

For the first time in school history, Cumberland University is not increasing tuition rates. Students enrolling at the Lebanon, Tenn., university this fall will pay the same tuition rate as last year. Officials made the announcement this week following a meeting of the Board of Trust where members considered tuition rates for the 2013-2014 academic year.

In response to growing concerns about affordability and costs across the nation, the university has taken a wide range of actions aimed at maximizing resources, managing or reducing operating costs, and tackling debt students incur while adding value to a Cumberland education. The Board credits the ability to hold the tuition rate to many of the initiatives implemented by the university over the course of the last year. Students will continue to receive the same outstanding learning experience that Cumberland is known for delivering.

This spring, the university will unveil the new Learning and Career Commons (LCC), a facility designed to extend learning outside of the classroom and support student success. The LCC will provide students with career training services, resume writing assistance, and behavioral instruction. Additionally, students will be able to interview professionals in their field at the building, gaining working knowledge about their particular major before leaving the university. Additionally, students will soon see improvements to current program offerings and new offerings will be introduced later this year. All of these efforts are designed to make students more competitive in their fields of choice.

“I believe these actions reflect the type of institution Cumberland really is,” said Dr. Harvill Eaton, President of Cumberland University. “This sends a clear message that we are committed to our students and their families by providing a quality education that is affordable and the best possible value.”

The tuition freeze comes just as the university is wrapping up the largest number of campus improvement and enhancement projects in school history. In 2012, the school opened a 152-bed residence hall and the Center for Online and Professional Studies in Mt. Juliet. The Mt. Juliet Center is a 7,500-square-foot facility that serves as the university’s headquarters for the growing online and adult nursing programs.