

## Office of Marketing and Public Relations

Jim Maxwell, Director of Public Relations Phone: (402) 557-7786 Jim.Maxwell@bellevue.edu

For Immediate Release April 8, 2016

## **Bellevue University Among Nation's Best for Community College Transfers**

BELLEVUE, Neb. – Phi Theta Kappa has named Bellevue University to its inaugural *Excellence in Community College Transfer Honor Roll*, which identifies the top four-year colleges and universities for creating dynamic pathways to support community college transfer. Bellevue University is one of only 40 institutions on the honor roll.

Applications were judged based engagement, collaboration, impact and achievements related to the transfer of community college students as well as partnerships, support, admissions outreach, scholarships/financial aid, student engagement opportunities and institutional priorities.

"After helping nearly 20,000 community college transfer students earn their bachelor's degrees, our experience confirms that our most successful students are those who first earn an associate's degree," said Doug Stewart, AVP of Community College Premier Partnerships at Bellevue University. "We proudly partner with community colleges coast to coast, supporting their commitment to build workforce-ready talent."

Director of Scholarship Operations Christin Grissom said the new recognition program reflects the growing importance of transfer in helping the U.S. achieve its college completion goals, and will promote further study and sharing of best practices.

"Increasingly, students of all ages and achievement levels are choosing the community college, not only as their first step, but also their first choice, in the pursuit of a quality, affordable bachelor's degree," Grissom said. "With this designation, we hope to connect community college students with institutions who value their unique transfer experience and prioritize their success."

"Bellevue University makes every effort to provide community college transfer students the smoothest path possible to degree completion," said Stewart. "We began partnering with community colleges more than 20

years ago and we have always adopted a collaborative approach that is mutually beneficial for our partner institutions and their students."

## **About Bellevue University**

Founded in 1966, Bellevue University is a private, non-profit, accredited institution with nearly 50,000 alumni. The University is a recognized national leader in providing post-secondary education opportunities for working adults. Routinely ranked among the nation's top military-friendly and open access institutions, the University serves students at its main campus in Bellevue, Nebraska; other locations across four states; and worldwide through its award-winning online learning platform. Athletic programs compete in the North Star Athletic Association (an NAIA conference) and have earned the NAIA's *Champions of Character* distinction. The University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission through the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, visit www.bellevue.edu.

## **About Phi Theta Kappa**

Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest, largest and most prestigious honor society recognizing students pursuing twoyear degrees. Phi Theta Kappa is made up of more than three million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations.