Cendara University Institutional Overview

Core Values

Cendara University is guided by a set of foundational values that inform every decision, policy, and initiative across our academic and administrative landscape. Our core values are:

- **Integrity**
  We uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability in all university affairs.

- **Intellectual Curiosity**
  We foster a culture of rigorous inquiry, critical thinking, and continuous learning.

- **Diversity and Inclusion**
  We embrace and celebrate differences, striving to create an environment where all voices are valued and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

- **Community Engagement**
  We are committed to partnering with local, national, and global communities in the pursuit of societal betterment.

- **Innovation**
  We encourage creative problem-solving and support the bold pursuit of new knowledge, technologies, and approaches to education.

- **Student-Centeredness**
  We place the student experience at the heart of our mission, prioritizing holistic development, well-being, and academic achievement.

Educational Philosophy

Cendara University's educational philosophy is founded upon a liberal arts tradition balanced with a progressive focus on research, professional readiness, and global citizenship. Our approach emphasizes:

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**
  Crossing traditional academic boundaries to solve contemporary challenges through integrated learning.

- **Active Learning**
  Engaging students with experiential educational methods, including collaborative projects, service learning, and research opportunities from the first year onward.

- **Personalized Guidance**

Emphasizing small class sizes, individualized advising, and faculty mentorship to maximize student potential.

- **Lifelong Learning and Adaptability**
  Equipping graduates to navigate rapid societal changes with confidence, resilience, and a passion for continuous self-improvement.

Institutional Purpose

At Cendara University, our stated purpose is:

> "To empower individuals and communities through transformative education, pioneering research, and service to humanity."

Our primary objectives include:

- Advancing academic excellence across a diverse range of disciplines.
- Conducting impactful research that addresses the most pressing challenges of the 21st century.
- Developing graduates prepared for ethical leadership and civic responsibility.
- Serving as a catalyst for positive economic, cultural, and social change at both the local and global level.

Founding History & Milestones

Founding

Cendara University was established in the spring of 1956 by Dr. Franklin M. Avery, an educator and philanthropist with a vision to create a center of learning that combined academic rigor with social responsibility. Initially founded as Cendara College with just 87 students and 12 faculty members, the institution was housed in a restored municipal building on East Willow Avenue.

Key Milestones

1956: Founding & Inaugural Class

- Cendara College opens its doors to students in August.
- First academic programs offered in Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Teacher Education.

1964: University Charter Granted

- Achieved status as Cendara University by state legislature recognition.

- Expanded campus with the construction of Yale Hall, the first purpose-built academic building.

1971: First Graduate Programs Launched

- Introduction of Master's degrees in Biology and Education.
- Opening of the Graduate Research Center.

1985: The Inclusivity Pact

- Board of Regents adopts the Inclusivity Pact, mandating active recruitment of underrepresented students and faculty.
- Establishment of the Office of Diversity Initiatives.

1998: The Center for Global Studies Opens

- Launch of international partnership programs with universities in Asia, Europe, and Africa.
- First cohort of students participates in semester-long study abroad programs.

2007: Sustainability Commitment

- President Marisol Ortega signs the University Sustainability Pledge.
- Campus-wide solar initiative begins, leading to 40% reduction in energy consumption by 2012.

2016: Diamond Jubilee Celebration

- 60th anniversary marked by major capital campaign, resulting in the construction of the Santoro Library and Digital Learning Commons.
- Alumni giving exceeds $25 million for the first time.

2021: COVID-19 Response and Remote Innovation

- Rapid transition to hybrid learning models.
- Launch of the Cendara Health and Wellness Collaborative supporting student and community mental health.

2023: Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation Established

- Statewide recognition for fostering entrepreneurship and interdisciplinary solutions to global issues.

Looking Forward

Cendara University continually adapts to serve current and future generations. With an alumni network over 46,000 strong and a vibrant, diverse student body, the university remains true to its founding spirit: inspiring minds and transforming lives through education.