

# THE FORUM



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MACKENZIE QUARRY

Maintenance workers carry the new Brenda Forbush-Boffa statue to its base in front of Giovale Library on Aug. 14. The statue commemorates Brenda Forbush-Boffa, daughter of Westminster graduate Deanna Forbush (87). According to The Westminster Review, Forbush-Boffa was passionate about landscape design and horticulture so to honor this passion, the memorial will include a working garden which students can tend and replant every year. The garden will also include a place where members of the Westminster community can dedicate paved stones to the memory of their loved ones.

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CAMI MONDEAUX

Westminster College's new president Bethami (Beth) Dobkin, PhD, poses for a photo in her office on Aug. 9. Dobkin, the college's 19th president, discussed the qualities that attracted her to Westminster as well as her future plans as president. These plans include personally connecting with students and emphasizing the importance of diversity and inclusion.

## WESTMINSTER'S NEW PRESIDENT SHARES GOALS, MOTIVATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

CAMI MONDEAUX & MOLLY GRAY  
ONLINE MANAGER & PODCAST DIRECTOR

On July 1, Bethami (Beth) Dobkin, PhD., took office as Westminster College's 19th president — making her the second woman to lead the college.

In March, the Board of Trustees announced its decision to hire Dobkin, former provost and vice president of academic affairs at Saint Mary's College in California, after a closed search earlier in the year. A closed search means only members of the Presidential Search Committee were involved in the decision.

The Forum spoke with President Dobkin about the reasons she came to Westminster and her vision for the college's future. Her responses have been lightly edited for clarity and conciseness.

**Q: How has your transition to Utah been so far and what has been the biggest change from the San Francisco Bay Area where you're from?**

A: It's been great. It is different and one of the reasons [my husband and I] have been loving Utah and Salt Lake City so much is because it combines having some urban properties like our music cultures [...], which we loved, but we also like having the easy access to get away from it.

**Q: In a statement to Westminster's Board of Trustees, you mentioned you wanted to challenge students while pro-**

**viding a supportive and challenging education. What are plans to achieve that?**

A: One of the things that attracted me to Westminster was that the commitment is already here. The passion is already here. I can't say that I have a particular plan yet that would relate to diversity and inclusion, but certainly there are all kinds of things that can be done in curriculum, in recruitment, in policies that explicitly recognize and support the importance of diversity and inclusion.

**Q: Is this commitment part of what attracted you to Westminster?**

A: I would say the commitment and the passion primarily [attracted me to Westminster]. To me, diversity is about demographics and perspective, whereas inclusion is about how you create an environment that draws value from that diversity.

Diversity in some ways is easy because it is counting. It is saying, 'We have a number of this and a number of that.' The more difficult project is creating a community where there is an understanding of how to engage with one another in a way that recognizes that it makes us better. You can't have excellence without having that kind of engagement. So that's where I see the passion and the effort. It's here and I wouldn't want to be in a place that didn't have some commitment to that because otherwise you can't have

excellence.

**Q: What other things brought you to Westminster?**

A: Some of the commitments that I mentioned earlier such as having a commitment to quality, equity and inclusion. Having a size that allows for a kind of community that is big enough where everyone doesn't necessarily know each other so you're challenged to learn from others who you don't know, but also small enough to create a sense of community that is intentional. That was very important to me.

The quality of the faculty and students was also striking. [...] I hear students talking about how Westminster pushes them to places they didn't know they could be and helps them discover talents they didn't know they had. That's ideal. And the faculty are absolutely committed to active learning, to pedagogies that are engaging and innovative and really addressing what students are bringing to them. All of those things are where I want to be.

**Q: You mentioned the small community at Westminster. Do you plan to maintain this kind of environment? Is it important?**

A: I think we have had the capacity to be a little bigger, but I wouldn't want to be much bigger. I think it is becoming increasingly important to have people learn

in environments where they are encountering and engaging with people who they wouldn't otherwise; peer-to-peer learning, learning in teams, collaboration, all of those things are becoming increasingly important. You're not going to find that in a place that doesn't have communities that are intentional and part of the learning experience. Keeping that quality is important for who Westminster has been and who it will continue to be.

**Q: Is there anything else you would like students to know about you? Anything they can look forward to in the coming year?**

A: I will try to be out and about as much as I can. I miss the classroom so any opportunities I have to go to events or meetings that students have I will try to go to. I want to find out how students want to connect with me. In the past, I have done things like open office hours and lunches where students can drop in [...] and bring whatever it is that's on their minds to me.

I want to know where students are and not just have people come to me, but go to them. It may even be as simple as walking through the residence halls once in a while or eating in Shaw as well as going to formal things. I'd like to know what people's dreams are and what their passions are. And getting that from the students is really important for me.

# FILMMAKER, DANCER, ASPIRING DERMATOLOGIST: A LOOK AT THE INCOMING STUDENTS OF 2018

MARINA MCTEE & MOLLY GRAY  
MANAGING EDITOR & PODCAST DIRECTOR

This year Westminster College welcomes a total of 443 new students to campus. These first-year and transfer students represent 33 states, 18 different countries and come from all walks of life. Of those who chose to disclose, approximately 63 percent are female identifying and 37 percent are male identifying.

Here is a glimpse at some of the facets which will be joining the Westminster community this fall. The Forum interviewed five incoming students about the upcoming year and their responses have been lightly edited for clarity and conciseness.

## Anthony Giorgio

Anthony Giorgio, 18, is from West Jordan, Utah. He said he loves playing the guitar and is passionate about writing. His work includes original poetry, stories and even a film script. He said he writes all of the time and hopes to one day do it for a living.

### Q: Why did you choose Westminster?

A: The campus is gorgeous. It's a small school with engaged faculty. My high school was a pretty small school so I discovered that I like that vibe.

The deciding thing was when I sent in my Honors application. I came back not

only with a signature from the Dean that wasn't just printed on -- a wet ink signature -- and a handwritten note responding to my essay and I was like, 'Okay, this is the place for me.'

### Q: Are you excited about joining the Honors College?

A: Very. I'm interested in the interdisciplinary coursework and curious about what the rest of my cohort is like.

### Q: Do you know what you're planning on majoring in yet?

A: I'm exploring English and business and communication and that sort of arena, but I haven't declared anything yet.

### Q: Is there anything you're excited about at Westminster aside from academics?

A: I heard there is a jazz ensemble. I'm curious to check out the Black Student Union, and all of the service opportunities there are through student learning. I'm really excited for May Term, it seems like a really cool thing.

### Q: You said you were excited for the Jazz Ensemble, do you play an instrument?

A: I play guitar, and I love jazz music. I would like to be better at jazz guitar than I am. I played through high school, but I was never in an ensemble or anything.

### Q: How did you get involved in writing and filmmaking?

A: I always wanted to make a movie, and I had sort of dabbled in writing screenplays. My freshman year of high



MARINA MCTEE

Anthony Giorgio stands for a photo in Richer Commons on Aug. 4. Giorgio is a writer, musician, and incoming member of the Honors College.

school, I met this junior and he was a really talented visual artist. [...] So I was talking to him and I was like, 'Hypothetically, I do words, you do pictures, you put them together and you kind of have a movie.' [...] So we started writing a screenplay, and my sophomore year we filmed a feature length film that we are still editing.

### Q: Is filmmaking something you're hoping to continue here?

A: Yes, I met [another student] who loves filmmaking and he's wanted to start a filmmaking club ever since he started at Westminster. [...] So we wanted to see if we could do that this year.

### Q: Is there anything that you're nervous about?

A: I intend to work through school so I'm just keeping tabs on my mental health and making sure I'm not burning myself out. That's kind of my main concern. I'm not really that nervous, just excited.

## Faith Staley

Faith Staley, 18, is an avid activist and said she is excited for all of the opportunities that Westminster has to engage in politics. Staley, who is from Park City, Utah, also said she is looking forward receiving what she sees as a progressive and diverse education from Westminster.

### Q: Why did you choose Westminster?

A: I was a dancer for a long time so I still want to dance. I am looking forward

A: I chose Westminster because I like the small community and that it's a liberal arts college. Also the poli-sci program is really good, and I'm interested in politics and activism. The only other place I applied was the [University of Utah] and Westminster seemed like a much better place to work on that kind of thing.

### Q: Why political science?

A: I was the president of the Gay Straight Alliance at Park City High, and we have this class called 'social change' where we did a lot of activism work. We organized the walk out for gun control and the March For Our Lives [...] in that class. In those few places, I was able to realize that activism is where I need to be. That is the only work that I think I'll really truly be fulfilled with.

### Q: How are you hoping to engage in politics and activism at Westminster?

A: I know that there are a lot of identity based clubs at Westminster like Alphabet Soup and Students for Choice [...]. I definitely want to get involved with clubs and stuff.

I'm really excited to do justice studies and poli-sci classes and learn how everything relates and how it can bring activism into different laws.

### Q: What are some of your interests outside of school?

A: I was a dancer for a long time so I still want to dance. I am looking forward



FAITH STALEY

Faith Staley poses in her home in Park City, Utah. She is an incoming political science major and helped organize the March For Our Lives at Park City High.

to taking some recreational dance classes somewhere down in Salt Lake.

Both of my parents were ski teachers, so I love to ski. A bunch of my best friends are moving close to here, so I'm excited to be able to visit them but also have a space to make new friends.

**Q: Even though Park City and Salt Lake City are close, how do you feel about moving?**

A: I'm actually really excited. Since I got my driver's license I've been coming down here more often. Especially this last year and summer I've really been exploring Salt Lake more than when I was younger and I like it a lot. I'm really excited to live in Sugar House.

**Q: Is there anything else you want people to know about you?**

A: I will drive anyone to Planned Parenthood.

### Aurora Allen

Aurora Allen, 18, said she loves rock climbing, and is looking forward to come to Westminster with her best friend. Last March, Allen was sponsored to attend the national March For Our Lives in Washington D.C.

**Q: Why did you choose Westminster?**

A: I really like the [small] class sizes, and I really like how the professors interact with students. I've sat in a couple of the classes and learned some interesting stuff. I also like Sugar House, it's pretty adorable.

**Q: Do you know what you want to**

**major in yet?**

A: I want to be a biology major on a pre-med track. [...] I've always wanted to be a doctor, preferably a dermatologist, [...] but I guess I can't really know yet because I haven't experienced all of the fields.

**Q: What are you excited for at Westminster outside of academics?**

A: I can't wait for the leadership opportunities that Westminster will provide. Also, the connections I'll build through Westminster in the medical field and the political spectrum, which I'm relatively active in.

**Q: You said you were politically active, what do you mean by that?**

A: I've volunteered on campaigns in the past, and I was one of the planners for the Salt Lake March For Our Lives.

**Q: How did you get involved in that?**

A: I was the social media director of the young democrats of Brighton High School, and the vice president and I got involved in planning the March For Our Lives through our club.

**Q: What are you hoping to do in the political realm while at Westminster?**

A: I'm just hoping that I can become connected to a political group and meet some people that are both like-minded and not like-minded that I can have discussions with.

**Q: Is there a way that you're hoping to connect your activism with your major?**

A: Not that I can think of yet, but I'm sure that there will be a way eventually. I'm kind of hoping that once I'm a doctor I can do something like Doctors

Without Borders.

**Q: Are you excited about living in a new area even though you're from Salt Lake?**

A: I'm so excited. Sugar House is so much better than Cottonwood Heights in terms of diversity [...]. I'm very, very excited for the change of scene.



AURORA ALLEN

Aurora Allen sits by blossoming cherry tree while on a trip to Washington D.C. to attend the national March For Our Lives. Allen hopes to one day become a doctor and is majoring in biology.

## WELCOME FROM THE DEAN



KARNELL MCCONNELL-BLACK

Greetings Westminster Students,

As your Dean of Students, I am so excited to see both new and returning students on campus. I have been waiting for your arrival and hope you took the time to relax and rejuvenate this summer in anticipation for the new semester to begin. I know I did and I could not help but reflect on

my own personal journey this past academic year.

Students who have gotten to know me during my time at Westminster College, know that I live by the motto: to whom much is given, much is required. It is this motto that has served as a guiding principle in my life and ensures the commitment that I have to support students and their holistic success. I share these words with you because there are many individuals who have contributed to your educational journey in some way. It is these individuals – family, friends, mentors, etc. – who have taught you something that has impacted the decisions you've made and the ways that you navigate your environment.

And it is these same individuals who want to see you pay it forward to someone who might need the very same support emotional, spiritually, physically and/or financially.

As you begin this new academic year, I hope that you commit to expanding your knowledge base, reflecting on your personal growth and enacting the new knowledge you gain to impact the

surrounding community. Whether you are a returning student or just beginning your collegiate career, you will find the faculty, staff and administrators are committed to you. They work hard to build a community of learners and create an environment that promotes leadership, values diversity and fosters learning both in and out of the classroom.

As your dean of students and campus leader of Student Affairs, I want you to know that our team is dedicated to your holistic development.

The college's innovative programs and services were created to respond to the needs of our campus, address emerging issues and foster community-building. We are aware that the intellectual life will be the core of your educational experience at Westminster. However, we are devoted

to the idea that learning continues, is enhanced and made meaningful beyond the threshold of the conventional classroom.

This student-centered and experiential learning approach is aligned with our cultural norms, mission and

values of Westminster. The Division of Student Affairs supports the academic mission of the college and we hope that by enhancing your living and learning beyond the classroom, we are preparing you to function effectively in an ever-changing, diverse world. This means many things from recognizing your biases, to being your most authentic self, to creating and engaging in opportunities that challenge you to simply enjoying the college journey.

I really hope that you embrace every opportunity in and out of the classroom, thoughtfully. This is your year to shine and I can't wait to see what you all do. Feel free to stop by the Dean of Students Office in Shaw or tag me in the wonderful things you are doing on Facebook or Instagram. Happy first few weeks of classes!

Go Griffins!

Karnell McConnell-Black  
Dean of Students  
Fb:@westminsterdos  
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STEPHANIE HELD

Westminster College's women's volleyball team practices in the Dolores Dore Eccles Health, Wellness and Athletic Center (HWAC) on Wednesday, Aug. 8. Women's volleyball is one of 17 Westminster sports teams eligible for postseason competitions now that the college has completed the NCAA Division II membership process.

## NCAA DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WESTMINSTER ATHLETICS

STEPHANIE HELD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Westminster College's completion of the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) membership process promises to benefit the athletics program and college as a whole.

Formerly a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Westminster official joined the NCAA after a three-year transition process. NCAA is a larger organization made up of 308 member institutions, and the competition is perceived to be tougher.

"Here's one more affiliation that further strengthens and enhances Westminster College," said Shay Wyatt, director of athletics. "At the end of the day, we all want this college to be great. [...] We want all of the students who come through here to have a very positive experience."

The college has 17 athletic teams that are eligible to compete in the NCAA, including women's and men's basketball, soccer, alpine skiing, cross-country, lacrosse and women's volleyball.

Wyatt said the college has been looking to upgrade its athletics program for several years and joining Division II, one of three divisions in the NCAA, made sense financially and geographically.

"[Division II] is a more affordable form of athletics that makes sense for a lot of in-

stitutions, especially for an institution of our size and the resources we want to put forth," Wyatt said.

Whitney Wakefield, a senior neuroscience major and volleyball player said active Division II membership is exciting for student athletes because they were ineligible for postseason competitions during the three-year transition..

Wakefield said she's noticed a change in attitude and a sense of determination from other athletes now that they can qualify for NCAA championships. She said it's especially exciting for her because the first active season coincides with her final year at Westminster.

"It's really awesome to finally be in the position of Division II," Wakefield said. "Being a senior, it's kind of like the culmination of all my years at Westminster. Having

that as my final season [...] it's kind of like a nice swan song."

Westminster has been playing as a provisional member of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) since the first year of the transition. The RMAC is

a conference within NCAA Division II comprised of 16 member institutions located in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota and Utah.

Susan Heath, associate director of athletics, said the college's Board of Directors

"As soon as we were accepted into the process we started following all of the rules," said Heath, who also holds the NCAA distinction of senior woman administrator in Westminster's athletics department. "NAIA had some rules, but very few formal rules. [...] It has been a huge culture change for the department and for the college."

The NCAA has strict regulations for student athletes regarding recruitment, academic achievement and scholarships.

"We have to follow a manual that's 279 pages absent the index," laughed Lynn Meade, assistant athletic director for compliance.

Wyatt said NCAA regulations hold every institution accountable and insure everyone is playing on a level playing field.

"It's a good checks and balances system," Wyatt said. "It's also there to make sure that there's proper balance in terms of what's expected of the student athlete. [...] The academic component is priority number one."

Though the three-year transition has been a long process for staff, faculty and students, Wyatt said all the work and sacrifices paved the way for Westminster's future.

"[NCAA membership] is a historical milestone for the college," Wyatt said. "It's going to be great for the college and great for our students and student athletes for many years to come."

**[DIVISION II  
MEMBERSHIP]  
IS ONE MORE  
AFFILIATION  
THAT FURTHER  
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WESTMINSTER  
COLLEGE.**

SHAY WYATT  
Director of athletics

approved the switch to the NCAA after the RMAC invited Westminster to apply for membership.

She said the next step in the transition was to change Westminster policies so they were compliant with NCAA's regulations.

# WESTMINSTER'S SHRINKING MAINTENANCE TEAM STRUGGLES TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND

MACKENZIE QUARRY  
BUSINESS & ADVERTISING MANAGER

Kenton Gregory, maintenance foreman Westminster College, said some years the maintenance department has seen over 150 work orders in one weekend.

In 2017, \$4,000 worth of property damage was caused by a single incident when students living On The Draw rampaged through the hallways of the building destroying exit signs and ceiling tiles.

Gregory, who has worked at Westminster for five years, explained that because of the extensive damage, they were delayed in finishing necessary maintenance for the college grounds.

Gregory said he and his team of three are on campus at all hours of the day to make sure the needs of the campus community as well as the grounds are met.

"We only have four guys that cover all of the maintenance and all of the issues that happen here on campus," Gregory said. "We do everything from snow, electrical, plumb-

ing, painting, remodels and some janitorial."

Westminster's maintenance crew is scrambling to make sure the campus is ready for the new semester.

Gregory said, due to the college's tight budget over the last couple of years, the maintenance department has gone from six employees to a dedicated four.

"We want nothing more than to see this place succeed," Gregory said. "We've got projects that we would love to do, to help beautify the campus [...]. But again

we just don't have the time, we're on a dead run, scrambling constantly."

As the campus continues to grow and expand, it seems as though Gregory's team gets smaller still.

Earl Widdner, an experienced maintenance worker of 20 plus years, said he has only a few more years until retirement.

"We've told him he can't retire," Gregory joked.

"He'd be a hard one to replace."

Holly Patterson, an administrative assistant for the plants administration, said the first two to three

weeks of school can be the most overwhelming for the maintenance department.

Patterson works hand-in-hand with the maintenance team overseeing work orders and the furniture replacement requests for the residence halls. She said the amount of requests she receives at the start of each semester is too overwhelming for her and her student aid Connor Edson to handle alone.

With a staggering number of projects and few employees, it is easy to see why maintenance requests can get backed up. Both Patterson and Gregory ask that students and faculty alike be patient.

"Every issue that we get is an emergency to someone, so we try to respond that way," Gregory said. "If they think it's an easy job and that it's something that anyone can do, then come spend a day with us."

IF [YOU]  
THINK IT'S AN  
EASY JOB [...]  
THEN COME  
SPEND A DAY  
WITH US.

KENTON GREGORY  
Maintenance foreman



Employees from Westminster College's maintenance department put the finishing touches on the Brenda Forbush-Boffa statue and memorial garden outside of Giovale Library on Aug. 14. With a staggering number of projects and few employees Westminster's maintenance department scrambles to make campus ready for the new school year.

STEPHANIE HELD



**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
**STEPHANIE HELD**

Stephanie, a senior communication major and history minor, is committed to serving her community. The Utah native loves to travel and enjoys discovering new places and cuisine. She brings three years of writing and editing experience to The Forum and currently works as a copyeditor for Honorable Mention, Westminster's Honors College newsletter. Stephanie is thrilled to lend her skills as editor-in-chief and to further develop the news organization she loves.



**MANAGING EDITOR**  
**MARINA MCTEE**

Marina is a sophomore communication major who is passionate about all things media and entertainment. When she isn't studying, you can find her watching TV, playing video games, reading or listening to music. Marina hopes to follow that passion and someday write for Rolling Stone magazine. During her senior year of high school, she was a local life reporter for the City Journals. Marina is excited to be the managing editor and work with contributing writers for The Forum.



**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
**GABRIELLE BARKER**

Gabrielle is senior visual communication custom major with a love for colors, typefaces, textures and words. She enjoys being a Westminster student and working as president of the college's graphic design club. In her spare time, Gabrielle enjoys drawing portraits of her friends, playing with cats, listening to podcasts and playing violin.

Gabrielle hopes to bring her enthusiasm for helping others to The Forum. She looks forward to collaborating with writers to build informative, visually pleasing infographics to accompany their articles.



**BUSINESS &**  
**ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
**MACKENZIE QUARRY**

Mackenzie is a junior communication major and minor in business management who can either be found at the gym or at home watching "Game of Thrones."

Kenzie likes to take on more than she can handle at times but will always find a way to get the job done. She brings three years of management experience to The Forum, and is excited to further her knowledge as this year's business and advertising director.



**VIDEO & PODCAST DIRECTOR**  
**MOLLY GRAY**

Molly is a junior communication major and outdoor education minor who enjoys good food, good company and all things creative. In her spare time, you can find Molly "cheffing up," skiing, biking, drawing and making short films. She dreams of one day working as a professional videojournalist, and would love to travel the world as a reporter. Molly is excited to start her career in video production with The Forum.



**ONLINE & SOCIAL MEDIA**  
**MANAGER**  
**CAMI MONDEAUX**

Cami is a sophomore communication major with a minor in sociology. She is passionate about writing and capturing moments with her camera. When she's not finishing up an essay or researching for a project, you can find her around Sugar House with her friends grabbing a cup of coffee, indulging at Chick-fil-A or laughing at a lame joke. Cami fell in love with journalism during high school and now works as a reporter for the City Journals. She is excited to work alongside the other editors at The Forum as the online and social media manager.