

November Racial Justice Timeline

In 1873, Bennett College had its beginning in the unplastered basement of the Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as St. Matthews United Methodist Church). Seventy young men and women started elementary and secondary level studies. In 1874 the Freedmen's Aid Society took over the school which remained under its auspices for 50 years.

Within five years of 1873, a group of emancipated slaves purchased the present site for the school. College level courses and permanent facilities were added. In 1926, The Women's Home Missionary Society joined with the Board of Education of the church to make Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., formerly co-educational, a college for women. The challenges that were overcome to establish Bennett demand that today's challenges be met and overcome to ensure her survival.



For nearly 150 years women have found Bennett to be the ideal place to foster the constant rhythm of ideas. Each student's individual need for self-expression and desire for achievement is constantly nurtured. The College fosters a strong respect for every student. Today, in the midst of a very active renaissance, Bennett is preparing contemporary women to be well educated, productive professionals, informed, participating citizens, and enlightened parents. The College offers twenty-four areas of study in Education, the Social Sciences, the Humanities, and in Natural and Behavioral Sciences and Mathematics. Numerous opportunities to study at other higher education institutions at home and abroad are available to continue the educational enrichment of Bennett's students. From its

founding in the basement of a Methodist Church, Bennett College remains affiliated with the [United Methodist Church](#).

The goals of the College continue to focus on the intellectual, spiritual and cultural growth of young women who must be prepared for lifelong learning and leadership. Since 1930 more than 5,000 women have graduated from Bennett College. Known as Bennett Belles, they continue to be among contributing women of achievement in all walks of life.

Bennett's small size allows for a personalized college experience.

At Bennett, you are not just a student ID number, you are a woman we invest in and support as you navigate higher education and prepare for your career. Here, you will be personally welcomed by the College President on your first day, be taught by experienced faculty who get to know you and your learning style, engage with staff who link you to our many resources, and bond with other women of color working to become phenomenal scholars and global leaders. Bennett empowers you to lead, create your own path, gain life experience and become the woman you are meant to be.

Fast Facts about Bennett:

- Faculty/student ratio of 7 to 1
- Robust global studies program; more than 200 students have studied abroad since its launch
- State-of-the-art TV and photography studios
- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s only speech in Greensboro was in our Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel
- First black woman president of a four-year U.S. college, Dr. Willa B. Player
- One of only two all-women's HBCUs in the U.S.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pfeiffer University, Winston-Salem State University, The American Language Academy, among other colleges and universities
- A United Methodist Church-related institution

Mission

Bennett College prepares women of color through a transformative liberal arts education to lead with purpose, integrity, and a strong sense of self-worth. Bennett provides educational

access to students while promoting inquiry, civic engagement, social justice, lifelong learning, and equity for all.

Vision

Bennett College is renowned for its intimate, engaging learning community that produces phenomenal women scholars and global leaders.

Philosophy

Bennett College's undergirding philosophy is that a high quality college experience should provide its women students with strong academic and co-curricular programs that encourage their personal development, endorse life-long learning, and prepare them to meet the needs of an ever-changing society.

Bennett College values and respects every member of its community. As a [United Methodist Church](#)-related institution, the College believes that education should be related to humanitarian ends.

Foci Areas

- Leadership
- Civic Engagement
- Global Citizenship
- Innovation/Entrepreneurship
- Communications

Faith Statement

As a United Methodist Church-related institution, Bennett College affirms the doctrinal foundations of the United Methodist Church, including the tradition of reflective reasoning, the fostering of free exchange of ideas, educational opportunities for all people, and the conduct of business and programs in accordance with standards of Christian ethics and morality. The doctrinal beliefs undergirding our mission and philosophy are enumerated in the Articles of Religion of the United Methodist Church ([The Articles of Religion of the United Methodist Church](#)).

Bennett's small size allows for a personalized college experience.

At Bennett, you are not just a student ID number, you are a woman we invest in and support as you navigate higher education and prepare for your career. Here, you will be personally welcomed by the College President on your first day, be taught by experienced faculty who get to know you and your learning style, engage with staff who link you to our many resources,

and bond with other women of color working to become phenomenal scholars and global leaders. Bennett empowers you to lead, create your own path, gain life experience and become the woman you are meant to be.

Fast Facts about Bennett:

- Faculty/student ratio of 7 to 1
- Robust global studies program; more than 200 students have studied abroad since its launch
- State-of-the-art TV and photography studios
- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s only speech in Greensboro was in our Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel
- First black woman president of a four-year U.S. college, Dr. Willa B. Player
- One of only two all-women's HBCUs in the U.S.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pfeiffer University, Winston-Salem State University, The American Language Academy, among other colleges and universities
- A United Methodist Church-related institution

Bennett College is a HBCU (Historically Black Colleges & Universities). Like many HBCUs, the college is struggling financially and in jeopardy of losing their accreditation.

Information from Bennett website and Wikipedia.