

Lenoir-Rhyne College ^[1]

Lenoir-Rhyne College

by Wiley J. Williams, 2006

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Lenoir Rhyne Campus. Image courtesy of Flickr user Laura Heller.

^[5][Lenoir-Rhyne College](#) ^[6] opened in Hickory as Highland College (successor to Highland Academy) in 1891. Its founders were four Lutheran pastors and educators-Andrew L. Crouse, Robert A. Yoder, William P. Cline, and Jason C. Moser-who had dreamed of establishing a Christian college in the town. The school stood on 56 acres originally owned by [Wilkes County](#) ^[7] lawyer [Walter Waightstill Lenoir](#) ^[8], who donated the land in his will for the purpose of establishing a school. The school opened as Highland College, but changed its name four months later to Lenoir College in memory of its benefactor. In 1895 the school established a sponsorship with the [North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) ^[9] that remains in place. The institution's name was changed to Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1923 in recognition of textile manufacturer, banker, and philanthropist Daniel Efird Rhyne, who made a generous donation to the college in 1922.

Founded on a dedication to a "liberal culture upon Christian principles," Lenoir-Rhyne enrolled more than 1,400 students by the early 2000s. The college's liberal arts core curriculum features 60 majors in the liberal arts, the sciences, and preprofessional programs. Lenoir-Rhyne created an Institute for Multi-cultural Education and Training in 1989 and a center for women's studies in 1991.

References:

Jeff L. Norris and Ellis G. Boatman, *Fair Star: A Centennial History of Lenoir-Rhyne College* (1990).

Charles J. Preslar Jr., ed., *A History of Catawba County* (1954).

John E. Trainer Jr., *Celebrating a Century of Excellence in Education* (1990).

Additional Resource:

Lenoir-Rhyne University Yearbooks: <https://lib.digitalnc.org/search?ln=en&p=691:%22Lenoir-Rhyne+University%22%20AND%20655:%22Yearbooks%22&sf=year&so=a> ^[10]

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Lenoir Rhyne Campus. Image courtesy of Flickr user Laura Heller. Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/blueathena7/493894427/> ^[5] (accessed June 7, 2012)

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Authors:

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Origin - location:

Catawba County ^[15]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. ^[16]

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