

A Closer Look

From Franklin College President
Kerry N. Prather



Greetings Franklin College alumni and friends!

I am excited to begin sharing a closer look at recent institutional accomplishments and initiatives that are contributing to the success of Franklin College and positively impacting our city, region and state. Innovative advances continue to move Franklin forward, and this periodic communication will enable you to engage more directly in our progress.

In this inaugural message, I am proud to report that Franklin College has successfully achieved a nearly 9% increase in new student enrollment compared to last year, a figure that is 7.6% above the institution's goal for the Class of 2027. Additionally, the 296 students in the class represent one of the most academically prepared and one of the most diverse classes in recent history. Twenty-three percent of the class identify as students of color or more than one ethnicity. In this age of declining demographics and decreasing matriculation rates, this is a remarkable achievement.

The student recruitment landscape in higher education has never been as challenging and competitive as it is today. Small liberal arts colleges must prove they can adapt and innovate in order to prosper. Franklin's commitment to experiential learning, our distinctive emphasis on digital fluency across the curriculum and our documented success in enabling social mobility reflect precisely those strengths. This cycle's success proves that students appreciate both our traditional areas of excellence as well as those which have evolved recently—from majors in neuroscience and data science to the introduction of esports competition.

We have focused on new recruitment strategies, student engagement opportunities and our legacy of academic excellence, while offering academic programs that

address both student interest and market demand. In so doing, Franklin is succeeding in spite of the hurdles faced by our sector of higher education, ensuring an institutional future that is poised for greatness.

I have long held the belief that the strength of Franklin College is, and has always been, its people. I am grateful to the entire Franklin College community for your faith in our mission and your confidence in our future. Thank you for playing a critical role in our exciting journey. I hope you will share with pride all the exciting news from Franklin College.

Go GRIZ!



Kerry N. Prather
President



The Class of 2027 enjoyed their first days on campus participating in numerous Welcome Week activities. Check out all the fun [here!](#)



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