

# **Around the State: Wayland team joins sports ministry and missions in Alaska**

July 16, 2025

In the tiny village of Ninilchik, Alaska—where the road ends and Cook Inlet begins—a team from Wayland University brought more than sports skills and service projects this summer.

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# **Around the State: Wayland announces staff promotion**

July 16, 2025

Wayland Baptist University announces the promotion of longtime staff member Teresa Young to the role of associate vice president for institutional advancement.

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# **Around the State: Wayland**

# **group returns from Honduras**

July 16, 2025

A team of students, faculty and staff from Wayland Baptist University traveled to Honduras for a week-long medical mission to rural villages.

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# **Around the State: HCU business students study in Spain**

July 16, 2025

Graduate students from the MBA program at HCU recently spent 10 days immersed in learning international business in Spain and Portugal.

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# **Around the State: Wayland choir sings in Carnegie Hall**

July 16, 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.

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## **Around the State: HPU announces new programs**

July 16, 2025

Howard Payne University has announced two new programs, a Bachelor of Arts in worship ministry and an associate degree in general studies, beginning in the 2025 fall semester.

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## **Around the State: Cook and Wade Texas Baptist Legacy**

# awardees

July 16, 2025

Gary Cook and Charles Wade received the Texas Baptist Legacy Award during the annual Texas Baptists Legacy Day event at Independence Baptist Church near Brenham.

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## **Around the State: HCU earns top honors in advertising**

July 16, 2025

Houston Christian University earned top honors in two categories at the 2025 Crystal Awards held May 15.

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## **Around the State: At ETBU move-out, students give**

July 16, 2025

As East Texas Baptist University students packed up everything from their dorm rooms at the close of the semester, a new initiative invited them to give with purpose.

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# **Around the State: Texas Baptist students graduate**

July 16, 2025

Houston Christian University held its 2025 spring commencement ceremonies May 10, marking the 59th year degrees have been awarded to graduating students.

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# **Around the State: ETBU students analyze worship songs**

July 16, 2025

Students in East Texas Baptist University's worship music course recently completed a comprehensive research project examining the content of the most-sung worship songs in churches across the country.

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# **Around the State: HPU dedicates pavilion and courts**

July 16, 2025

Howard Payne University held a dedication ceremony and ribbon cuttings April 26 for the new Ben and Bertha Mieth Outdoor Pavilion and Woody and Miki Martin Volleyball Courts on the campus.