



**March 22, 2010**

## **Dana College Sold to a For-Profit Educational Corporation**

On Tuesday evening, March 16, 2010, Dana College officials in Blair, Nebraska, announced that the college was being sold to a for-profit corporation. According to the press release prepared by the college, the new corporation, known as the Dana Education Corporation (DEC), will provide vision and direction for the curriculum.

The Dana College Corporation, owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will be reorganized as the Dana Education Foundation (DEF). This foundation will continue to preserve the heritage of Dana College through support of the Danish American Archive and Library, campus ministry, alumni affairs and local community events.

Dana College is one of two existing post-secondary institutions founded by Danish immigrants, the other being Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. The original institution in Blair was Trinity Theological Seminary, founded in 1884. As a part of the decision to locate in the community, academic classes were also part of the curriculum. Following the creation of the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1896, the seminary and college in Blair merged with the first Danish folk high school in America, founded in 1878 and located in Elk Horn, Iowa. The name Dana College came into use in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Faculty and alumni at both Dana College and Grand View University were instrumental in the founding of The Danish Immigrant Museum in 1983. One of the many reasons, the museum is located in Elk Horn, Iowa, is the fact that it is midway between the two campuses. Since its founding, the museum has endeavored to be a resource to both institutions, even as it has been able to draw upon the archives and alumni from each for support.

Representatives of the Danish Immigrant Archive-Grand View University, the Danish American Archive and Library located on the Dana College campus, and the museum meet quarterly to coordinate preservation efforts, seminar classes visit the museum regularly, and the museum has hired students for summer internships.

The staff and Board of Directors of The Danish Immigrant Museum look forward to working with the administration of the newly created Dana Education Corporation and the governing board of the Dana Education Foundation in celebrating the relationship between Denmark and United States.

For more information, visit the Dana College website at [www.dana.edu/media/](http://www.dana.edu/media/) or the *Omaha World Herald* at [www.Omaha.com](http://www.Omaha.com) and enter "Dana College" in the search box.