



*October 2014*

## MISSION GRANT STORY

### **PREPARING LEADERS FOR A DIVERSE WORLD - CONCORDIA COLLEGE, SELMA, ALABAMA     \$50,000**

Concordia College Alabama, was founded in Selma over 90 years ago by Lutheran Educator, Rosa Young. She had a passion for raising up leaders for the church and working with Lutheran Missionary, Reverend Nils Bakke. She founded over 20 Christ-centered church schools in rural Alabama. The students of these schools would otherwise have nowhere to receive an education. These church schools needed pastors and teachers, which led to the start of the training academy in Selma. That academy became Concordia College Alabama. Many black pastors and teachers serving in the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) today or retired can trace their roots to Concordia College Alabama. It is the only black college in the Concordia University System and the only Lutheran historically black college in the nation. It's strong education program and deep Lutheran roots in the African-American community position it uniquely to raise up needed African-American leaders for the LCMS in its schools,

daycare centers, parishes, and outreach ministries.

As communities across the nation become more diverse, it is important for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to begin preparing a diverse church workforce. Seminary classes are offered at Concordia College Alabama to raise up church workers with special abilities to serve the diverse cultural needs of the church. Concordia College Alabama's teacher graduates are much sought after for their excellence in the classroom. This mission grant will allow an endowed scholarship for pastors and deaconesses, as well as allow a deepening of Concordia College Alabama's teacher education program through partnerships with Lutheran parochial schools in Alabama, national and international recruitment, and scholarships to increase the number of students pursuing a Lutheran Teacher's Diploma and Early Childhood Education degree.