

Presidential Announcement

Elizabethtown College



Elizabethtown College Presidential History

As Elizabethtown College welcomes our 14th president, Dr. Carl J. Strikwerda, Ph.D., we celebrate the legacy of great leadership that has been foundational to the success of our institution and our graduates. Thanks to the vision and dedication of these men, Elizabethtown College has established a reputation for educational excellence.

Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm (1900 – 1902 and 1904 – 1909)

Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm was the first principal of Elizabethtown College, but did not perform any duties in this position because of illness. During his first term, the school was located in a small building in downtown Elizabethtown. He was included in the faculty roster as teacher of Bible, psychology and pedagogy. Beahm again was school principal from 1904 to 1909.

George Ness Falkenstein (1901 – 1902)

George Ness Falkenstein—who taught Bible, psychology and pedagogy at the College—served as the acting principal, filling in for Isaac Newton Harvey Beahm during the 1900 – 1901 academic year. In Falkenstein’s term, the New College building—now known as Alpha Hall—was built. All college relations were moved to the new building from downtown Elizabethtown. The dedication of Alpha Hall took place in March 1901. After Falkenstein’s term, he continued to teach history, science, psychology and Bible. Falkenstein was elected to a second term as principal, but resigned in September 1902 due to health issues.

Daniel Conrad Reber (1902 – 1904 and 1909 – 1918)

After a year of holding the position of vice-principal, Daniel Conrad Reber became president of Elizabethtown College in 1902. Due to the health issues of his predecessor, Reber took on many of the president’s duties during the 1902 – 1903 academic year. While Reber was president, the College transferred ownership from the contributors of funds to the Church of the Brethren of the East and Southern districts of Pennsylvania.

Henry Kulp Ober (1918 – 1921 and 1924 – 1928)

Henry Kulp Ober was vice president under Reber. Ober, for whom Ober Residence Hall is named, took a break in his terms to pursue his graduate studies at Franklin & Marshall College. Originally, Ober demurred the offer to return as president, but eventually returned and held office until January 1928, when he resigned because of health issues.

Jacob Gible Meyer (1921 – 1924)

Jacob Gible Meyer was the first president of Elizabethtown to have graduated from the College. He earned a bachelor’s degree in pedagogy. He previously had been the second vice president under Ober and took over presidential duties while Ober was away.

Ralph Weist Schlosser (1928 – 1929 and 1930 – 1941)

Schlosser Residence Hall is named after the sixth College president, Ralph Weist Schlosser. He was elected unanimously for both terms by the Board of Directors. He taught high school subjects as well as languages and English during his time at the College. He was vice president and professor of English from 1918 to 1921 and dean of College from 1922 to 1927. Schlosser was a graduate of Elizabethtown College and was honored in 1962 as president *emeritus*.

Harry Hess Nye (1929 – 1930)

Harry Hess Nye assumed the presidential duties while Ralph Weist Schlosser was on a sabbatical leave. A graduate of Elizabethtown College, he was elected by unanimous vote. During his year of presidential service, Nye maintained existing policies, more specifically outlined the courses of instruction, and took steps to raise the academic levels of the faculty.

Charles Abba “A.C.” Baugher (1941 – 1961)

A.C. Baugher, namesake of the Baugher Student Center, was professor of chemistry from 1922 to 1928 and dean of the College from 1928 to 1941. During Baugher’s presidency, there was a marked increase in faculty pursuing higher-level academic degrees. He was honored as president *emeritus* of the College.

Roy Edwin McAuley (1961 – 1966)

Roy Edwin McAuley served as dean from 1956 to 1961. His administrative abilities and distinctive views on academic affairs positively influenced his election as president. During his tenure, a presidential residence was established at Elizabethtown College. Like many of his predecessors, McAuley concentrated on the academic credentials and training of the faculty. He was known for hiring young, well-qualified professors.

Morley Josiah Mays (1966 – 1977)

Morley Josiah Mays was the first president of Elizabethtown College who had neither graduated nor taught at the College. Mays gained college leadership experience at the University of Chicago, Bridgewater College and Juniata College. He was involved with community work and wrote publications on philosophy, ethics, theology and higher education. The newly designed College flag was first used at his inauguration ceremony, as well as the silver medallion, since worn by every president at ceremonial occasions. The Alumni Physical Education Center, the Living-Learning Center and the Social Sciences Center were all built during Mays’ presidency. The Art Department also was newly developed.

Mark Chester Ebersole (1977 – 1985)

A graduate of Elizabethtown College, Mark Chester Ebersole not only was president of the College but also was an instructor of Bible and philosophy and director of religious activities. He was married to A.C. Baugher’s daughter, Dorothy. During his presidency, Ebersole mandated that all students live on campus, contending that the college living experience was as important as the academic and social experiences. Ebersole, optimistic about the future of small colleges, was instrumental in renovating the Baugher Student Center and the Gible Science Hall, which became the Steinman Center for Communications and Art. Under his leadership, the College offered computer science as a new major in fall 1981. During his last year as president, co-op housing was again offered at Elizabethtown.

Gerhard Ernest Spiegler (1985 – 1996)

Gerhard Ernest Spiegler, nicknamed “The Big Guy” by students on campus, wore the new presidential medallion with the College seal at his inauguration. As one of his first official duties, he ended the Community Congress. During his term, the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietest Studies was built, Rider Hall was demolished, the Baugher Student Center was renovated; the Schreiber Quadrangle was built, and High Library replaced Zug Memorial Library. After the move to the new building, the library catalog was brought online and more digital resources were made available. I.D. cards started functioning as library cards. While Spiegler served as president, “Monday at 10” was created and an environmental science major was added. The Pledge of Integrity was introduced to the College in 1995.

Theodore E. Long (1996 – Present)

Theodore E. Long is only the second non-Church of the Brethren leader of the College. Prior to coming to Elizabethtown, he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass. Previously, he also taught sociology at George Washington University, Hollins College, and Washington and Jefferson College.

During Long’s tenure, a strategic plan and a master facilities and land use plan were developed. By 2002, the College completed action on all major objectives of the strategic plan and the first two phases of the facilities plan, including new academic, athletic and residential facilities, along with the completion of a new campus center in August 2002. Other strategic initiatives included 15 new programs (11 academic, four athletic), among them the Elizabethtown College Honors Program, sponsored by The Hershey Company; Elizabethtown’s first master’s degree program in occupational therapy; and a revised core curriculum. In addition, the College made significant strides in faculty development, diversity and multicultural affairs, and information technology, the latter earning the College a rating as one of America’s “most wired colleges.”

During Long’s term, the Masters Center for Science, Mathematics and Engineering and the James B. Hoover Center for Business were built and the academic credentials of the faculty improved dramatically, from 74 percent to 95 percent of the faculty holding terminal degrees in their field. The College’s enrollment increased by 23 percent, even while admission became more selective. The Bowers Writers House opened, offering engaging programs to the College and local community. One of Long’s major accomplishments was enlarging the College’s endowment through a successful fundraising campaign, which generated \$26.1 million. He also led a \$47 million campaign for capital needs, which enabled the College to add substantially to its academic, athletic and residential facilities.

Long is a scholar, publishing articles on religious movements, religion and politics, social change, socialization and religious conversion. His articles and reviews have appeared in journals such as *Sociological Theory*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Sociology of Religion*, *Sociological Focus* and *Contemporary Sociology*.

Currently, Long serves on the boards of the Economic Development Co. of Lancaster County, the Fulton Opera House, and The Foundation to Enhance Communities. He previously served on the boards of the Lancaster Chamber, the United Way of Lancaster County, and the Elizabethtown Economic Development Corporation. He is a trustee of his alma mater, Capital University, the largest Lutheran university in the country. He is active in the national movement to promote civic engagement among colleges and their students, as well as the Council of Independent Colleges and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. In the Lancaster region, Long is a frequent speaker at churches and civic organizations, and writes periodic opinion-editorials on higher education.