

# Around the State: Wayland choir sings in Carnegie Hall

June 18, 2025

Wayland Baptist University choir members, alumni and friends joined forces June 7, to present Gabriel Faure's *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine* on the Ron Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall. The performance was part of an afternoon concert that included other schools for part one, Wayland's group and others for part two, and the symphonic ensemble with a guest violinist for part three. The portion featuring Wayland's choral students and alumni also included students from Hughes Middle School in California, Liberty High School in Texas and the Saratoga Voices community choir in New York. Saratoga Voices director **Noah Palmer** conducted the *Cantique* piece, while **Sarah Herrington**, Wayland's director of choral programs, conducted the *Requiem*, a seven-movement piece that also featured guest baritone and soprano solos. The large chorus was accompanied by the New England Symphonic Ensemble.



Tiffany Charles was named named Admissions Officer of the Year by the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals. (HCU Photo /

Michael A. Tims / Creative  
Director)

**Tiffany Charles**, director of undergraduate admissions at Houston Christian University was named Admissions Officer of the Year by the [North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals](#) during the coalition's annual conference May 28-30 on the HCU campus. Awardees have been nominated by their peers and colleagues, acknowledging their significant impact within their institutions and the broader Christian education community. Charles received the award from **Willem de Ruijter**, vice president of enrollment and marketing at Geneva College. Charles graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kaplan University with an associate's degree in interdisciplinary studies. She received an undergraduate degree in secondary education with an emphasis in English and a Master of Business Administration degree from Grand Canyon University.



Howard Payne University announces new branding updates.  
(HPU Photo)

Howard Payne University announced a branding update for the university's

main logos and corresponding brand identity across campus departments. The new main logo features a prominent HP and new fonts, with an updated color palette that stays consistent with the school colors of old gold and navy blue. The athletic logo features an outlined HP in gold and the wording "Howard Payne Athletics." Corresponding logos have been developed for each of the university's athletic teams. The academic logo will be used for promotion and communication within the university's schools and academic departments. It features a new shield with the Old Main Tower displayed in the center. The tower, a notable structure in the center of campus, is a replica of the entrance of Old Main—the first building built on campus in the late 1800s that stood for almost 100 years.



Debbie Sceroler, Samela Macon, and Rocío López, pictured left to right, assume new roles at Buckner Children and Family Services. (Buckner Photos)

[\*\*Buckner International\*\*](#) announced several leadership promotions with Buckner Children and Family Services. **Samela Macon** was appointed as vice president and chief operating officer of Buckner Children and Family Services; **Rocío López** was promoted to associate vice president overseeing international operations; and **Debbie Sceroler** was promoted to associate vice president overseeing domestic operations. In Macon's new role, she will develop domestic and international strategies to improve key performance indicators, drive innovation and operational efficiency, build

and strengthen strategic partnerships and position Buckner for long-term operational excellence and scalability. With nearly 20 years of nonprofit experience and 15 years at Buckner, López will oversee strategic endeavors across all international operations in her new role. Sceroler—who has more than 25 years in child welfare, 23 of which have been at Buckner—will lead initiatives in all domestic programs for Buckner Children and Family Services as associate vice president.