Today

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- More than 1,000 first-time freshmen students are starting their college experience today at Cedarville University as they are moving into their residence halls beginning at 9 a.m. With the large number of freshmen students, Cedarville is anticipating enrollment will increase for the 15th consecutive year. Last year total student enrollment was 5,082 as the university enrolled more than 1,000 students for the first time in its history--which was the largest freshman class in university history.

Next to the annual commencement programs in the spring, the "Getting Started" weekend--which begins today and concludes on Sunday--is one of the major highlights of the academic year. Families from all 50 states--including nine students from Bethesda Christian School in Brownsburg, Indiana--are expected to be on campus this weekend and help their college students start their "1,000 Days" as Cedarville University students. Cedarville leaders estimate college students spend approximately 1,000 days as undergraduate students before they earn their college degree in May.

Despite different backgrounds and majors, all nine students are excited to get started at Cedarville and open this new chapter of life. They all plan to move into their residence halls on Friday, August 18, with the majority of new and returning students.

Bethesda students' selection of academic programs represents six of Cedarville's 175 programs of study. Seth Bradley, Ellie Geimer and Paige Vawter will pursue a degree in nursing, while Ian Whitehead and Eva Campbell are majoring in biblical studies. The remaining students are all over the academic spectrum, with Jake Henry selecting engineering, Jenny Li pursuing a degree in biology, Emma Spencer in business and Ella Titus in English.

While Bradley, Whitehead and Vawter have a family legacy with Cedarville, others like Campbell and Henry are first-generation Cedarville students.

Campbell's decision to attend college more than two hours from home was difficult. She had heard about Cedarville through friends and teachers who had connections to Cedarville, but she wasn't sure it was the university for her. But when she joined some of her high school classmates on a campus visit, she was drawn to Cedarville's commitment to biblical teaching and the Gospel.

Ultimately, the decision came down to a song that was the final piece in her decision-making process.

"I was praying in the car when Cedarville's musical group HeartSong was singing 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness.' That song has meant so much to me," Campbell explained. "So, when I heard that song in

the car (on the way home from the campus visit), it sealed the deal for me. I felt confident that the Lord was calling me to attend Cedarville University.”

Historically, Bethesda Christian has had a strong connection with Cedarville since its founding in 1965 by Dr. Donald Tyler, for whom the Tyler Digital Communication Center on Cedarville’s campus is named. Many Bethesda graduates have graduated from Cedarville and returned to the Indiana high school to teach.

This is the largest number of Bethesda graduates heading to Cedarville in recent years.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual-enrollment high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu

Photo and videos:

Below are photos of the beginning of the "Getting Started" process at Cedarville. Upperclassmen line various entry points onto campus to "welcome home" the new students and their families. This start of the academic year is directed by Brian Burns, director of campus experience.