BYU
PATHWAY
WORLDWIDE

ANNUAL REPORT | 2018



A SCHOOL IN ZION



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Message from the President

A SCHOOL *IN* ZION

"BYU-Pathway has come in this time so that our brothers and sisters can strengthen themselves and their families, and contribute in a more powerful way to the building up of the Kingdom of God and the establishment of Zion." [1]

— ELDER KIM B. CLARK



BYU-Pathway Worldwide experienced tremendous growth in its reach and impact in 2018. We are working diligently to build a school *in* Zion and *for* Zion by expanding access to education for students throughout the world, strengthening students spiritually, and increasing employability.

BYU-Pathway is also quickly becoming a model of education for a new type of student across an increasingly worldwide Church. We are focused on serving first-generation and non-traditional students — a demographic that makes up over half of the Church. In fact, nearly 70 percent of our students choose between BYU-Pathway or no higher education at all.

Similar to the time of the Nephites, there is great inequality for learning opportunities in the world today — even in the U.S., only 11 percent of students whose parents are in the bottom income quartile will complete a bachelor's degree.[2] Many Church members are faced with the obstacle of finding meaningful work and income without the means to earn an education. BYU-Pathway is creating unique opportunities tailored specifically to their needs. In this sense, BYU-Pathway is reaching toward Zion, as described in Doctrine and Covenants 82:17-19, by helping every member improve their talents through increased access to education.

In November, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland and other members of the Church Board of Education addressed BYU-Pathway's worldwide audience in a special broadcast (see pages 8-13). Elder Holland said, "[W]e're part of a monumental moment in Church education.… This is one of those pivotal marks in our history that we won't fully understand until we look back at it years and maybe decades from now."

Speaking to BYU-Pathway students striving to overcome difficult circumstances, Elder Quentin L. Cook said, "I'm so grateful that the Atonement, in addition to overcoming death and in addition to overcoming sin through repentance, overcomes all those things that seem unfair in life. I'm grateful that this program is one of the ways that we can partake of the Atonement.…"[3]

To help our students press on despite their difficulties, we have implemented monthly devotionals to increase students' faith, motivate them to live the gospel, and help them persist toward their goals. We are also piloting a mentoring program that has led to retaining 1,200 students so far. Additionally, we are redesigning the PathwayConnect curriculum, which will better prepare students for further education and future employment. The new curriculum will help students develop life skills, professional skills, and university skills, and seamlessly transition them between PathwayConnect and online certificate and degree programs. (See pages 20, 22, and 26.)

In order to strengthen the employability of our students, significant work has also gone into creating a new online certificate and degree structure, which will take effect this spring. Each program has been thoroughly evaluated to be uniform across the board, stackable, and highly employable. As a result, 13 new job-ready certificates (for a total of 28 certificates) have been created, which will feed into more focused and marketable associate and bachelor's degrees. (See page 28.)

This is indeed a "monumental moment," not only for BYU-Pathway Worldwide, but for Church education. All of us feel privileged to be a part of it. Elder Kim B. Clark said, "It is a miracle that we can say today that BYU-Pathway is a school in Zion, wherever Zion is."[4] I am grateful that the Lord has directed a school to be established in Zion to bless His children as they build His kingdom and prepare for His Son's Second Coming. I thank everyone contributing to this great effort in BYU-Pathway.

All my best,



CLARK G. GILBERT

President of BYU-Pathway Worldwide

1. "BYU-Pathway Worldwide: A School in Zion," BYU-Pathway Worldwide President's Dinner (Oct. 11, 2018)
2. *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States* (2016), 65, pellinstitute.org
3. "Special Broadcast with Elder Holland" (BYU-Pathway Worldwide broadcast, Nov. 1, 2018), pathwaynewsroom.org/worldwide-broadcast
4. IBID



KEY MILESTONES

In 2018, BYU-Pathway Worldwide provided higher education through the following advancements:

Success Network Organized
January 2018

The Success Network unifies a support system of mentors, instructors, and Church-service missionaries to help students receive encouragement throughout the semester and successfully finish PathwayConnect. (See page 26 for an article about BYU-Pathway's mentoring efforts.)



New Vice President of Field Operations
June 2018

Brian K. Ashton joined the BYU-Pathway family as vice president of field operations. In this new position, Brian travels the globe, meeting with and training Area Presidencies and local priesthood leaders on how BYU-Pathway can strengthen the Church in their areas. He also currently serves as second counselor in the Sunday School General Presidency. (See page 34 for an article about the work BYU-Pathway is doing with Area Presidencies.)

Certificate-first Approach & New Degree Structure Formalized
September 2018

BYU-Pathway announced a new online degree structure launching in April. The new programs follow a certificate-first approach, encouraging students who complete PathwayConnect to obtain a job-ready certificate on their way to a bachelor's degree. Those who earn a certificate are 41 percent more likely to continue on to a bachelor's degree. (See page 28 for an article about BYU-Pathway's new degree structure.)

President's Leadership Council
May 2018

BYU-Pathway established a President's Leadership Council, a group of innovative business and community leaders who invest their time, resources, and talent to help BYU-Pathway accomplish its mission of developing disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their homes, the Church, and their communities. At their first meeting in May 2018, council members and BYU-Pathway's executive leadership collaborated on plans to increase student success.



New Headquarters in Salt Lake City
August 2018

Stepping out in faith, 70 BYU-Pathway employees and their families finished their relocation from Rexburg, Idaho, to Salt Lake City, Utah, the new BYU-Pathway headquarters. An additional 18 full-time employees joined the team in 2018. Now with an innovative workplace and closer proximity to Church headquarters, BYU-Pathway can collaborate with Church leaders and departments on a more regular basis as the organization continues to evolve. (See page 32 for a closer look at BYU-Pathway's new home.)



Monthly Worldwide Devotionals
September 2018

BYU-Pathway implemented short-form monthly devotionals in fall semester, directed specifically to BYU-Pathway students and the opportunities and concerns they have as they pursue higher education. These devotionals are designed to build testimony and strengthen faith, while also encouraging students to endure to the end and successfully achieve their academic goals. To view devotionals, visit byupathway.lds.org/speeches. (See page 20 to learn more about devotionals.)

A New Church Entity
October 2018

After the creation of BYU-Pathway Worldwide in 2017, it continued to operate under the umbrella of BYU-Idaho. But last October, BYU-Pathway became a separate entity within the Church Educational System.

Expansion of Virtual Gatherings
November 2018

Since 2014, BYU-Pathway has been piloting virtual gatherings in remote areas where in-person gatherings are not possible. Previously, virtual gatherings were limited to Europe, the Caribbean, and the southeastern United States. This year, the pilot expanded to Brazil, northern Asia, and the northeastern United States, with nearly 1,000 students participating. Virtual gatherings were made available to 961 stakes and districts in January 2019, including all of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Pacific.



Student Portal Created
September 2018

BYU-Pathway launched a new user-friendly student portal for PathwayConnect students, which serves as a single resource for accessing courses, viewing to-do items and deadlines, paying tuition, and more. In 2019, a portal will be built for online degree-seeking students as well.



Executive Committee Visit
November 2018

The Church Board of Education Executive Committee visited BYU-Pathway headquarters and provided a special broadcast to students throughout the world, encouraging them to press forward in their education. The discussion panel consisted of Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, Elder David A. Bednar, Elder Quentin L. Cook, Sister Jean B. Bingham, and Elder Robert C. Gay. Elder Kim B. Clark, Church Commissioner of Education, and President Clark G. Gilbert and his wife, Christine, also joined the panel. (See page 8 for an article about the broadcast.)

Returned-Missionary Scholarship
December 2018

BYU-Pathway began piloting a scholarship for returned missionaries in Brazil and the Caribbean. In this pilot, missionaries who have returned home in the past five years may receive a tuition discount for PathwayConnect. It is anticipated that this effort will expand across the globe this fall. (See page 34 for an article about BYU-Pathway's scholarship initiative.)

40,000 Students Served
December 2018

In 2018, BYU-Pathway enrollment increased by nearly 10 percent, serving 41,426 students in 100 countries and all 50 states in the U.S.



BYU-Pathway Worldwide Broadcast, November 1, 2018

monumental moments

IN A HISTORIC BROADCAST, CHURCH LEADERS COUNSELED AND ENCOURAGED BYU-PATHWAY WORLDWIDE STUDENTS

BY J.A. BAÑEZ

"[W]e're part of a monumental moment in Church education in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is one of those pivotal marks in our history that we won't fully understand until we look back at it years and maybe decades from now."

These words were part of Elder Jeffrey R. Holland's opening remarks in a broadcast to BYU-Pathway Worldwide students on November 1, 2018. He — along with Elder David A. Bednar, Elder Quentin L. Cook, Sister Jean B. Bingham, Elder Robert C. Gay, Elder Kim B. Clark, and President Clark G. Gilbert and his wife, Christine — addressed more than 27,000 BYU-Pathway students enrolled at that time, as well as the thousands more who will enroll for many years to come. It was the first time this many General Authorities and Officers of the Church directly addressed the worldwide audience of BYU-Pathway students.

Like BYU-Pathway, its students are also experiencing monumental moments. Students may not realize the great impact these seemingly "small and simple"[1] moments have until they look back at them later in life. For example, the decision of whether or not to go to college or which career path



to follow. The discovery of love, self-worth, or faith. These small and simple experiences shape students and lead them and their families toward better futures.



Recognizing Monumental Moments

Elder Holland and the other panel members from the Executive Committee of the Church Board of Education addressed a number of obstacles that prevent students from continuing their education, which were presented as four types of students: Doubter, Misplaced Zeal, Happy As I Am, and Basic Survivor.

The panel encouraged these kinds of students and others to do basic things that could remove their stumbling blocks and lead them to greater opportunities for growth.

Overcoming Doubt with Faith

The doubter describes students who aren't sure if they have what it takes to continue their education. They doubt themselves and their abilities. Fear prevents them from taking a step into the unknown. But, it is faith that can dispel fear and inspire students, filling them with the confidence they need to continue their education.

Elder Holland reminded students that education is part of their eternal development, and invited them to have faith in themselves and in God, who will provide them with divine help.

> *"We're all capable of infinitely more than we do, and we must not let our fears get in the way of that. But, beyond your own help, beyond your own ability, you have help."*

Elder Clark taught that having faith in Jesus Christ will provide access to the enabling power of His Atonement to overcome doubts about pursuing an education.

> *"We have to act, but act in faith. If we do, power flows into our lives through the redeeming and strengthening power of the Savior. It's a true principle, and it's a marvelous blessing to each of us through our whole lives."*

Redirecting Misplaced Zeal

Students with misplaced zeal may be focusing their enthusiasm on righteous endeavors, but they struggle to see education as a "religious responsibility"[2] and a tool that could help them in their family life and Church duties. The panel encouraged these students to re-prioritize their lives and trust in the Lord's counsel that "if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come."[3]

As someone who has benefited from her education as a parent and Church leader, Sister Bingham encouraged students to not shortchange themselves on education — they don't know yet how their lives will turn out and how education will bless them.

> *"[W]e are commanded to learn in this life.… We are all wanting to become like our Heavenly Parents. We need to learn everything we can."*

Elder Bednar urged students to become consecrated Saints, which requires them to develop their skills and talents through education and dedication to God's work.

> *"Consecrated means 'to dedicate to a holy purpose,' but there's also an element of 'develop and dedicate.' So, we're not just what we are. If we are consecrated, we are to develop ourselves with God's help to be the best that we can be and dedicate ourselves to a holy purpose."*

Growth Cultivates True Happiness

Students who embody the "happy as I am" attitude are comfortable with where they are in life. They don't see any need for growth. The panel suggested that if these students ask God what they lack, they will experience a change of heart that may persuade them to continue their education.

Elder Holland, quoting Brigham Young, acknowledged that what many students fear is failure.

> *"The tragedy in life is not failure. The tragedy in life is diminished expectations."*

Sister Bingham suggested that BYU-Pathway is exactly what students need to overcome their fears.

> *"I think this particular Pathway program is an inspired way to help those students get beyond that fear, to be able to feel like [they] have the support system."*

Elder Gay explained that students will find true happiness if they step out of their comfort zones and work to discover God's plan for them personally.

> *"It is about becoming, and we have to get that deep down in the hearts. The question is not, 'Am I happy?' but rather 'What lack I yet?'[4] And what do I need to do to move my life ahead in the way that Heavenly Father would have me move it ahead."*

If There's a Will, There's a Way

The basic survivor is not lazy or carefree. In fact, these students work very hard. They are already burdened with many responsibilities and adding another one, such as going to school, could make it harder for them to survive. The panel advised students to consider their divine responsibility, take a leap of faith, and trust that God will provide a way.

Referring to 1 Nephi 3:7, Elder Clark invited students to ask the Lord if He wants them to receive an education.

> *"So, if you know in your heart the Lord wants you to do it,… He will prepare the way, as long as you're willing to do your part."*







Viewers' Response

The broadcast received **more than 16,000 views online** and inspired students around the world to act on what they learned.

Janet Lopez (Yuba City, California) shared how the messages encouraged her to keep going in PathwayConnect.

> *"I had such a hard week that I was tempted to quit the program. I went to my gathering and saw this broadcast. THIS is what I needed to hear. I shall continue and apply what was said tonight to my life."*

Identifying herself as a basic survivor, **Heather Hansen (Rigby, Idaho)** felt that her goal to attend BYU-Idaho might not come to fruition. After watching the broadcast, she felt inspired to continue and trust in the Lord. She now attends school on campus.

> *"I am the student who works hard and does not know how they will afford school.... Well, within 24 hours of this broadcast, I had received an email saying I had received a scholarship. Elder Bednar was right. If we work hard and have faith, things will work out."*

Linda Tu'ihalangingie (Tongatapu, Tonga) expressed that the messages in the broadcast gave her greater determination to finish her education.

> *"[This broadcast] gave me courage, direction to keep on developing myself, and dedication to continue learning. PathwayConnect is truly an amazing opportunity to go back to school. Heavenly Father is going to help us accomplish our dreams."*







Elder Bednar shared his testimony of the divine help available to students if they will do their best and trust that the Lord will take care of the rest.

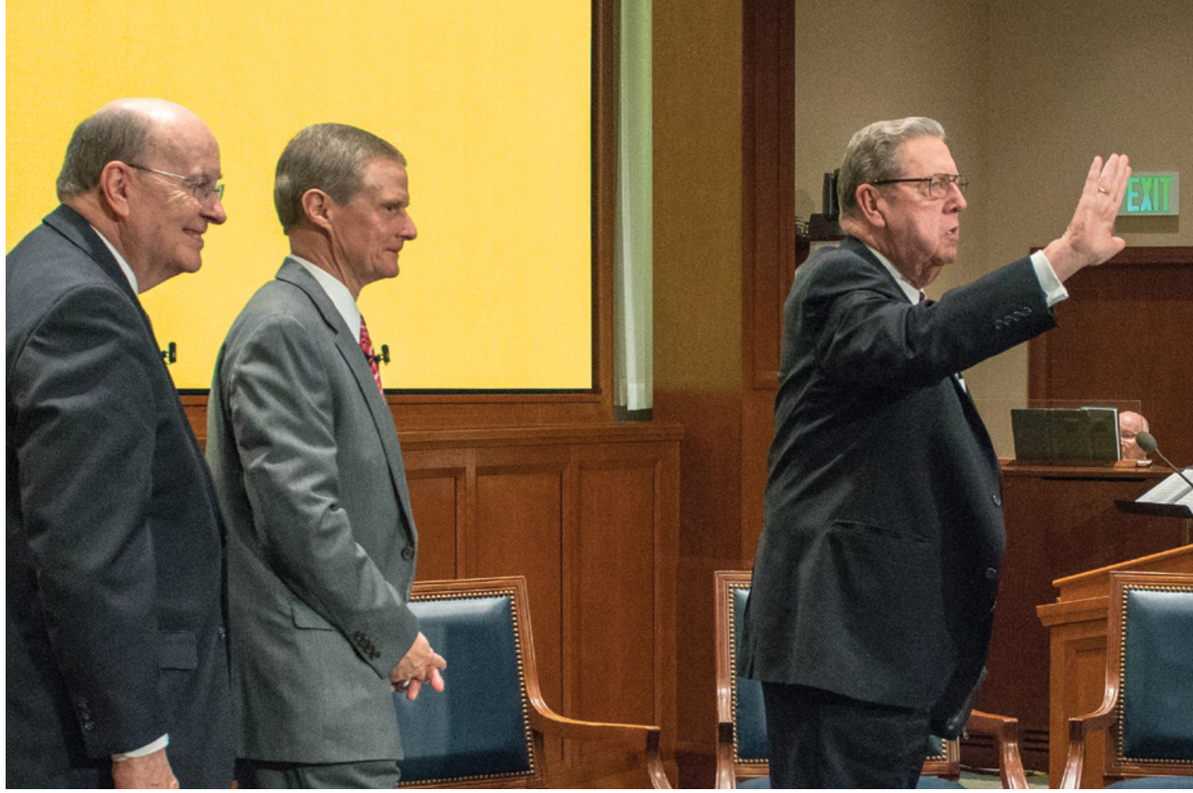
> *"I have an absolute witness of the fact that when we do our best — not perfect, but we do our best — and we're striving to live the gospel, then there are compensating blessings, and there is a strength in the power — a strength beyond our own — that helps us do what we otherwise could never do."*

Elder Cook promised that, while sacrifices may seem great in the beginning, students will be eternally blessed for them.

> *"[S]acrifice does bring forth the blessings of heaven.… It's worth it to do it. It's worth it in this life, and it's worth it in the eternities."*

Promises Fulfilled

As students exercise faith to dispel doubt, refocus their priorities, make decisions that expand their comfort zones, and trust that anything is possible with the Lord, they will experience monumental moments that lead to extraordinary outcomes. Their futures will change forever as they discover their divine potential and understand the eternal blessings of education.



It may only take one monumental moment to redirect the course of the future. BYU-Pathway Worldwide strives to create such opportunities for students across the globe by providing them with accessible and affordable education. Its reach will continue to expand as students take the step of faith to do their part and trust in the Lord. Elder Bednar promised students the Lord is mindful of them and will help them succeed.

> *"I think some of you believe in Christ but don't believe what He says applies to you.... I would say, as a servant of the Lord, He's talking to you. This is for you. He knows you by name. He is that focused on individuals one by one. I invite you to not only believe in Him but believe that what He says is for you, individually, personally. I am a witness that this is true. I pray that you will open your heart and that you will let the Holy Ghost carry that message into your heart so that you understand it's for you. He would say to you, 'You can do this. I will help you do this, and I'm talking to you.' I witness that He lives, that He is the Only Begotten Son of the Eternal Father, and He will help you."*

At the conclusion of the broadcast, Elder Holland left students with an apostolic blessing.

> *"Do some basic things that facilitate these blessings, but then trust in God and know that He is a covenant-keeper. We're supposed to be, but He always is. Every promise ever expressed to you, including this one, will be fulfilled. We have to do our part. We have to do some bit of our part. None of us are too good at doing all of it, but if we'll make a good faith effort, every single solitary promise and word and blessing and benediction God has ever given you —… all of those promises are still in force.... And I give you that promise and that love from all of us. From the President of the Church, First Presidency, all the Officers and people who love and pray for you and cheer you on. You're going to make it."*

1. See Alma 37:6
2. Russell M. Nelson, "Youth of the Noble Birthright: What Will You Choose?" (Church Educational System devotional for young adults, Sept. 6, 2013), broadcasts.lds.org
3. Doctrine and Covenants 130:19
4. Matthew 19:20

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The following strategic priorities will direct BYU-Pathway Worldwide's efforts over the upcoming year:

1 Elevate Awareness of BYU-Pathway Worldwide

In October 2018, BYU-Pathway Worldwide became a separate legal entity within the Church, with a new headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah. Although BYU-Pathway served more than 40,000 students last year, it is still a relatively new educational organization within the Church and there remain many members and priesthood leaders who are still less familiar with this powerful resource.

Launch residency expansion

To be eligible to participate in an online certificate or degree program (accredited through BYU-Idaho), students are currently required to have obtained residency by first earning 15 on-campus credits from a Church-owned college or university. But starting this September, the residency requirement will be lifted, allowing students to enroll without having earned any previous CES credits. Tuition for this offering will be reduced from its current $172/credit to just $125/credit.

Deepen awareness and communication across the Church

In an effort to deepen awareness across the Church of what BYU-Pathway offers, more communication and coordination with Church entities will take place. This will include strengthening communication channels with Seminaries & Institutes, the Missionary Department, Public Affairs, Church News, Self-Reliance Services, and more.







2 Strengthen Retention

BYU-Pathway Worldwide is actively seeking ways to help students overcome obstacles that may prevent them from growing academically and spiritually and from completing PathwayConnect. To help these students succeed, the mentoring program for PathwayConnect began in fall 2017 and will expand to help students as they continue on to earn their degree.

Drive PathwayConnect second-semester retention to 80 percent

Student retention between the first and second semesters of PathwayConnect is 75 percent. The goal in 2019 is to increase that to 80 percent (82 percent domestically and 75 percent internationally).

Expand scope of Success Network through matriculation

The Success Network is a vital part of student retention. Comprised of mentors, instructors, and Church-service missionaries, the Success Network encourages students to complete PathwayConnect and continue to an online degree program. Because of the tremendous effect the Success Network has had in motivating students to finish, it will now be utilized not only for their education during PathwayConnect, but also as they begin an online degree program through BYU-Idaho.

3 Strengthen the Online Student Experience

BYU-Pathway Worldwide desires to provide students with a smooth transition between PathwayConnect and an online certificate and degree program. After launching a new portal for PathwayConnect students in 2018, BYU-Pathway is now working on a portal for online degree-seeking students, intended to serve as a one-stop resource. Additional curriculum changes will set online degree-seeking students up for success.

Expand student portal

The new and improved student portal will make it easier than ever for online degree-seeking students to access everything they need in one place. Not only will students be able to access their courses from the portal, but they will also be able to create a graduation plan, pay tuition, view deadlines, access academic resources, and more.

Close experience gaps

Students often experience a gap as they transition from PathwayConnect to an online certificate and degree program. To close this gap, the PathwayConnect curriculum is being redesigned to seamlessly transition students.

4 Improve Curriculum

In 2018, BYU-Pathway Worldwide started an exciting redesign of the PathwayConnect curriculum. This curriculum, which will fully launch for new students in April, links the PathwayConnect and online degree programs, creating a seamless educational experience.

Roll out new PathwayConnect curriculum

To better prepare students for their ongoing journey, BYU-Pathway has redesigned the PathwayConnect curriculum to focus on life skills, professional skills, and university skills — as well as better meet the needs of a worldwide audience. This change coincides with a new online degree structure, which uses a certificate-first approach. In their third semester, students will now select a certificate and complete the first course of that certificate while still enrolled in PathwayConnect.

Implement new degree structure

BYU-Pathway is launching a new degree structure offered in partnership with BYU-Idaho, starting in April. The new online programs follow a certificate-first approach, encouraging students who complete PathwayConnect to obtain job-ready certificates on their way to earning a bachelor's degree. These stackable certificates provide students with the opportunity for better employment as they immediately start building marketable skill sets. Plus, those who earn certificates are 41 percent more likely to continue on to a bachelor's degree.





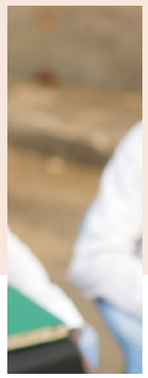
5 Drive Awareness of Certificate Programs

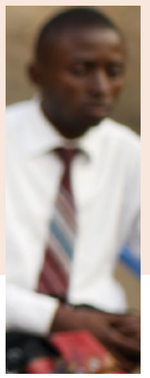
BYU-Pathway Worldwide is changing the traditional model for how students earn a degree. Students will start with a job-ready certificate first — layering in general education courses later — all of which build into a bachelor's degree.

Automate certificate enrollment in graduation plan

Job-ready certificates consist of 12-15 credits and enable students to gain better employment as they pursue their degree. Starting in April, selecting a certificate will be a required part of the application process. All students will start with an introductory certificate and will later earn an intermediate and an advanced certificate — in addition to general education and elective courses — to complete their associate and bachelor's degrees.







6 Establish Scalable Priesthood Model

As it continues to expand throughout the globe, BYU-Pathway Worldwide is becoming an increasingly vital resource within Church education. The organization coordinates with each area of the Church to provide specific opportunities for its members to grow educationally, temporally, and spiritually.

Create plans for each area of the Church

Each Church area has goals of helping its members obtain higher education, improve their ability to support families, and increase their self-reliance. BYU-Pathway is working with priesthood leaders in all Church areas to create specific area plans that emphasize education.

Launch pre-approval letter for returning missionaries

In an effort to provide educational opportunities to missionaries as they return home, BYU-Pathway plans to pre-approve returning missionaries for admission to PathwayConnect. After completing PathwayConnect, students can then continue to earn job-ready certificates and a degree.

7 Expand EnglishConnect

***EnglishConnect** is a collaboration between BYU-Pathway Worldwide, Self-Reliance Services, and the Missionary Department to help individuals develop English proficiency to increase their educational and employment opportunities. After the launch of EnglishConnect 1 & 2 in May 2018, expansion of EnglishConnect 3 will occur throughout 2019, with a worldwide launch in January 2020.*

Expand EnglishConnect 3 pilot

EnglishConnect 3 is designed to help intermediate-level learners develop the English skills necessary in employment and academic settings. EnglishConnect 3 is currently being piloted in 13 locations in Brazil, Mexico, and the United States. Additional pilot locations are continually being added.

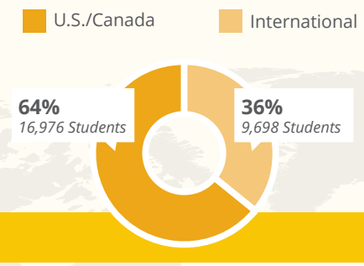
FACTS & STATISTICS | *2018 Annual Data*

41,426
Total BYU-Pathway Worldwide Unduplicated Students in 2018

PathwayConnect

26,674
PathwayConnect Students

3.22
Average GPA



PATHWAYCONNECT SITES

529
Open Sites with Students

242 U.S./Canada
287 International
87 Countries
49 U.S. States

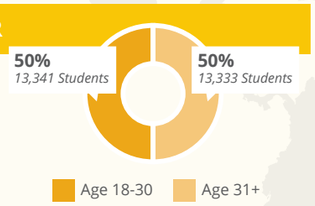
LARGEST U.S. STATES
- Utah *(5,444 students)*
- California *(1,808 students)*
- Arizona *(1,387 students)*

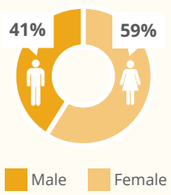
LARGEST INT'L COUNTRIES
- Brazil *(1,141 students)*
- Mexico *(1,062 students)*
- Philippines *(1,030 students)*

2,483 PathwayConnect Missionaries

AGE & GENDER

30
Median Age





U.S. & Canada
36% | 64%

International
51% | 49%

ACADEMICS

PathwayConnect Completers*

9,762
2018

40,359
Cumulative Since 2009

*Students who have completed PathwayConnect's year-long program

Retention

First- to Second-Semester: 75%

Completion Rate: 56%

52% Certificate & Degree Matriculation*

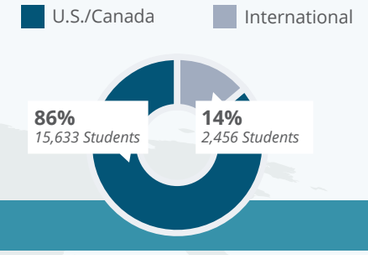
*Average percentage of PathwayConnect graduates who enroll in a certificate or degree program

Certificates & Degrees

OFFERED FROM BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY-IDAHO

18,089
Online Degree Students

3.22
Average GPA



WORLDWIDE DEGREE-SEEKERS

49 U.S. STATES

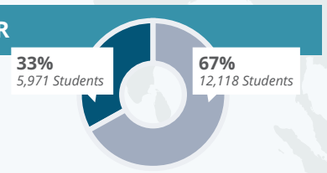
81 COUNTRIES

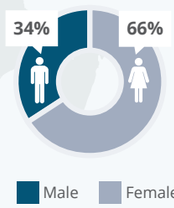
LARGEST U.S. STATES
- Utah *(3,949 students)*
- California *(2,028 students)*
- Arizona *(1,490 students)*

LARGEST INT'L COUNTRIES
- Brazil *(326 students)*
- Mexico *(300 students)*
- Canada *(217 students)*

AGE & GENDER

37
Median Age



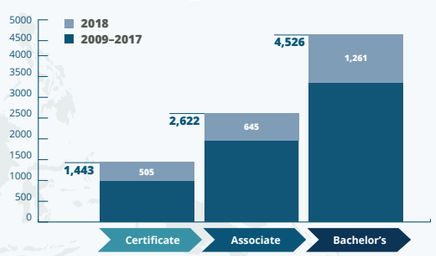


U.S. & Canada
30% | 70%

International
59% | 41%

ACADEMICS

Certificates & Degrees Awarded



Most Popular Programs

	CERTIFICATES	DEGREES
1	Home and Family Studies	Business Management
2	Business Management	Marriage and Family Studies
3	Computer Information Technology	University Studies

Certificate *First*

Students start with a job-ready certificate, which is typically composed of just five courses and can be completed in one year or less. Certificates help students gain marketable skills and increase their earning potential before completing a degree.

Plus, students who complete a certificate are 41% more likely to continue toward a bachelor's degree.

BYU-PATHWAY WORLDWIDE

Devotionals

Inspiring a global audience

In September 2018, BYU-Pathway Worldwide began featuring inspiring monthly devotionals to better fulfill its primary objective to "get the gospel into students' hearts." Each devotional is concise — less than 10 minutes long — and encourages students to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and continue their education. Participants have expressed that watching these devotionals has increased their faith and confidence, motivated them to live the gospel, and encouraged them to persist toward their temporal and spiritual goals. Distributed through social media and student courses, the devotionals are reaching an average viewership of more than 10,000 per broadcast.



CLARK G. GILBERT

PRESIDENT OF BYU-PATHWAY WORLDWIDE

"FROM GRIT TO GRACE" (SEPTEMBER 2018)

In BYU-Pathway's first-ever devotional, President Gilbert reminded us to be *finishers*. To be finishers, we need grit, perseverance, and most importantly, the strengthening power of the Atonement. Once we've given our best, the Lord promises us additional strength.



"I try to keep working hard to be one of the finishers. With faith in Christ, it can be achieved."
—**Rakotondrasoa Ziva,** ***Antananarivo, Madagascar***



"BYU-Pathway is a great opportunity to learn. This video gave me the words I needed to keep going."
—**Leonardo Marquez,** ***Valencia, Venezuela***

DAVID A. BEDNAR

QUORUM OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

"I HAVE LEARNED FOR MYSELF" (OCTOBER 2018)

Elder Bednar emphasized the importance of learning and having spiritual experiences for ourselves. He spoke directly to BYU-Pathway students and said, "The brethren love and commend you for the efforts that you're expending and the things that you're trying to do and to accomplish. I promise that the Lord will assist you as you do your very best."





"Only through prayer, trust in the Lord, and guidance of the Holy Ghost I was able to finish PathwayConnect. This is a testimony to me because now I am in my first semester at BYU-Idaho."
—**Irma Salazar,** ***Cambridge, Massachusetts***



"We don't learn alone. We're assisted by the power of the Holy Ghost.… The Spirit helps me to serve as a Pathway missionary in Brazil."
—**Alex Oliveira,** ***Rio de Janeiro, Brazil***

Watch devotionals at *byupathway.lds.org/speeches*.



BONNIE L. OSCARSON

FORMER YOUNG WOMEN GENERAL PRESIDENT

"UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS" (NOVEMBER 2018)

Like many of our students, Sister Oscarson made the decision to return to school later in life. From her experience we learn that by pursuing higher education, we're not only setting a righteous example for those around us — we're preparing ourselves to be of service in ways we may not now even imagine.



"I am a PathwayConnect student, and I am 45 years old.… [My] native language is Spanish, so it is hard to study in another language, but I can say my Lord has been with me all this time through the Holy Ghost. I testify this is an inspired program in order to help us to reach our perfection."
—**Maria Belen Espin,** ***Quito, Ecuador***



"I really needed to hear Sister Oscarson's message, especially to have the faith to not give up.… I will keep moving forward, having faith in every footstep. I am so thankful for what I learned in PathwayConnect and how the Holy Ghost can and will help us learn, understand, and remember it."
—**Elaine Braithwaite,** ***Santa Rosa, California***

RICHARD J. MAYNES

GENERAL AUTHORITY SEVENTY

"A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY" (DECEMBER 2018)

Elder Maynes taught us that pursuing an education will bring innumerable blessings into our lives and the lives of our families. Our sacrifice is an expression of love to our children and their children.





"I'm so thankful to our loving Heavenly Father for creating this wonderful educational and discipleship program."
—**Toshi Millevo,** ***Manila, Philippines***



"It already has! My 7-year-old daughter has said, 'I can be a mom and go to school, just like you.'"
—**Martha Rutledge,**
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



RECHARTING PATHWAYCONNECT CURRICULUM

A Ship of Curious Workmanship

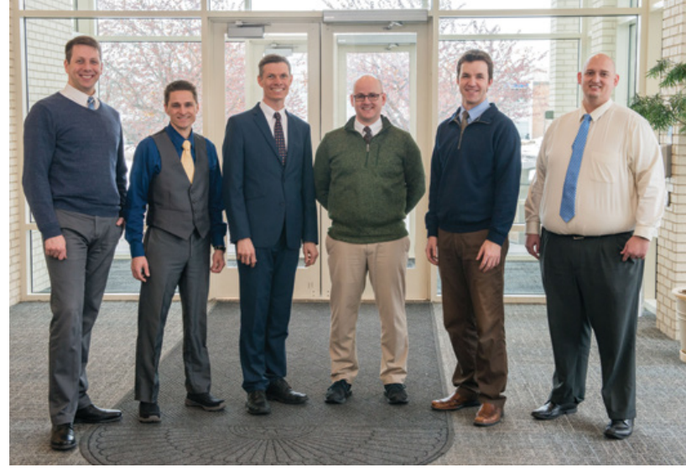
BY BREANNE SU'A

Many things in the Book of Mormon are described as a "curious workmanship" — the Liahona, tools and buildings, the gold plates. Each time, ancient prophets attributed these creations to the Lord. But perhaps one of the most impactful creations in the Book of Mormon is the ship the Lord commanded Nephi to build to cross the ocean to the promised land.

"[W]e did work timbers of curious workmanship. And the Lord did show me from time to time after what manner I should work the timbers of the ship.

"Now I, Nephi, did not work the timbers after the manner which was learned by men, neither did I build the ship after the manner of men; but I did build it after the manner which the Lord had shown unto me."[1]

BYU-Pathway Worldwide, guided by the Spirit, began the creation of its own ship of "curious workmanship" in 2018 by redesigning the curriculum for its PathwayConnect program.



The new curriculum was created by a team of writers located throughout the country, including a team at BYU-Idaho. Left to right: Tyler Beckstrom, Sean Short, Craig Johnson, Joel Drake, Michael Matthews, and Scott Rey

The new curriculum, which is currently being piloted and launches in April, has been refocused to help students gain meaningful life, professional, and university skills while better transitioning them into an online certificate and degree program after PathwayConnect.

The Journey to a New Curriculum

The idea for designing a new curriculum began when BYU-Pathway President Clark G. Gilbert presented to Jon Linford, then BYU-Pathway vice president of curriculum, the idea of students starting their degree program while still enrolled in PathwayConnect. He suggested that during the final semester of PathwayConnect, students would take the first course of their first online certificate, thereby bridging the gap between PathwayConnect and their degree program.

"You could ask, 'why mess with something that's working?' This program has served tens of thousands of students marvelously. It's changed lives," said Bryan Pope, curriculum director for PathwayConnect. "But as good as this model was, it's not the model that can take education to wherever the Church is organized. We needed a curriculum that would deliver core skills to every Church member and help them be the most successful. The new curriculum meets students where they are and moves them along their path and helps them serve in their path."

Pope, the only curriculum writer at the time, began the process of building the new curriculum. But, quickly realizing that this work would require more hands on deck, BYU-Pathway brought on two additional writers, Curriculum Manager James Findlay and Curriculum Specialist Sarah Jackson. The team also began collaborating with 17 other employees located throughout the country.

"The Lord has brought people in at just the right time to make this happen," Pope said. "It's been faith promoting just to watch."

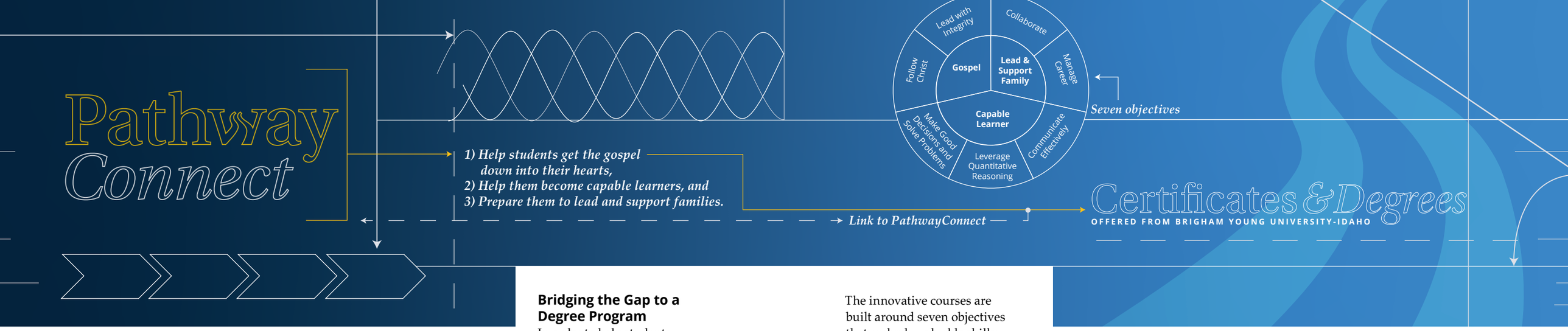
Commenting on the rewriting and redesigning of the curriculum, Findlay said, "It's been a curious process. We've needed to up our spiritual game. It's less of an academic process and more of a spiritual process. If I don't have the Spirit with me, I can't write anymore."



The team at BYU-Pathway headquarters, from left to right: April Day, Bryan Pope, Sarah Jackson, and James Findlay

The new curriculum uses integrated and applied-learning models to teach students basic math and English skills, while also preparing them to earn a certificate and degree and apply what they're learning in their lives. In fact, math and writing skills are woven into the course outcomes, which focus on practical application: for example, students learn math by creating a budget or learn writing by composing a cover letter.

"Imagine if you could only take two or three courses your entire life," Pope said. "What skills would you put in those classes? That's what we've done. The new courses cover all the foundational skills you need in your life — including math, writing, and professional skills — and teach you how to learn. It's going to change people's lives because it's very applied and practical and it also integrates with our new certificate and degree structure."



Preparing Students for College and Life

BYU-Pathway Worldwide's mission is to provide access to higher education wherever the Church is organized. A worldwide organization means a broad spectrum of students with varied backgrounds, cultures, ages, languages, and so on. With such an unconventional audience, BYU-Pathway needed an unconventional approach to its curriculum.

Jackson, describing the unique approach, said, "It is a purpose-driven curriculum rather than an audience-driven curriculum, since our audience is so broad. BYU-Pathway has such strong core purposes. We knew these also needed to be our objectives when writing the courses."

The curriculum outcomes mirror BYU-Pathway's three purposes: (1) help students get the gospel down into their hearts, (2) help them become capable learners, and (3) prepare students to lead and support families. These foundational purposes stretch beyond just helping students learn basic skills — they prepare students to become what they need to be in order to be successful in life.

Commenting on the applied-learning focus of the new curriculum, Findlay said, "Education is becoming less about academia and more about creating students who are prepared. We're helping students learn how to learn. As a result, they will be prepared for college and life. Life and education; it's the same thing."

BYU-Pathway seeks to do just that — to help students become who God wants them to be by preparing students for life and, ultimately, to build Zion.

Jackson, who worked as an instructor for 11 years prior to her role with curriculum, shared how she believes the curriculum will help students grow into their role in Zion. "I've come across hundreds of students in my courses, many who come from broken homes with no one to believe in them," she said. "After PathwayConnect, these students are going on to earn degrees, becoming temple-recommend holders and, for the men, priesthood holders. So, who is the curriculum for? It's for those students, so they can see their potential and actually become what Heavenly Father wants them to become."

Bridging the Gap to a Degree Program

In order to help students truly become something, PathwayConnect's new curriculum needed to enter uncharted territory in online education. While most online curricula follow a "Life Skills-Math-English" format, as the previous curriculum did, the new curriculum follows an integrated format that bridges the gap between PathwayConnect and online degree programs offered in partnership with BYU-Idaho.

PathwayConnect is comprised of one year (three semesters). In the first two semesters, math and writing skills are woven into courses focused on developing life and professional skills.

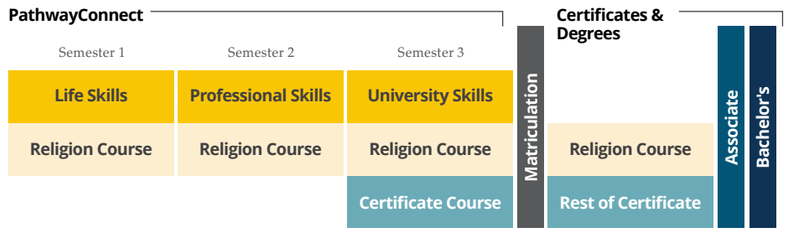
In their third semester, students take a university skills course and the first course of a 12-15 credit job-ready certificate they choose. This certificate leads to employable skills and counts toward an associate and bachelor's degree, accredited by BYU-Idaho. Through this integration of PathwayConnect and a degree program, students will have already begun their certificate while still in PathwayConnect. Students will have all the academic support they need to chart their course through the different stages of their education.

The innovative courses are built around seven objectives that embody valuable skills: follow Christ, lead with integrity, manage career, collaborate, solve problems, use quantitative reasoning, and communicate effectively. These skills gained during PathwayConnect combined with the skills earned through certificates will greatly increase a student's employability.

"Students who complete a certificate first are more likely to persist in earning a bachelor's degree," Findlay said. "Part of PathwayConnect's job is to prepare students to start and complete that certificate."

The curriculum isn't meant to provide students with every skill they need in a particular area, but rather to provide them with the tools they need to tackle future responsibilities and situations in life. In their courses, students will learn study, time-management, goal-setting, and financial-management skills, and more.

"We've thought about students' futures," Pope said. "After PathwayConnect, they'll remember they did something hard, and they'll know they can make it. They're going to persist longer because they have achieved success."



Creating Disciple Learners

Application is key to personal growth — spiritually, personally, academically, and professionally. That is why the new curriculum helps students apply what they are learning so they can develop as disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their homes, the Church, and their communities.

"The curriculum is groundbreaking," said Jackson. "What the students are learning is more true to life experience for them. It enables them to transfer the knowledge they're learning into their daily lives."

"It's a ship of curious workmanship, guided by the Holy Ghost," Findlay said, describing the curriculum. "What we're handing students is an applied-religion program and asking them to push the boundaries of their comfort zones. When you reach your boundary and can't do it on your own, you begin relying on divine power."

Pope added, "To effect the change, you have to sacrifice. It has to be hard, and these courses are hard. It's not hard because the content's super hard — it's hard because you have to change your life to do it."

As Nephi's family obeyed the Lord, He instructed them how to build a ship, which guided them safely to the promised land. BYU-Pathway's curriculum is being carefully rewritten, redesigned, and thoroughly tested, to guide its students along their educational journeys and to brighter futures.

1. 1 Nephi 18:1-2





The **POWER** of a **MENTOR**

Helping Students Succeed

BY BREANNE SU'A

As a response to President Clark Gilbert's call for a more proactive way to serve students, BYU-Pathway Worldwide's advising services transitioned into a mentoring program, which began piloting in August 2017.

This new initiative was created to serve the significant number of students who experience challenges that keep them from continuing BYU-Pathway Worldwide's PathwayConnect program after their first semester.

Assisting Students in Need

About 70 percent of PathwayConnect students are first-generation college students, low-income students, or both. Many also work full-time and have tried college before and didn't finish. These factors and others significantly increase a student's risk of not completing the program. Rather than waiting for students to ask for help, BYU-Pathway monitors risk factors and then a mentor proactively initiates contact.

"A more dynamic retention software is being developed that will allow mentors to quickly identify and serve at-risk students," said Steve Thomas, BYU-Pathway student success director. "We now have tools that make it much easier for Church-service missionaries and instructors to identify struggling students so we can quickly support them."

The key focus of mentoring is to assist students who may be at risk of withdrawing between the first and second semester of PathwayConnect. Mentors help these students identify their purpose in continuing their education, recognize the power available to them through Jesus Christ and His Atonement, and develop a success plan for their education.

Connecting Mentors and Students

Mentor Kimarie Howard, who has worked for four years as a certified behavior therapist, noted that a lot of her students do not struggle academically — many are A students — but they still have obstacles to overcome in order to be successful.

Explaining her primary role as a mentor, Kimarie said, "We first build a relationship — gaining a better understanding of them personally. Then we can better assess what obstacles or trigger points may keep them from being successful. Then we focus on building that power, helping them set goals and make plans to better themselves as students.

"Even though we do little things that will help them in school, it's really helping them become a better disciple, prepare them for the future, and strengthen their personal testimony of the Savior."

Robert Whisenhunt, a BYU-Pathway student from North Carolina whom Kimarie mentors, has successfully persisted with his education despite significant challenges. Robert has Tourette and Asperger syndromes and was bullied growing up. The bullying became so severe that Robert wasn't able to finish high school.

"PathwayConnect was my chance to take back what the bullies took away from me," Robert said.

With Kimarie's help, Robert overcame several obstacles during his first semester of PathwayConnect, including attending the gatherings and leading some of them. Crowds make Robert extremely nervous, but after confiding in Kimarie, she was able to help him.

"She reminded me that I'm human," Robert said. "She helped me feel better about myself."

"Going into PathwayConnect," he continued, "I honestly didn't know how well I would do because I didn't finish high school. I had to say to myself I would just do it and see how far I could go. With the help of Kimarie and her mentoring, I was able to get A's in both of my classes. When I saw that I was getting A's, that was a huge confidence booster. Whoever she's assigned to next will be blessed to have her."

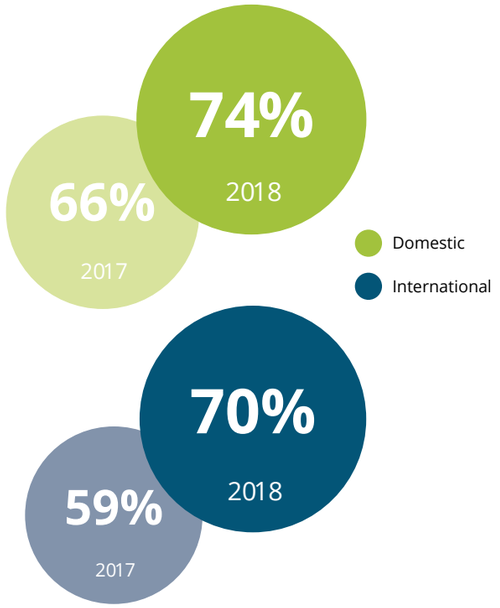
Pilot Success: Increased Student Retention

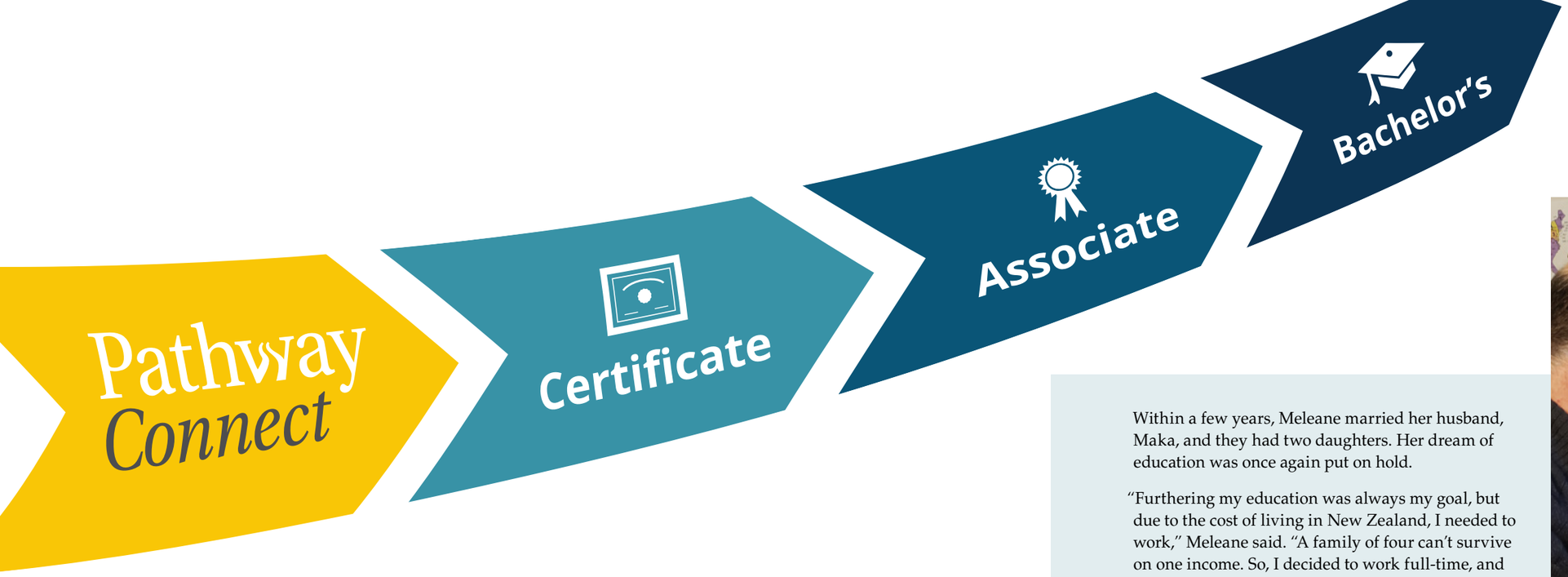
Many students like Robert have been helped through the mentoring program pilot. In its first year, the pilot saw a positive increase in PathwayConnect first- to second-semester student retention: eight percent domestically and 11 percent internationally. With an overall retention increase of five percent, an additional 1,200 students were retained in the program.

The mentoring program will continue to pilot in 2019 with an anticipated worldwide launch in the fall. This student-focused program has the potential to help thousands of future students overcome obstacles to be successful in their coursework and to strengthen their relationship with the Savior.

First- to Second-Semester Retention

Representative of mentoring pilot areas
Fall 2017–Spring 2018





REDESIGNING THE UNIVERSITY DEGREE

A modular approach to build skills and employability early in the degree-seeking process

BY KRISTA TRIPODI

In 1999, James Clarke was a quarter of the way through a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering when he and his family were in a serious car accident. Between working full-time and recovering, he decided school would have to wait.

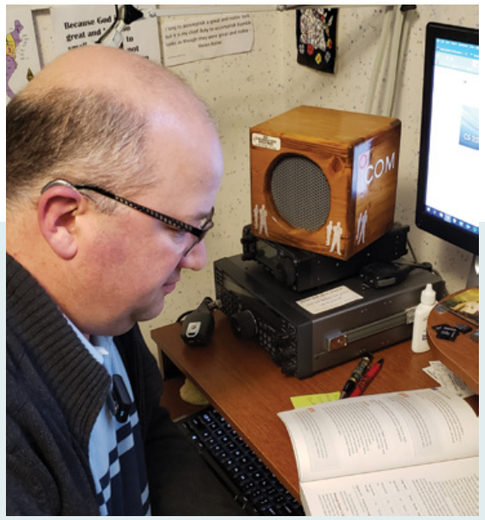
"I had that car accident — with the whole family in the car — and it was at that point I decided I wanted to focus on watching my kids growing up. Now I think it was just an excuse to quit college."

James and his wife, Kim, settled in Washington Terrace, Utah, to raise their family. He had worked for the U.S. Air Force since he was 18 years old and, after 20 years, James began to feel stalled. He was the only person in his department without a bachelor's degree, and that limited the types of assignments he was given.

"I started working for the software engineering department as an electronics technician," James said. "I had to learn software, and that's where I didn't feel very confident in what I was doing. I thought, 'Maybe I should get some education in this.'"

Across the world in Tonga, Meleane Fakahau Fisi'ihoi had a very different life experience from James, but with a similar result — a partially completed university degree and limited job prospects.

Meleane grew up in poverty and was the only one of her six siblings to finish high school. She dreamed of attending university, but when her mother got sick, her dream was put on hold to help support her family. She eventually moved to New Zealand to attend a nursing program; however, she only completed a portion of the program before her student visa expired.



James Clarke studying at home.

Within a few years, Meleane married her husband, Maka, and they had two daughters. Her dream of education was once again put on hold.

"Furthering my education was always my goal, but due to the cost of living in New Zealand, I needed to work," Meleane said. "A family of four can't survive on one income. So, I decided to work full-time, and instead of educating myself, I would make sure my girls got a good education."

A Crisis in Higher Education

While the details vary, James's and Meleane's stories are common. Most people know a friend or family member with many college credits, but no degree. Or, they know someone who always wanted to go to school, but other responsibilities got in the way. In the United States alone, 40 percent of people age 18-30 have a high school education or less, and another almost 20 percent have some college but left without getting any kind of degree.[1]

According to BYU-Pathway Worldwide President Clark G. Gilbert, while higher education faces a challenge in providing access to college, it faces a *crisis* in college completion rates.

> It is equally important to give students, especially students at risk of not completing, the opportunity and tools they need to finish what they started.

"Providing access to education is a critical component to what we do at BYU-Pathway," said President Gilbert. "But it is equally important to give students, especially students at risk of not completing, the opportunity and tools they need to finish what they started."

According to the Pell Institute, more than 58 percent of U.S. students who began a university degree program in 2009 did not graduate within six years. For students who came from the lowest income quartile, that figure approaches 90 percent.[2] Compounding the crisis, research shows that as much as 90 percent of the value of a university degree doesn't come until the senior year,[3] after students finish their general education and begin taking advanced, discipline-specific courses. So, in higher education today, nearly all the most vulnerable students are being left behind, accumulating college credits and debt, but leaving without a degree or a clear marketable skill set.

"When do first-generation and lower-income students leave higher education? The first year," said President Gilbert. "In fact, most of these students are going to drop out before they ever reach their most valuable courses. So we're sending them into a system of higher education that's completely unethical at its very core. It's designed so all the value happens when the people who could most be impacted by higher education are not going to be present."

Redesigning the University Degree

In 2017, President Gilbert and teams at BYU-Pathway began working with partners at BYU-Idaho on the difficult task of rethinking and redesigning the typical structure of the university degree — especially for online students. The goal was to significantly increase completion



BYU-Pathway's new certificate-focused model provides four solutions to help students complete their degree:

Accelerating Value

Starting with a certificate immediately accelerates the value of a student's education. If students leave college before completing a degree, they will still have earned at least one marketable credential.

Bachelor's Focused

Certificate-first is specifically designed to not be certificate-*only*. Students get the advantages of quickly gaining career-oriented skills while still having the flexibility to earn a four-year degree. General education continues to play an important role, just later in the program.

No Credits Left Behind

In the certificate-first model, all courses stack toward a milestone so no coursework is wasted and no credit is left behind. BYU-Pathway purposely incorporates meaningful milestones early in the degree-seeking process in order to keep students motivated to continue toward their bachelor's degree.

Employability

Certificates are not just 15-credit chunks of degree prerequisites. Instead, the skills gained with certificates are directly connected to potential careers. By keeping the courses skills-based, students can readily connect their education to their career and life after graduation.

rates, particularly among students in non-traditional circumstances. They also saw a need to improve the outcomes for students who do not complete a degree, helping them to increase their employment prospects earlier in their program rather than just at the end. This required a move away from the traditional university degree model which begins with several semesters of general education courses.

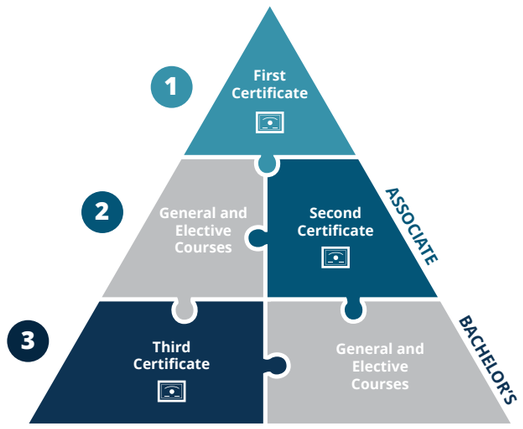
The teams found their solution in certificates — typically just five courses focused on a specific skill that can be completed in one year or less. Each certificate stacks directly into a degree and signals a marketable skill set to employers. They worked with BYU-Idaho's academic departments to redesign each online degree program to begin with a certificate.

Degrees are built by stacking certificates — so no credits are ever lost.

1. By starting with a **certificate** first, students start building marketable skills immediately.
2. After the first certificate, an **associate degree** is built from a second certificate plus general education courses.
3. A **bachelor's degree** is then built from a third certificate plus more general education courses.

"With the certificate-first degree design, students immediately gain employable skills, are motivated by achievable milestones, and find navigating the degree to be much simpler," said Kendall Peck, dean of online programs at BYU-Idaho. "The entire program portfolio has been streamlined and simplified with a focus on increased quality and career relevance. In addition to improved employment outcomes, we are confident that these changes will lead to higher student retention and completion."

Starting with a certificate helps students immediately get value from their education. Currently, 70 percent of BYU-Pathway students increase their earning potential after they earn their first job-ready certificate. What's more, students who complete a certificate are 41 percent more likely to continue toward their bachelor's degree.



"This certificate-first approach will help solve some of the inequity in higher education," said President Gilbert. "If a student needs to leave school, they at least walk away with a valuable certificate. But the odds that that student wants to keep going increase exponentially. They can see that education is valuable. That sense of accomplishment is powerful and life-changing."

On opposite sides of the world, James and Meleane each found BYU-Pathway Worldwide's PathwayConnect program. They immediately recognized the one-year, low-cost program as a way to finish the degrees they had started years ago.

James completed PathwayConnect in 2016 and immediately began work on his first certificate in programming. He will graduate in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in software engineering.

"I love the program; it has been such an amazing thing to be part of," he said. "My certificates gave me the confidence to perform specific programming skills I needed in my work. They also gave me important milestones to keep me motivated to continue my efforts to the next level. It still amazes me what you get back for the cost. You get so much. That makes me want to try harder."

In 2017, Meleane completed PathwayConnect. She inspired both of her daughters to complete the program as well. Meleane has earned her first certificate and plans to become a marriage therapist after finishing her bachelor's degree in marriage and family studies.

"For many years, I have been praying and hoping for an online program so I will still be able to work full time and study," she said. "When I found out about BYU-Pathway and the flexibility, I jumped at the opportunity. Furthering my education in a Church program was the icing on my cake. It's exactly what I was hoping for and more."

James and Kim Clarke



For many years, I have been praying and hoping for an online program so I will still be able to work full time and study.

Meleane Fakahau Fisi'ihoi with her husband, Maka, and their daughters



1. Education at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators (2017), https://doi.org/10.1787/eag-2017-en
2. *Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the United States* (2016), 65, pellinstitute.org
3. Bryan Caplan, *The Case Against Education* (2018)

BYU-Pathway's new degree structure was featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education: "**General Education Can Wait, Says an Online-Learning Leader**" *by Goldie Blumenstyk.*

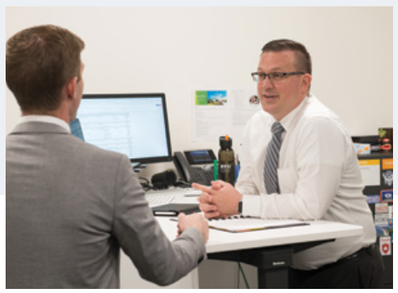
A New Home for Leading and Learning

BYU-Pathway Worldwide's mission is to develop disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their homes, the Church, and their communities. The organization's new headquarters in Salt Lake City is an inspiring and innovative space where employees can collaborate closely and be reminded of their drive to serve students.





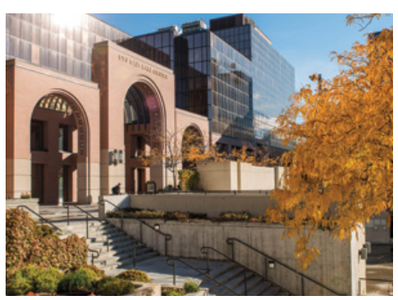






Church-service missionaries work in the office to serve more than 2,400 Pathway missionaries throughout the world.



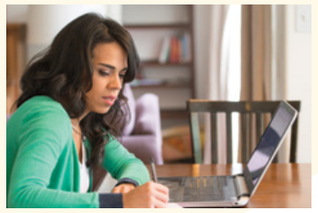


Above: BYU-Pathway Worldwide is guided by six defining characteristics that lead employees' efforts to bring the blessings of education to students.

Meeting the Needs of a Worldwide Church

BYU-Pathway works to align its efforts with area plans, as well as build a new scholarship program

BY RACHEL ROSSETTE



Leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have taught that education is a religious responsibility and that great blessings come as a result. As part of its mission, BYU-Pathway Worldwide provides access to higher education wherever the Church is organized, seeking to help members around the world fulfill the commandment to gain knowledge — both temporally and spiritually. As President Russell M. Nelson has said, "Pathway is for the kingdom."

Aligning Area Efforts

The Church is divided into 25 areas around the world, each with individual needs. BYU-Pathway Worldwide's strategy for 2019 includes continued work with Area Presidencies to align our efforts with area plans to know how to best help the Saints and build God's kingdom.

Brian Ashton, vice president of field operations for BYU-Pathway, has been visiting each area of the Church, meeting with and training Area Presidencies and local priesthood leaders.

"In the Church, when you're aligned with priesthood keys, it opens up revelation," Ashton said. "We want to be aligned with the Area Presidencies so we're all on the same page and get the same revelation. This will allow us to grow faster and better meet the needs of our students."

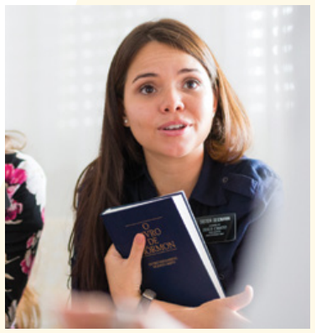
"Having an education changes how the Lord can use you," he continued. "Most returned missionaries never get a college degree. If they were to graduate with a degree, it would make a huge difference. This has the potential to change the whole Church. With every area asking to be involved, we could have hundreds of thousands of students. From those will come bishops, Relief Society presidents, stake leaders, and General Authorities."

At BYU-Pathway Worldwide, we work to help students overcome obstacles so they can obtain an education and assist more fully in building the kingdom.

New Scholarship Opportunities

There are many Church members around the world who do not have the financial means to pursue education. Consequently, BYU-Pathway Worldwide is piloting a new scholarship program to help students in a variety of financial circumstances.

One way financial assistance is offered is through a **scholarship for returned missionaries**. The scholarship is currently piloting in Brazil and the Caribbean, whose area plans focus on helping Church members gain higher education. Missionaries return home ready to progress in life, but many are held back from higher education due to access, cost, or fear. As a result, J.D. Griffith, BYU-Pathway vice president of administration, noted, "Many returned missionaries are not progressing as they should and, in some cases, become less active." The scholarship offers a tuition discount for the one-year PathwayConnect program and helps offset the overall cost of delivering the curriculum.



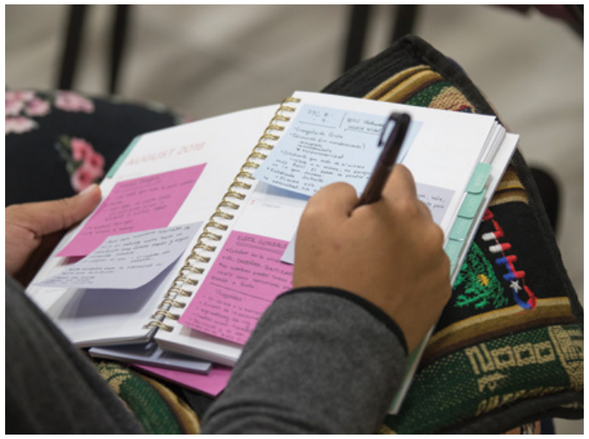
We're seeking to help build Zion by giving students around the world an equal chance at education.

"One of our goals in 2019 is to create a scalable scholarship program and offer additional financial assistance to students in need," said Griffith. "They will report their financial needs through a survey, helping us determine the amount of aid needed in each circumstance."

Obtaining an education blesses more than just the individual receiving the degree: Each educated person brings opportunities to families, promotes community growth, and helps build the Church. Griffith said, "We're seeking to help build Zion by giving students around the world an equal chance at education. By providing financial assistance, all types of students will be able to obtain higher learning in more ways than ever before."

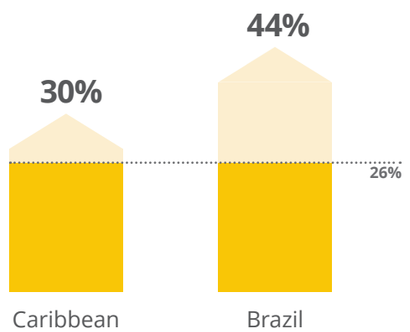


Brian Ashton greeting a Church member in the Philippines.



Newly Enrolled Returned Missionaries

As a result of the new scholarship pilot, the percentage of newly enrolled returned missionaries in PathwayConnect increased from 26 percent to 30 percent in the Caribbean and from 26 percent to 44 percent in Brazil.



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