

CONVOCATION & PROVOST INSTALLATION

CALVIN UNIVERSITY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

THE TWENTY-SIXTH OF AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE



EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The mission of Calvin University is to equip students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.

Calvin’s educational framework is derived from that mission. It articulates a frame that ensures integrated, coherent, holistic programs and practices in which students learn and develop. The framework names university-wide goals that ground the institution’s curricular and co-curricular activities. It attempts to answer the question, “What are the enduring characteristics or qualities of thinking, doing, and being that mark a Calvin University graduate?”

The four primary components of the educational framework are represented on the large banners hanging in the front of the arena.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

VAN NOORD ARENA

PRELUDE

A selection of recordings by Calvin ensembles

PROCESSIONAL

Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace

music by Swee Hong Lim

WELCOME

Sarah Visser, PhD, vice president for student life

OPENING SONG

Rejoice in All Your Works
Sung by Paul Ryan and worship apprentices

Wendell Kimbrough

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 11:2, Luke 14:11, James 4:6

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

“Humility First, Second, and Third”
Michael Le Roy, PhD, president

INSTALLATION OF PROVOST

APPOINTMENT

Michael Le Roy, PhD, president

CHARGES

On behalf of students: Emmanuel Essien '22, student body president

On behalf of faculty: Jolene Vos-Camy, PhD, professor of French and vice-chair of Faculty Senate

On behalf of alumni and the church: Nathan DeJong McCarron, trustee and pastor

COMMISSION

Bruce Los, chair, board of trustees

ENDORSEMENT

All

RESPONSE

Noah Toly, PhD, provost

PRAYER

Mary Hulst, PhD, university pastor

MATRICULATION CEREMONY

Noah Toly, PhD, provost

Ashley Cheeseboro '22, vice president of student senate

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Mary Hulst, PhD, university pastor

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

The audience is requested to remain seated until the faculty and students have recessed.

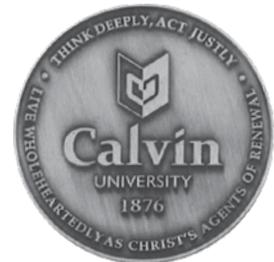
MATRICULATION CEREMONY

Incoming students join a history of formal education stretching back to the training of scribes in Sumeria more than 5,500 years ago. And they are participating in a Calvin history that points back to 1876, the year the institution welcomed its first class of students. Today, students are invited to join more than 65,000 alumni in adding their names to Calvin’s rich history by signing a paper that will be bound in book form and placed in the university’s historical archives.

Students are also receiving a commemorative coin during the ceremony that will serve as the front bookend to their Calvin journey. We ask students to keep this coin and bring it with them to their graduation ceremony, where they will receive the other bookend: their diploma.

One side of the coin shows Calvin University’s official seal, based on an image of a hand and a heart used by Reformer John Calvin in the 1540s to seal his letters. In the 1920s, Calvin University adopted an iteration that included the motto: “My heart I offer to you Lord, promptly and sincerely.” The English and Latin versions of the seal are prominently featured in formal academic ceremonies and publications.

The other side of the coin displays Calvin University’s official logo, which features the wayfinder—a chevron derived from the pentagon shape in the university’s official seal. The four outermost corners form a square, paying homage to the institution’s foundational theology that every square inch belongs to God. Within the wayfinder is the reflective “c” symbol, standing for “Calvin” and forming the semblance of a heart, also tying into the heart-in-hand element in the institution’s seal. Language from the university’s mission statement surrounds the logo on the coin.





PROVOST

Noah J. Toly, PhD

Noah J. Toly, PhD, is the ninth chief academic officer at Calvin University. A '99 graduate of Wheaton College with a bachelor of arts degree in interdisciplinary studies and Spanish, Toly earned a master of arts degree in theology from Wheaton College in 2012. He earned both a master of arts degree in urban affairs and public policy in 2005 and a doctor of philosophy degree in urban affairs and public policy in 2006 from the University of Delaware.

Prior to coming to Calvin, Toly served for 15 years on the faculty of Wheaton College, where he held appointments as the executive director of the Center for Urban Engagement and professor

of urban studies and politics & international relations. He has also held appointments as a lecturer at the Free University of Berlin's Center for Global Politics, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the University of Chicago's Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, visiting scholar at Duke Divinity School, and associate fellow at the University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture.

Dr. Toly's research and teaching interests include urban and environmental politics and ethics. He is the author of multiple books, including, most recently, *The Gardeners' Dirty Hands: Environmental Politics & Christian Ethics*. His work has appeared in *Books & Culture*, *Capital Commentary*, *Comment*, *Next City*, *The Hedgehog Review*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, among other publications, and he is a frequent speaker on cities, urban life, and the environment.

THE ROLE OF PROVOST

While the title *provost* didn't emerge at Calvin until the early 1980s, the role of provost or chief academic officer has been present at Calvin for more than a century. The role began in the early 1900s as the college gradually emerged from the Theological School. In 1919, Albert J. Rooks was appointed by Calvin's first president, John J. Hiemenga, to be dean of the faculty, the first iteration of *provost* at Calvin. The responsibilities of that position: "To act for the president when absent or temporarily incapacitated, and to relieve the president of certain administrative duties such as the making of schedules of recitations and examinations, arranging courses of study, classification of students, and those duties deemed necessary after mutual advisement."

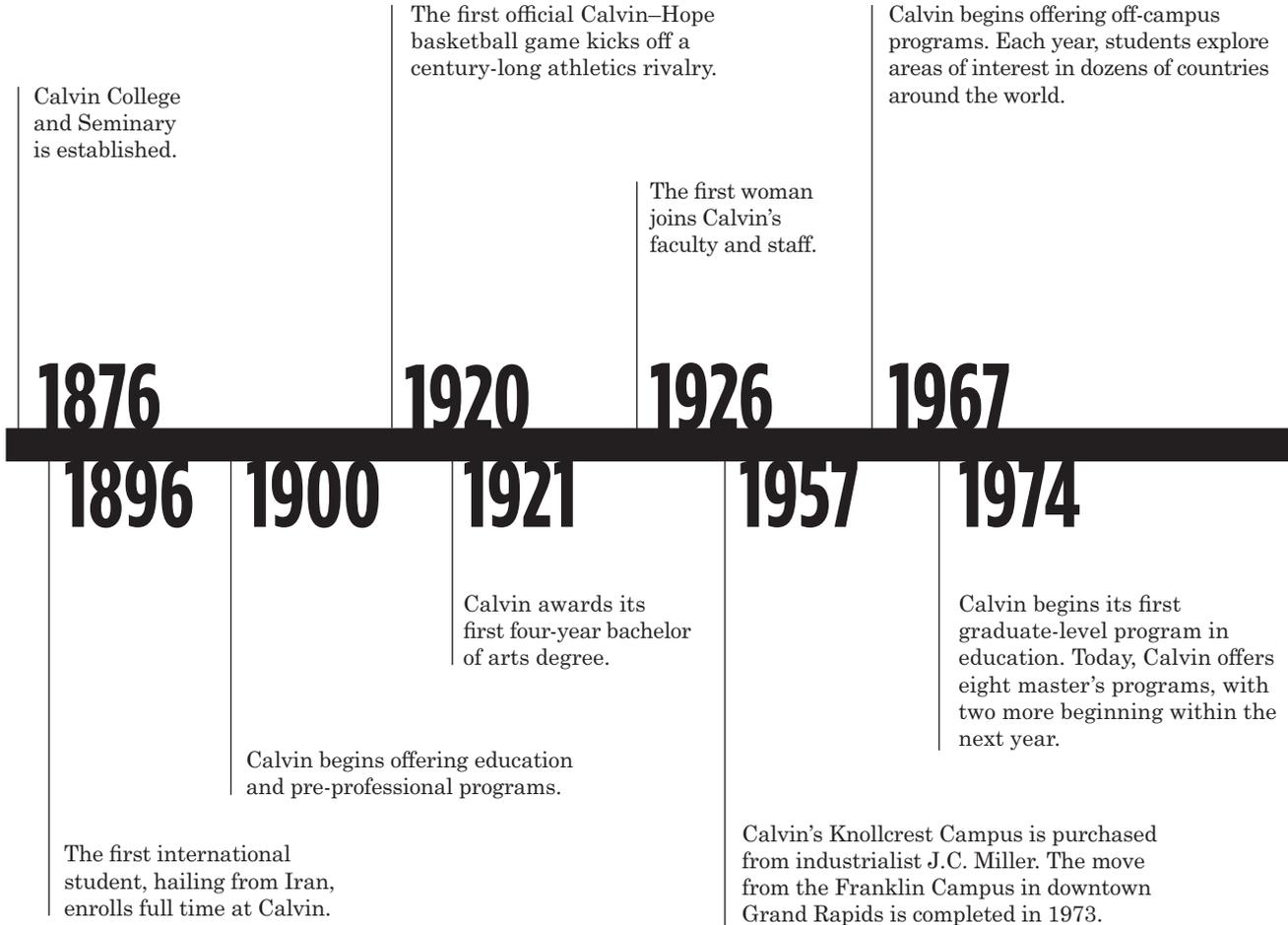
The role of provost has indeed expanded over the years with the expansion of students, faculty, and academic offerings. Today, the provost along with members of the academic leadership are charged with:

- Articulating and promoting the Reformed Christian mission of the university.
- Developing and employing a distinguished, multicultural faculty of Reformed Christian conviction.
- Providing oversight of the educational policies and programs of the university.
- Continuing the development of dynamic, liberal arts-grounded curricula that remain responsive to new fields and shifting interests and needs.
- Directing allocation of resources to academic departments, the Hekman Library, and other academic programs.
- Promoting effective faculty governance policies and practices.
- Strengthening and supporting faculty development in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, cultural competency and inclusive excellence, and Reformed Christian engagement in teaching, learning, and scholarship.
- Strengthening and supporting student success through oversight of student academic services, advising programs, college registration services, and encouragement of co-curricular goals.
- Providing oversight and coordination of programs and partnerships that engage with communities around the world.

HISTORY OF PROVOSTS

Albert J. Rooks 1919–1941
Henry J. Ryskamp 1941–1964
John Vanden Berg 1964–1978
Peter De Vos 1978–1985
Gordon Van Harn 1985–1996
Joel Carpenter, 1996–2006
Claudia Beversluis 2006–2014
Cheryl Brandsen 2014–2021
Noah Toly 2021–

CALVIN: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



It started simply, as great things often do. But what began in 1876 as a school of ministry training with just seven white Dutch male students has emerged as a world-class Christian liberal arts university of 3,300 students representing many cultures, 66 countries, 46 U.S. states, and four Canadian provinces.

Tenure awarded to an African American professor at Calvin for the first time.

1981

Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary become distinct institutions.

1991

Furthering its commitment to a flourishing multicultural Christian academic community, Calvin creates a cabinet-level position focused on diversity and inclusion.

2013

In partnership with Calvin Theological Seminary and the Michigan Department of Corrections, Calvin receives accreditation for the Calvin Prison Initiative, becoming the first institution in the state to offer a full bachelor's degree to inmates.

2016

1988

Enrollment hits a record of 4,505 students.

2004

2012

Michael K. Le Roy is inaugurated as Calvin's 10th president.

2019

Calvin College becomes Calvin University.

Embracing the biblical view of the kingdom of God, and in seeking to play a prophetic role in bearing witness to that kingdom, Calvin adopts *From Every Nation* — a document articulating a vision as well as goals and strategies for promoting diversity and inclusion.

The women's volleyball team claims Calvin's 11th NCAA Division III national championship.

LATIN SEAL

The Latin heart-in-hand seal became the official emblem of Calvin in 1933, but it emerged as early as 1910 in the college yearbook. However, the words *prompte et sincere* (promptly and sincerely) along with the image of an outstretched hand offering a heart surfaced four centuries earlier in the writings of the Reformer John Calvin. He used the image to seal his letters in the 1540s. The motto *prompte et sincere* appears on his portrait dated 1566. The adoption of the words *Cor meum tibi offero Domine prompte et sincere* (My heart I offer, Lord, promptly and sincerely) and image together stand as the insignia of the institution today, inspiring the Calvin community to practice the university's mission of thinking deeply, acting justly, and living wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.



ACADEMIC REGALIA

The ceremonial costumes worn by faculty and staff at Convocation have their roots in the Middle Ages, when European scholars wore robes, hoods, and caps to stay warm in unheated classrooms. Universities eventually adopted them as official everyday classroom uniforms to discourage “excess in apparel.” As the custom spread across Europe and into other areas, style differences emerged to designate each scholar’s institution, level of education, and (in the United States) field of study.

Today, the costume is reserved for ceremonial occasions. For convocation, faculty and staff wear regalia to honor the significance of this milestone in students’ lives. Gown and hood styles tell us something about each wearer’s degree.

Though black is the traditional robe color and always appropriate for a doctoral gown, many professors wear the distinctive colors and styles of the universities that granted their degrees.

The longer the hood, the more advanced the degree. Master’s and doctor’s hoods have satin linings in the colors of the institution where the degree was earned. The velvet edging color represents the wearer’s discipline. Though blue signifies philosophy and is therefore appropriate for any PhD (doctor of philosophy), universities in the United States also use these colors:

- White for arts and letters
- Light blue for education
- Drab (tan) for business
- Purple for law and political science
- Red for theology
- Gold for sciences
- Pink for music
- Crimson for communications
- Copper for economics
- Orange for engineering
- Brown for fine arts
- Apricot for nursing
- Green for physical education
- Salmon for public health

APPRECIATION

FACULTY MARSHALS

Kumar Sinniah, professor of chemistry,
recipient of the 2021 Presidential Award for
Exemplary Teaching

John Wertz, associate professor of biology,
recipient of the student-elected 2021 Professor
of the Year Award

Robert Keeley, professor of education,
recipient of the 2020 Presidential Award for
Exemplary Teaching

Tim Bergsma, professor of business,
recipient of the student-elected 2020
Professor of the Year Award

FLAGS

The international orientation assistants lead
the flag procession, which honors students
at Calvin who hail from dozens of countries
around the world.

ASL INTERPRETER

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

FLOWERS

Eastern Floral

MUSIC

Prelude: Calvin ensembles (pre-recorded)

Song: Worship apprentices, led by Paul Ryan,
worship pastor

CONVOCATION COMMITTEE

Alumni and Parent Relations, Campus
Involvement & Leadership, Campus Safety,
Center for Student Success, Communications
and Marketing, Creative Dining Services,
Event Services, Facilities, Information
Technology, National Management, Office of
the President, Office of the Provost, Orientation
Board, Student Life

