

# PURSUIT

*the* **UNIVERSITY** *of* **POSSIBILITY**

## **ROOM TO GROW**

How the Pacific Northwest  
Influences Faith at NU

## **FIVE FACTORS FOR FIGURING OUT YOUR COLLEGE FIT**

A Helpful Guide for Selecting a College

## **AN EAGLE GOES TO OXFORD**

NU Student Isaiah Whitten Shares  
About His Year at Oxford



**Northwest**  
UNIVERSITY



# ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

For nothing will be impossible with God.

*Luke 1:37 ESV*

There is within you a dream—something God has uniquely created you to accomplish and become. This dream may be larger than you can imagine today. Some may even tell you it is impossible.

We're here to remind you of this: With God, all things are possible.

Since 1934, it has been our mission and honor to help students, like you, discover their God-given potential and unlock their dreams.

We do it within small classes guided by professors who know you, who inspire you, and who challenge you academically.

We do it within a community of students who love one another, encourage one another, and who form bonds that span a lifetime.

We do it within internships, global experiences, and career counseling that help you to align your talents and dreams with a real career.

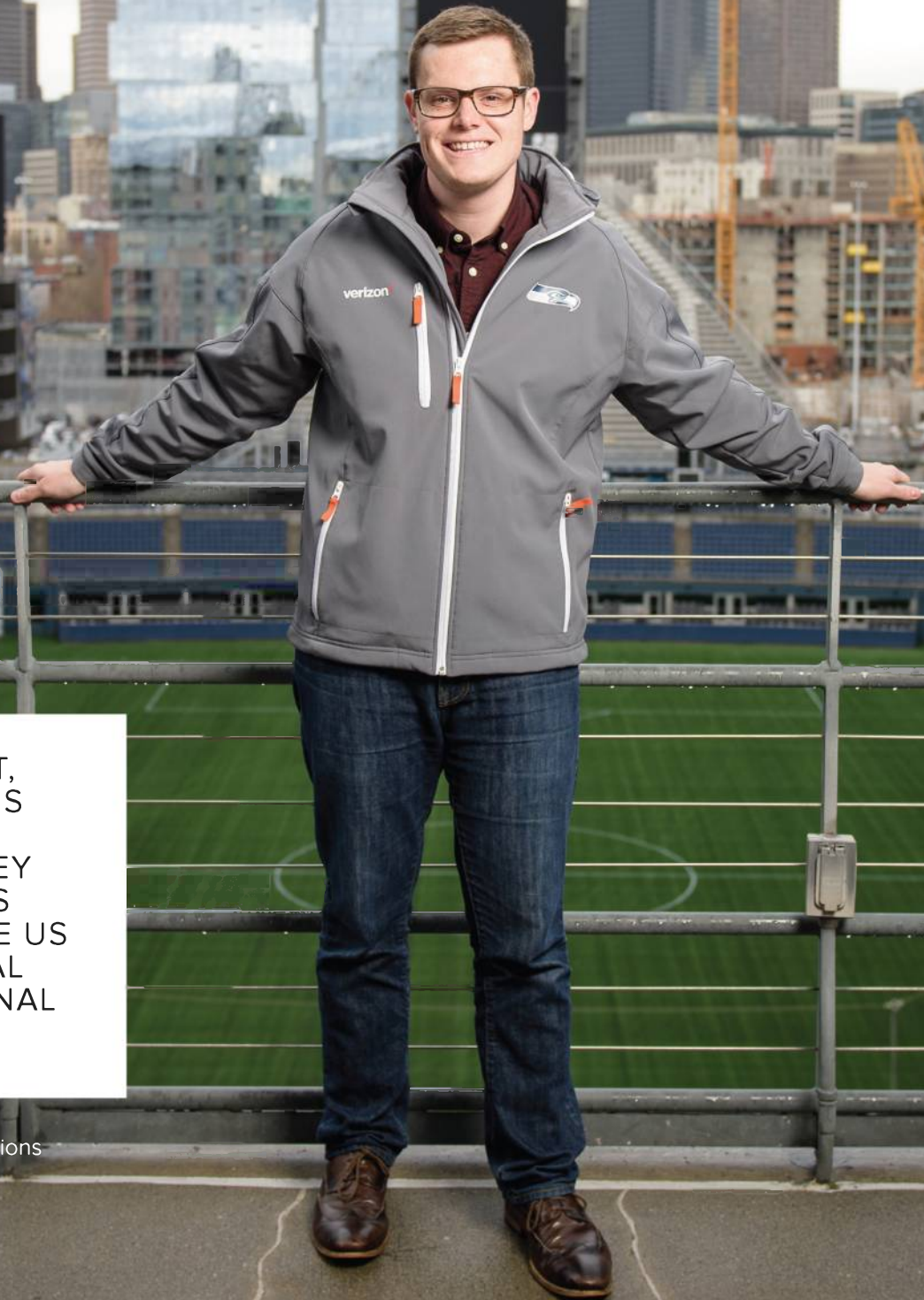
Most importantly, we do all of these things within the framework of a rigorous education that is wholly centered on Christ.

Might this be the right school for you? It's a real possibility. We encourage you to visit us and find out for yourself.

Learn more about our visit days at [northwestu.edu/visit](http://northwestu.edu/visit).

# FIELD OF DREAMS

Finding Your Profession in the Pacific Northwest



...AT NORTHWEST,  
OUR PROFESSORS  
DO MORE THAN  
JUST TEACH. THEY  
GET TO KNOW US  
AND ENCOURAGE US  
IN OUR PERSONAL  
AND PROFESSIONAL  
JOURNEYS.

Nathan Smith, Communications



I'm pretty sure I was born a football fan. Not just any football fan, but a fan of the Seattle Seahawks.

Growing up, football played such a special role in my relationship with my dad. Most Sunday afternoons, we spent hours throwing around the football and listening to the Seahawks games on the radio. Even at a young age, I recognized the power of sports to bring families and communities together. I already knew that I wanted to intern with a professional football team. That dream remained just a dream for years, until I found myself in the classroom of Dr. Rachel-Binns Terrill. What I imagined would be just another class for my communications major turned out to be a life-changing opportunity.

My professor, as it turns out, is married to Craig Terrill. *The* Craig Terrill, Seattle Seahawks defensive end—a true force to be reckoned with. In class, Professor Terrill encouraged us to identify our goals and dreams, and challenged us to pursue them. She even asked us what our dream jobs would be and how we might go about making them a reality. When it came my turn to share my dream, I told Professor Terrill that I wanted to work for the Community Outreach and Fan Development Department of the Seahawks, an area that would allow me to combine my passion for sports and service.

I feel blessed that at Northwest, our professors do more than just teach. They get to know us and encourage us in our personal and professional journeys. Professor Terrill connected me with several Seahawks contacts, which led to a series of informational

interviews, meetings, and networking opportunities. When March rolled around, and the internship postings were listed, I was very eager to apply, but I also knew that many other students would be applying. Well, there were about 900 other students who applied. While I wasn't offered a Seahawks internship, I was hand-selected by the Vice President of Community Outreach, Mike Flood, to join a new special team in Fan Development. I quickly accepted. I was actually getting paid to be at Seahawks' games and do work I am truly passionate about.

Now that I am a senior at NU, I have to ask myself, "what's next?" This can be a scary question for anyone getting ready to graduate. But my time at Northwest has been very valuable and has prepared me for the future. One thing is for sure—I wouldn't have had the opportunity with the Seahawks if it weren't for incredible faculty like Professor Terrill. They take time to pour into the lives of their students and genuinely view their academic influence as something that extends beyond a four-year program. I gained great skills like problem solving, team building, and interpersonal skills as a Resident Assistant and Student Government President, all of which ultimately benefitted my experience with the Seahawks.

I've also learned to place trust in God and in myself. I know I am ready and able to take the next steps. Maybe that'll be for the Seattle Seahawks, maybe not. There's a lot of opportunity in the Pacific Northwest for me to help others and do the work that I love and I can't wait to get started.



**Seattle Children's**  
HOSPITAL · RESEARCH · FOUNDATION

**BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation**



**FRED HUTCH**

**NORDSTROM**



# We're In Good Company

The corporate offices that surround us.



Our 56-acre campus is located in Kirkland, Washington. Last year, it was voted by *Money Magazine* as the 5th best place to live in the U.S. We're close to recreational opportunities (minutes from Lake Washington), and we're surrounded by companies that have changed the world. For students who choose NU, this is a great combination. It means lots of opportunity for fun while

you're here and—even more importantly—excellent opportunities for employment once you graduate.

To see all that Kirkland and Northwest University have to offer, come for a visit. We'd love to show you around.

Sign up at [northwestu.edu/friday](http://northwestu.edu/friday).

# READY, SET, INTERN!

At Northwest University, we think internships are important, and for this reason most of our majors (70 percent) require an internship as part of the academic curriculum. More and more employers are wanting graduates to have internship experience, and for good reason. Internships are valuable because they allow students to not only acquire much needed experience, but they also give them an opportunity to try out an occupation or field they are considering. An internship allows students to experience first-hand what a certain occupation actually looks and feels like—you can take your career plan for a test drive.

Through an internship, you will gain new skills and develop confidence in a way you can't in the classroom. Students grow as professionals as they learn about teamwork, communication, leadership, and problem-solving. Not only are you adding a new skill set, but you are also expanding your network. The opportunities to connect with others in a particular field are much more vibrant in the work place—an internship allows this to happen organically.

Many internships transform into full-time positions. Over the years, I've seen that employers increasingly view their internship programs as the best path for hiring entry-level candidates. In a competitive job market, employers want to see experience in the new college graduates they are hiring.

Don't worry, we're equipped to help you land a great internship. Our Office of Career Development and Corporate Relations will help guide you through the process and pair you with a company that makes sense for you.



Levi Davenport, M.S.  
Director of Career Development and  
Corporate Relations



# FINDING A CAREER THROUGH AN INTERNSHIP

Michael Greene, Finance/Accounting



**NU** alumnus Michael Greene started as an intern at Highland Private Wealth Management in Bellevue in 2013. Just three years later, he serves as a Senior Associate at the same company.

Michael first became connected with Highland through Levi Davenport, NU's Director of Career Development and Corporate Relations and internship class instructor. Levi heard about an intern opening at Highland and suggested Michael apply. As an undergraduate finance/accounting major, Michael had developed, through the internship class, many of the

skills necessary to understand, and more importantly, articulate what he could bring to a company.

When Michael was offered the internship, he played for the men's basketball team at NU and still had his degree to focus on. The diligence required of him to succeed in all three areas resulted in huge

emotional and spiritual growth. Taking on all of these responsibilities forced Michael, "to rely on God for strength and give Him my anxieties."

Michael believes his time in the internship better prepared him to grow on a professional level, better than any college education by itself could have. In his time as an intern, Highland gave him opportunities to work on big projects with major responsibilities. These opportunities gave him a glimpse of how to operate in high pressure situations and succeed.

Michael added this advice for students considering an internship: "Look for a company with values that align with your own, but otherwise don't worry about getting the perfect internship. Working for a company will teach you in ways the classroom can't, and you may be surprised by what you're good at or passionate about."

“LOOK FOR A COMPANY WITH VALUES THAT ALIGN WITH YOUR OWN, BUT OTHERWISE DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING THE PERFECT INTERNSHIP.



# SHAPED BY COMMUNITY

I remember it like it was yesterday. Few life events can I boast about in such a way. My memory of even some of life's most important events seems to fade—all without my permission and much to my dismay. Yet, one event that I can still recall with clarity is my move-in day freshman year of college. I can still picture entering campus, unloading the car (with the help of a dozen new friends), and meeting my roommate. I remember saying goodbye to my parents, watching my mom hold back tears (only to lose it when

the car door closed), and walking with my floor-mates to the evening orientation session. That day marked a huge turning point in life, and I seemed to know it even then. What I didn't know was that so much of my learning would occur outside the classroom. College was a time for me to work out the tension between who I was and who I wanted to be. Both the classroom and community experience gave me the space to wrestle with that conflict. It was the community experience—life outside of the classroom—that challenged me to seamlessly align my learning with my faith and values, and held me accountable to the task.

Perhaps that can serve as the context for why I now serve as the Dean of Student Development at Northwest University. I want students to be challenged and supported outside of the classroom. I want each student to experience learning in the residence halls, the cafeteria, the chapel, and



the campus quad. In a time when the value of the traditional university experience is regularly scrutinized, my response is to make the co-curricular realm not only valuable, but also profoundly formational. That is what we are striving to do in Student Development at Northwest University. Here are just a few of the ways in which we hope to accomplish the task.

Our traditional program is intentionally residential. We think the experience of living on-campus is important to interpersonal and relational development. Though there is a very intentional program carried out by professional staff from the Office of Residence Life, there is also the benefit of the unplanned events: the regular rhythm of breaking bread

with neighbors, or spontaneous late-night conversations with floor-mates, or simply learning that even interruptions have the potential to be extensions of God's grace. We are intentionally residential at Northwest University because we believe that learning to live in peace with our neighbor is at the heart of the Gospel.

Whether a student lives on or off campus, we want all students engaging in the NU community. Alexander Astin, a leading researcher in college student development, found that "the greater the student's involvement in college, the greater will be the amount of student learning and personal development" (Astin, 1999. *Journal of College Student*

Development, Vol. 40, No. 5, pg. 529). According to his study, co-curricular involvement was critical to student success and learning. For this very reason, we have a number of opportunities for community involvement. Our Office of Community Life facilitates everything from student government, intramural sports, clubs/organizations, and broader campus-wide student activities or traditions. Community Life empowers students to shape their own community experience and make meaning from it.

Our university community relies heavily on student leadership. In 2015-16, we had 95 students on leadership scholarships, in addition to our scholarships for athletics and academics. Our goal is to nurture and train leaders, not simply to just serve our university, but our national and global community. We want our students to be people of character and integrity, capable of leading, to the glory of God, in a wide variety of eventual career paths. Student leadership prepares them for the future and sets them up to be dynamic agents of change.

Ultimately, our hope is that every student at Northwest University will find meaningful involvement outside the classroom. Our community is filled with such caring, thoughtful people. Like every community, we have our flaws and our shortcomings. We make no claim to perfection. That

*Ultimately, our hope is that every student at Northwest University will find meaningful involvement outside the classroom and a community that helps them grow into their best selves.*

is why we need one another and a community that accepts us for who we are. That is what we strive to do in Student Development—create an environment where each student belongs. Down the road, when memories begin to fade, and a student thinks back to the experience of Northwest University, he or she will certainly

not forget the feeling of belonging. Hopefully that is one thing each student will always remember like it was yesterday.



Rick Engstrom  
Dean of Student Development





# AN EAGLE GOES TO *Oxford*



Northwest University sophomore Isaiah Whitten is an International Business major who was accepted to spend one year at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, walking the same halls where C.S. Lewis taught. Between his studies, rowing for the university, and sightseeing trips to the surrounding area, Isaiah wrote about his experiences and what he's learned since being there.



## HOW DID BEING AT NU PREPARE YOU FOR THIS EXPERIENCE?

Northwest University challenged me with the appropriate academic rigor required for successful participation in Oxford's world-class educational arena. Founded in 1231, Oxford's academic tradition demands that students take stances, develop opinions, and ultimately defend them. Thanks to Northwest University, I feel that I effectively met these demands.

## WHAT IS LIFE LIKE AT OXFORD? HOW IS SCHOOL THERE DIFFERENT FROM HERE?

The Oxford lifestyle challenges me on an hourly basis. Lengthy reading lists, numerous 'all-nighters', intensive extracurricular responsibility, students find themselves faced with an ultimatum at Oxford: either learn to stretch or tear. Rather than attending a class with the usual assignments

and lectures, Oxford places undergraduate students through the 'tutorial system'—a personalized discussion between yourself and an expert in your field of study. The expert guides your research and encourages important discourse. Rather than tests or exams, tutors expect essays ranging from 1,500–2,500 words each week.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING AT OXFORD?

One of my favorite aspects of being at Oxford is knowing that I have been qualified as capable of attending. Although I am only visiting for the time being, I am taking part in the same lectures and the same coursework as any other Oxford student. The libraries here are older than the United States, and it's quite rewarding to swipe your cardkey and sit down amongst the Oxford populous—your peers.



**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF AS A RESULT OF BEING AT NU AND OXFORD?**

Both universities have encouraged me to consistently pursue excellence with intentional purposes in mind. In regards to possibilities, Northwest University has proven to be a door into unrealistic opportunity. Without Northwest University, it seems quite improbable that I would have ended up at Oxford.

**WHAT WOULD YOU TELL A STUDENT CONSIDERING NU ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES THAT EXIST HERE?**

The Lord has placed a special blessing on the campus at Northwest University. NU has this incredible tendency to partner with your specific needs and make the impossible more than attainable. I am living proof.



Isaiah with C.S. Lewis' son (top left and bottom) and his rowing team (top right).

# THE **5** FACTORS *for* FIGURING OUT *your* **COLLEGE FIT**

*For some people, the decision of where to go to college is easy, and for others the decision is more arduous. Our biggest decisions are often driven by cost and convenience. It makes sense, naturally, that we place high priority on these in selecting a college. But is this always wise? We might be wiser to prioritize finding a place to thrive. By thriving in our pursuits and enjoying our experiences, we open future possibilities that we never imagined. Thriving goes hand in hand with fit. How can we best find our college fit and be confident in this decision? Here are five important considerations.*

**1**

## *align* **YOUR BELIEFS**



You'll be happiest at a place that resonates with your beliefs. Every school has a mission; you want to choose the one that best aligns with who you are. Does the mission support you? Many schools are faith-based but may not provide the community that truly contributes to your spiritual formation. College is an incredibly transformative time of personal growth. You should choose the community that supports you in the ways that matter most.

**2**

## *join a community* **FOR THE LONG-TERM**



When you choose a university, you are choosing more than just your next few years. Believe it or not, a college is a long-term relationship because it connects you with community. Your new friendships will last a lifetime. Will you have professors and staff that will stay in touch long after graduation? A great university is synonymous with great community—and you'll want to be in a community where you fit well.



# 3

## *open doors* **TO YOUR FUTURE**



Choosing a college is one thing, but opening career doors beyond college is another. A university's ability to connect students with professional opportunities should be a primary focus. If a college requires professional internships for their academic majors, then you can gain a bridge to a solid career. The connections of an established Career Development Office provide you with a network to thrive in your calling.

# 4

## *lock in* **YOUR LOCATION**



You can go to school almost anywhere, but a key to thriving is found in location. Which school is strategically positioned near world-changing companies that increase your career network? Where can you go to be on the doorstep of incredible amenities and hang out spots? What university provides outdoor recreation, service opportunities, and a great quality of life? Are there solid local church options for worship and growth? Possibilities are endless if you choose the right location.

# 5

## *value* **YOUR EDUCATION**



Education is one of the few things that pays you back over time. A good education will contribute to your growth, open doors for your future, give you a meaningful and lifelong community, build upon your calling in an unmatched location, and deliver academic excellence. The value that a college can provide is worth it when you factor in your future. **We'd love to help with your journey: [northwestu.edu/admissions](http://northwestu.edu/admissions).**



## SOME OF OUR BEST CLASSROOMS HAVE DIRT FLOORS.

U.S. News and World Report selected Northwest University as a top college. As good as our on-campus classes may be, some of our greatest learning experiences occur in places like Cambodia, India, and Africa. At NU, over 70 percent of our students study abroad as part of their major. Why? Because reading about other cultures may inform you. But experiencing them firsthand will change you forever.





# THERE'S A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY OUT THERE.

At Northwest University, we provide you with international experiences that not only broaden your worldview, but also encourage you to grow through academic study, cultural immersion, and faith exploration. Whether you want to spend a semester abroad through one of our partners in England, Costa Rica, Australia, or China, or you prefer to participate in a shorter study tour organized by our faculty, Northwest can help you explore the world outside of your classroom.

## TAKE A SNEAK PEEK AT THE 2016 SPRING AND SUMMER TRIPS:

College of Business  
*Business and Culture in Central Europe*  
May 9–19, 2016  
Budapest, Hungary  
Vienna, Austria  
Prague, Czech Republic

College of Arts and Sciences  
*Window of Hope Clinic and Outreach*  
May 8–15, 2016  
Sonora, Mexico

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
*Psychology, Culture, and Social Justice in Europe*  
May 13–25, 2016  
Munich, Germany  
Vienna, Austria  
Prague, Czech Republic

College of Ministry  
*Ancient Judaism and Christianity (Scripture, History, and Archaeology)*  
May 16–June 10, 2016  
Israel and Jordan

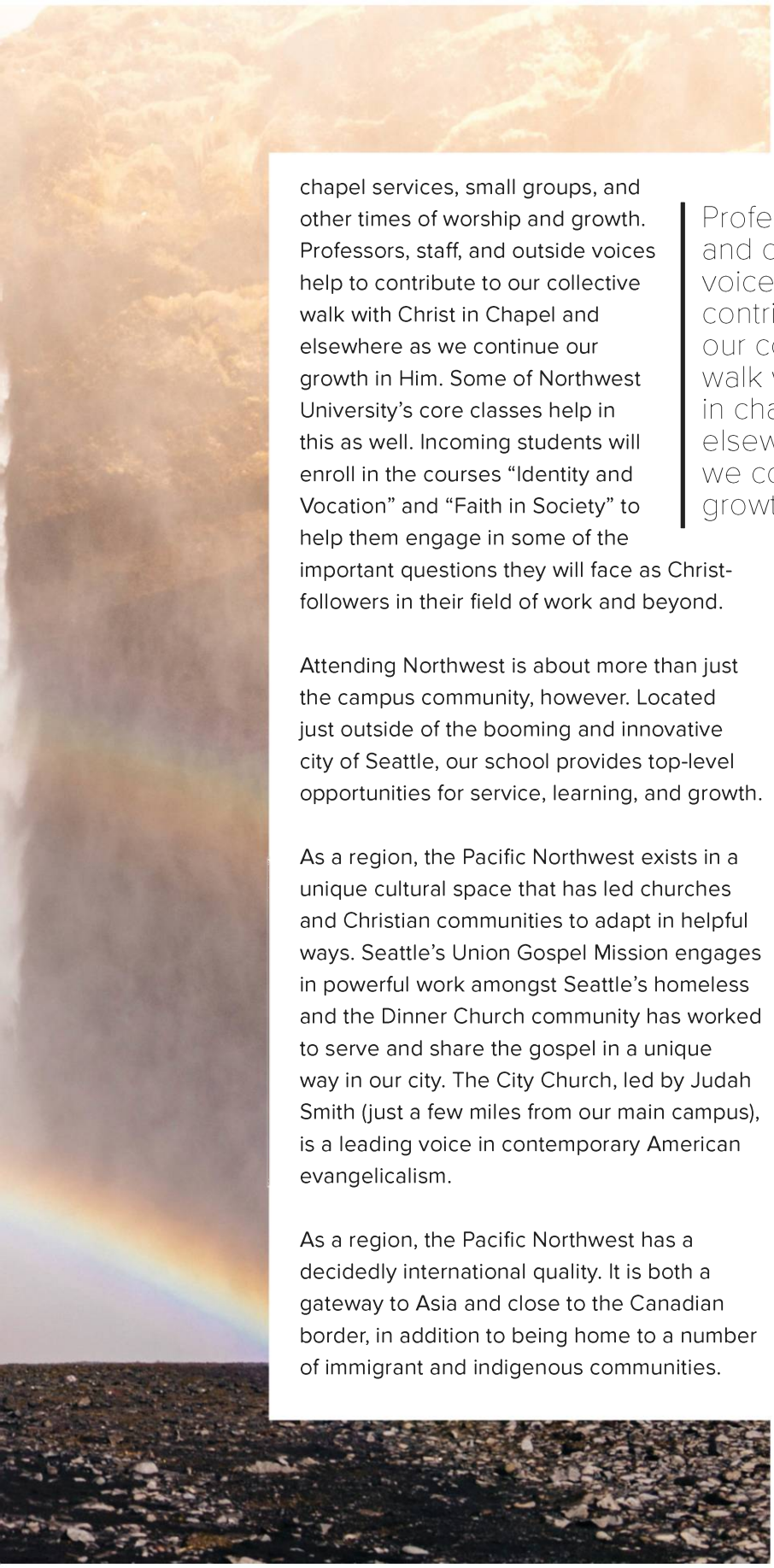
A person stands on a dark, rocky beach with their arms raised in a gesture of awe or praise. In the background, a massive waterfall cascades down a cliffside, creating a misty atmosphere. A vibrant rainbow is visible in the mist, arching across the scene. The overall mood is one of natural grandeur and spiritual inspiration.

# ROOM TO GROW

Northwest University is an excellent place for students to grow both intellectually and spiritually. As a community of learning that is centered on Jesus Christ, we are committed to living this call both for ourselves and the many who join us during their college years. The faculty, staff, and administration who serve our school are not simply Christ-followers in name, but actively seek to engage with, and minister to, the students under their care. Professors here truly care about their

students' well-being and are happy to have an "open-door" policy for prayer and counsel. On the student level, peers have opportunities to minister to each other in the dorms, at a weekly evening worship event, and all over campus.

In addition to the informal opportunities our community provides for spiritual formation, Northwest University has an extensive spiritual life program that coordinates our



chapel services, small groups, and other times of worship and growth. Professors, staff, and outside voices help to contribute to our collective walk with Christ in Chapel and elsewhere as we continue our growth in Him. Some of Northwest University's core classes help in this as well. Incoming students will enroll in the courses "Identity and Vocation" and "Faith in Society" to help them engage in some of the important questions they will face as Christ-followers in their field of work and beyond.

Attending Northwest is about more than just the campus community, however. Located just outside of the booming and innovative city of Seattle, our school provides top-level opportunities for service, learning, and growth.

As a region, the Pacific Northwest exists in a unique cultural space that has led churches and Christian communities to adapt in helpful ways. Seattle's Union Gospel Mission engages in powerful work amongst Seattle's homeless and the Dinner Church community has worked to serve and share the gospel in a unique way in our city. The City Church, led by Judah Smith (just a few miles from our main campus), is a leading voice in contemporary American evangelicalism.

As a region, the Pacific Northwest has a decidedly international quality. It is both a gateway to Asia and close to the Canadian border, in addition to being home to a number of immigrant and indigenous communities.

Professors, staff, and outside voices help to contribute to our collective walk with Christ in chapel and elsewhere as we continue our growth in Him.

There are, quite simply, diverse cultures within driving distance of our campus. Large cities, suburban communities, rural life—all of this is a part of the unique atmosphere of the Pacific Northwest, providing challenges and opportunities for the cause of Christ to advance.

Because of the diversity present in our region, there are no shortage of church and ministry opportunities available for our students. No matter where someone comes from to attend our school, there is likely a community similar to what they know. If, by contrast, a person is looking for a

different church experience than the one they grew up with, that is available as well. Local churches and ministry groups are constantly looking to partner with us and our students by providing opportunities for volunteering, internships, and more. Someone looking to grow in their faith and serve others will find no shortage of places to do so within the local area.

While, ultimately, any college experience is what you make it, the options available in and near Northwest truly make ours a "university of possibility" for spiritual growth and discipleship. It is my sincere hope that students attending Northwest will avail themselves—in the classroom, in student life, and in our community at large—to grow in their knowledge of Christ and continue exploring their call to serve Him with all their lives. As a professor here, I have had the privilege to see many students do just that. Lord willing, I look forward to sharing in the story of many more.

Joshua Ziefle is an Associate Professor, teaching courses in both the College of Ministry and the history department. He is also an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. He writes on history and practical theology on his blog, [joshuaziefle.net](http://joshuaziefle.net).





## ***WORLD-CLASS COMMUNICATOR DEBATE AT NU***

Marlene Pierce, English, speaks about being awarded the 2016 World's Best Public Speaker.



**“ I QUICKLY FOUND MY GIFT FOR SPEECH SYNTHESIZED WITH MY THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND I BLOSSOMED IN THE WORLD OF COLLEGIATE DEBATE.”**

I knew God had a plan to grow the talent and passion for expression He had given me, and He delivered. Two weeks into my freshmen year, my introduction speech professor pulled me aside and asked if I had ever considered joining debate. Twenty-four hours later, I was on a team that would soon become a second family. I quickly found my gift for speech synthesized with my thirst for knowledge and I blossomed in the world of collegiate debate. Within two years, I was leading the team as the captain and participating in the activity that has become my passion.

Regional tournaments turned into national competitions and my debate partner and I soon found ourselves in Thessaloniki, Greece competing in the World's University Debate Championship (WUDC), the biggest non-athletic sporting event in the world. Being challenged and competing alongside prestigious peers from all over the world, Harvard and Oxford among them, was thrilling and will forever be one of my crowning achievements.

While at WUDC, I entered into the public speaking competition, a side event that focused on compelling, entertaining speaking. With the support of my school behind me, I took to the stage with confidence and a gleam in my eye. After a three-minute speech, I found myself in finals as one of the top five speakers in a field of over 100. After the final round, they announced me as the 2016 World's Best Public Speaker.

My topic for the public speaking final was, "What would life be like if I wasn't a debater?" And, honestly, even the concept is terrifying. When I first started at Northwest University, I had a voice but I didn't know how to use it. Debate has fundamentally changed the way I approach life and given me a confidence that I would never have imagined possible. The past four years have done more than just teach me how to speak; they have given me a purpose.





follow us  
**@NORTHWESTU**





“ I love the community I live in. #iheartNU.”

—@TONYATORCHILO

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“ The first thing spoken to me on my arrival at NU was ‘welcome home.’ Those words quickly became truth. #iheartNU”

—@SARAHCAVINESS

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“ I’m pretty in love with my school and city. So thankful that God has brought me here. #iheartNU.”

—@BETHANYALVAREZ3

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“ I’m so blessed to be going to @northwestu. #theBest”

—@LGCURRY

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follow us  
**@NORTHWESTU**

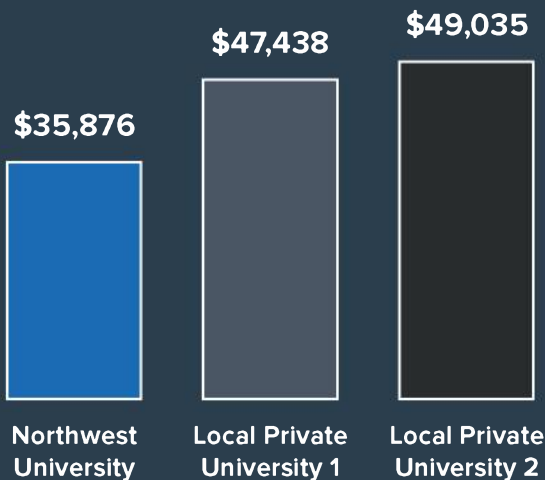
# A GREAT EDUCATION. A GREAT VALUE.

NU is among the most competitively priced private Christian universities. We charge thousands less than other local private universities. It's why U.S. News & World Report has rated us as a top value.

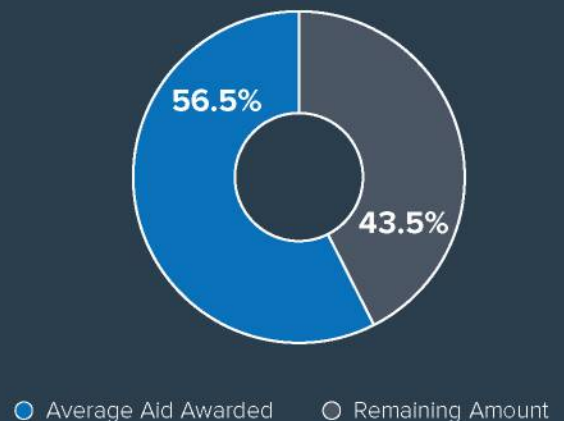


U.S. News and World Report has consistently ranked Northwest University as a top undergraduate college and best value in the West.

## ANNUAL COST OF ATTENDANCE



## AVERAGE FINANCIAL AID AWARDED LAST YEAR: \$20,254



All prices reflect spring 2016.

# BUT THERE IS **SO MUCH MORE TO** THE VALUE OF AN NU EDUCATION THAN JUST PRICE.

There is value in attending a university where Christ isn't just named on a website, but is the focus of all we do. There is value in living in a region with a robust economy, global brands, and significant opportunities for employment. There is value in internship programs that will provide the experience you need to enter a career. There is value in a close-knit community of students who are committed to Christ and who will encourage your spiritual growth. There is value in small class sizes where you can engage and learn more deeply. There is value in being immersed in the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest and all of the recreational opportunities it brings.

To find out more, visit [northwestu.edu/financial-aid](http://northwestu.edu/financial-aid).





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## ONE DAY JUST FOR YOU.

We've set aside one day to show you what it's like to be a student at NU. We call it Northwest Friday, and it's your chance to walk our campus, meet with students, worship in chapel, attend a class, and see for yourself if NU is the right fit for you.

Attend Northwest Friday for a \$500 scholarship.  
Register by going to [northwestu.edu/friday](http://northwestu.edu/friday).



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800.669.3781

[admissions@northwestu.edu](mailto:admissions@northwestu.edu)