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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

# RECORD

## College's National Profile a Marker of Momentum and Success

Colleagues,

Merrimack College has built a reputation for hard work and success. The “Most Transformative” designation we earned from Money Magazine earlier this year refers to our



work in changing students’ lives, but it could just as well apply to the college itself. Together, we have transformed Merrimack over these past several years. As a result of our vision and our effort, we are not only recognized but sought after as a partner, an exemplar and a voice for progress in higher education.

Most recently, we have been named an Apple Distinguished School — one of only 23 in higher education around the world — affirming the continuing cultural of innovation in teaching and learning at Merrimack College, and even more, holding our faculty and staff up to the world as exemplars of new ways of educating.

An internationally known video producer, Case Creative, chose to work with us on a truly inspiring film that expresses all the excitement and momentum that we here on campus see and feel every day. This video will share with the entire world the passion and energy of Merrimack College as we reach even broader constituencies in admission, in athletics, in education and in research.

In a nod to Merrimack's unique and entrepreneurial approach to our mission, I have been elected to represent New England on the board of directors of the organization that works with the federal government on behalf of private higher education institutions, NAICU — so Merrimack’s name and reputation will be front and center in the minds of legislators and government leaders.

Again, these are not trophies we sought — these are affirmations that we have chosen the right path to success, pursued it vigorously and are now being lauded at the highest levels for all we have accomplished together.

I am so proud of this institution, and of everyone who has helped propel it forward. Thank you for all you do, every day, for our students and for Merrimack College.

God bless,  
Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.  
President

## Merrimack Formally Named Apple Distinguished School



**President Hopey, center, accepts the Apple Distinguished School designation in a ceremony in Crowe Hall, with Provost Allan Weatherwax, left, Mary Jane Blatt, Paul D'Ascoli, Ian Camera and Cheryl Low of Apple, and Associate Provost Kathryn Nielsen, right.**

Apple formally recognized Merrimack College as an Apple Distinguished School in a Nov. 29 ceremony that celebrated the college's commitment to technological innovation.

"This didn't start with an elaborate plan," President Christopher Hopey recounted to an audience of college trustees, Apple executives, faculty and administrators. "This started with a bold vision of 'what is possible' to move education forward at Merrimack, and the faculty picked it up and ran with it."

The president recounted the college's trajectory over eight years, from a college that was still using electric typewriters and would not provide technical support to Apple products, to today's deployment of iPads to every student, as well as faculty and staff, for use in classes and curriculum, admission efforts, athletic recruitment and player development.

He praised especially Provost Allan Weatherwax and Kathryn Nielsen, associate provost and director of strategic initiatives, for their work in inspiring and motivating faculty. He also thanked the Davis Educational Foundation, which provided grant support to the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and for experiential education at the college.

"When you are an Apple Distinguished School, it's recognition of creating a culture of continuous innovation in teaching and learning on your campus," said Nielsen. "It's an impressive designation in higher ed."

Mary Jane Blatt, Ian Camera, Paul D'Ascoli and Cheryl Low of Apple joined the ceremony, praising Hopey and lauding the work Merrimack has done in creating a "center of leadership

and educational excellence.”

As an Apple Distinguished School, Merrimack will be able to share its story of using technology in the classroom on a national and international stage. There are 23 Apple Distinguished higher education institutions around the globe and only two others in New England.

“It’s about demonstrating a vision for learning with technology that inspires creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking inside and outside the classroom,” Nielsen said.

Following the celebration, Nielsen also led a team of educators in presenting to Merrimack’s board of trustees the day after the designation ceremony, demonstrating ways in which Mobile Merrimack particularly has transformed teaching and coaching.

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### Merrimack Partnering with SquashBusters for Lawrence Youth



**Greg Zaff, left, founder of SquashBusters, and President Christopher Hopey sign the agreement to bring the youth program to Merrimack's campus.**

Merrimack College is further strengthening its commitment to the betterment of our community, specifically the city of Lawrence, by formalizing a partnership with the nationally recognized organization SquashBusters.

SquashBusters is a 22-year-old youth program that combines squash and fitness, academic support and enrichment, community service, mentoring and summer opportunities to improve the lives of young people in Lawrence, Boston and Providence.

Merrimack and SquashBusters hope to build approximately 18,000 square feet of space that will include eight squash courts, classrooms, office and meeting space, and locker rooms, in the college’s athletics district.

“This synergistic relationship will create a program that deepens our work with young people in Lawrence,” said college President Christopher E. Hopey.

Merrimack currently partners with Abbott Lawrence Academy, Lawrence’s honors high school, to provide classes for college credit, and supports a number of service-providing programs such as Hands to Help at St. Mary’s parish and the Financial Capability Center, which provides financial advice and education to clients of nonprofit agencies in the city.

The college and SquashBusters will begin fundraising for the new building early in 2019.

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## Merrimack College Releases National Institutional Video

In an effort to further showcase the strength and momentum of Merrimack to the world, the college has released a national institutional video, visually showcasing what the college is today — an institution with a strong foundation of academics and values, that is entrepreneurial in its thinking and steadfast in its mission to create pathways so that students may thrive.

“The new video honors the incredible work that has been accomplished over the past several years,” said President Christopher E. Hopey.

Produced by Case Creative, a Los Angeles-based production firm that has produced video for institutions such as Boston College, visited the campus earlier this fall and spent over a week working with and capturing footage of Merrimack’s students, faculty, staff and the campus community.

The footage throughout the video reflects the achievement of many of the college’s ambitious goals of the college, as well as enhances Merrimack’s image and defines its unique position among elite institutions in the country.

The new video will go well beyond the Merrimack College website. It will be nationally publicized on the following networks during Merrimack Men’s Hockey Games:

- Dec. 28 -- at Merrimack 7 pm (NESN)
- Jan. 4 -- at New Hampshire 7pm (NESN)
- Jan. 5 -- at Northeastern 7pm (NESNplus)
- Feb. 9 -- at Connecticut 5pm (on a local Hartford, Ct. affiliate, CW20)

Click [here](#) to view Merrimack’s institutional spot.

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## President Hopey Elected to NAICU Board of Directors

President Christopher Hopey has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. His term begins in February 2019, at the association’s annual board meeting in Washington, D.C.

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## Coming up

**Dec. 18 — Gaudete (Rejoice) Christmas party**  
• 4:30 p.m., St. Ambrose Friary

**Dec. 21 — Faculty and staff Christmas celebration**  
• 12:30 p.m. Mass, Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel

NAICU is the organization that represents private not-for-profit institutions of higher education on public policy issues before the federal government. Members of the board are elected by college presidents in each region of the country.

President Hopey is past president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts.

• 1 p.m. Party, Sparky's Place

Dec. 21 — College closes for holidays  
• 5 p.m.

Jan. 3 — Online winter classes begin

Jan. 7 — College offices reopen

Jan. 16 — Classes resume