

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

2024

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan, a multiple-employer plan, a single-employer plan, a DFE (specify), the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
B This return/report is:
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.
D Check box if filing under: Form 5558, automatic extension, the DFVC program, special extension (enter description)
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 001
1c Effective date of plan: 09/01/1974
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): STERLING COLLEGE
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 48-0543728
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 620-278-2173
2d Business code (see instructions): 611000

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	552
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	194
	6a(2)	181
	6b	0
	6c	312
	6d	493
	6e	0
	6f	493
	6g(1)	454
6g(2)	407	
6h	0	
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2F 2G 2L 2M 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>2</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

<p>SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)</p> <p>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Insurance Information</p> <p>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</p> <p>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</p> <p>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</p>	<p>OMB No. 1210-0110</p> <hr/> <p>2024</p> <hr/> <p>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

<p>A Name of plan STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN</p>	<p>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</p>	<p>001</p>
<p>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STERLING COLLEGE</p>	<p>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 48-0543728</p>	

Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
TIAA-CREF

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
13-1624203	69345	500773	307	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

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	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

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(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information
 Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶

b Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	
d If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d	

e Type of contract: (1) individual policies (2) group deferred annuity
 (3) other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) deposit administration (2) immediate participation guarantee
 (3) guaranteed investment (4) other ▶

b Balance at the end of the previous year **7b** 3378955

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)		
	7c(2)		
	7c(3)	153819	
	7c(4)	153419	
	7c(5)		

(6) Total additions **7c(6)** 307238

d Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**) **7d** 3686193

e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	371486	
(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....	7e(2)		
(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	193742	
(4) Other (specify below).....	7e(4)	883	

▶ MAY INCLUDE LOANS ISSUED, FORFEITURES, FEES, CORRECTIVES, AND/OR ADJUSTMENTS

(5) Total deductions **7e(5)** 566111

f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)..... **7f** 3120082

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information
 If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** Health (other than dental or vision)
- b** Dental
- c** Vision
- d** Life insurance
- e** Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- f** Long-term disability
- g** Supplemental unemployment
- h** Prescription drug
- i** Stop loss (large deductible)
- j** HMO contract
- k** PPO contract
- l** Indemnity contract
- m** Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a	Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
	(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	9a(2)		
	(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
	(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))		9a(4)	0
b	Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	9b(1)		
	(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
	(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))		9b(3)	0
	(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c	Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
	(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
	(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
	(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
	(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
	(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
	(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	9c(1)(F)		
	(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
	(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	0
	(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> credited.)		9c(2)	
d	Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
	(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
	(3) Other reserves		9d(3)	
e	Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a	Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? Yes No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

**SCHEDULE A
(Form 5500)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Insurance Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).

OMB No. 1210-0110

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STERLING COLLEGE		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 48-0543728

Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
35-0472300	65676	89711100007	9	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
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	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II	Investment and Annuity Contract Information	
	Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.	
4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5
6	Contracts With Allocated Funds:	
a	State the basis of premium rates ▶	
b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d
e	Type of contract: (1) <input type="checkbox"/> individual policies (2) <input type="checkbox"/> group deferred annuity (3) <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ▶	
f	If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)	
a	Type of contract: (1) <input type="checkbox"/> deposit administration (2) <input type="checkbox"/> immediate participation guarantee (3) <input type="checkbox"/> guaranteed investment (4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other ▶ STABLE VALUE	
b	Balance at the end of the previous year	7b 215933
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1) 28361
	(2) Dividends and credits.....	7c(2)
	(3) Interest credited during the year.....	7c(3) 5228
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4) 3625
	(5) Other (specify below)..... ▶ MAY INCLUDE LOAN REPAYMENTS, FORFEITURES, TAKEOVERS, AND/OR ADJUSTMENTS	7c(5) 10072
	(6) Total additions	7c(6) 47286
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))	7d 263219
e	Deductions:	
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1) 1361
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....	7e(2) 1365
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)
	(4) Other (specify below)..... ▶ MAY INCLUDE LOANS ISSUED, FORFEITURES, FEES, CORRECTIVES, AND/OR ADJUSTMENTS	7e(4) 10072
(5) Total deductions	7e(5) 12798	
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d).....	7f 250421

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information
 If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** Health (other than dental or vision)
- b** Dental
- c** Vision
- d** Life insurance
- e** Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- f** Long-term disability
- g** Supplemental unemployment
- h** Prescription drug
- i** Stop loss (large deductible)
- j** HMO contract
- k** PPO contract
- l** Indemnity contract
- m** Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a	Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)		
	(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	9a(2)		
	(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)		
	(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))		9a(4)	0
b	Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	9b(1)		
	(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)		
	(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))		9b(3)	0
	(4) Claims charged		9b(4)	
c	Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --			
	(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)		
	(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)		
	(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)		
	(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)		
	(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)		
	(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	9c(1)(F)		
	(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)		
	(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)	0
	(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> credited.)		9c(2)	
d	Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)	
	(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)	
	(3) Other reserves		9d(3)	
e	Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e	

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a	Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? Yes No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STERLING COLLEGE	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 48-0543728	

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)..... Yes No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

TIAA

13-1624203

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION

35-1140070

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13	SERVICE PROVIDER	23676	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

MARINER WEALTH

5700 W 112TH STREET, SUITE 500
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66211

20-4553256

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26 27	ADVISOR	9951	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	<u>001</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>STERLING COLLEGE</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>48-0543728</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
---------------	--

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TIAA REAL ESTATE</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TIAA-CREF</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>13-1624203-004</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>154913</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN

d Entity code

e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 STERLING COLLEGE	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 48-0543728

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
---------------	--------------------------------------

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
Assets		
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):		
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	
(3) Other	1b(3)	
c General investments:		
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):		
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	184198
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	8588397
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)	3370503
(15) Other.....	1c(15)	

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	12367483	13257913
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	12367483	13257913

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	86158	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	270165	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		356323
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)	159047	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		159047
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	129747	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		129747
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		-7432
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		1245432
c Other income	2c		9849
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		1892966

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	968909	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other.....	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		968909
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	23676	
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	9951	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		33627
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		1002536

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		890430
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: SWINDOLL, JANZEN, HAWK & LOYD, LLC

(2) EIN: 48-1041128

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>STERLING COLLEGE</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>48-0543728</u>	

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....

1		0
---	--	---

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):
 EIN(s): 82-2826183 04-2456637

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year.....

3		22
---	--	----

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?..... Yes No N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?..... Yes No N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?..... Yes No N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box..... Increase Decrease Both No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... Yes No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?..... Yes No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)..... Yes No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?..... Yes No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation: _____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 03 / 31 / 2017 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number J500796A.

**Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan
Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator of
Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits—modified cash basis as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits—modified cash basis for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from qualified institutions as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the years then ended, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

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- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.
- the information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 2; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year following the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of the modified cash basis of accounting.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and, as a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year), as of December 31, 2024 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd, LLC

Swindoll, Janzen, Hawk & Loyd, LLC
Wichita, Kansas

October 15, 2025

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits - Modified Cash Basis
As of December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	\$12,943,731	\$ 12,047,115
Investments, at contract value	314,182	320,368
TOTAL ASSETS	13,257,913	12,367,483
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$13,257,913	\$12,367,483

See Notes to Financial Statements

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits - Modified Cash Basis

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
ADDITIONS		
Investment income		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 1,397,047	\$ 1,602,207
Interest and dividends	129,747	80,698
Total investment income	1,526,794	1,682,905
Contributions		
Participant contributions	270,165	231,778
Employer contributions	86,158	81,752
Rollovers	-	12,935
Total contributions	356,323	326,465
Other income	9,849	8,878
TOTAL ADDITIONS	1,892,966	2,018,248
 DEDUCTIONS		
Benefits paid to participants	670,122	997,648
Annuity settlement options	298,787	24,155
Administrative expenses	33,627	30,034
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	1,002,536	1,051,837
NET INCREASE	890,430	966,411
 NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS		
Beginning of year	12,367,483	11,401,072
End of year	\$13,257,913	\$12,367,483

See Notes to Financial Statements

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document or Summary Plan Description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions, which are available from the Plan administrator.

General - The Plan is a defined contribution plan sponsored by Sterling College (the College) as a systematic means of saving and investing for the future. The Plan was established effective January 1, 2016, and restated April 6, 2022. All permissible employees of the College, as defined in accordance with universal availability standards, are eligible to participate, excluding students. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

The Sterling College Board of Trustees is responsible for oversight of the Plan. The Plan's Investment Committee determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings, monitors investment performance, and reports to the Sterling College Board of Trustees. The College is the trustee of the Plan. Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association Trust Company and College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF) and Lincoln Financial Group Trust Company, LLC (Lincoln Financial) are the custodians of the Plan.

Contributions - Each year, participants may contribute a percentage of pretax annual compensation, as defined in the plan document, up to the maximum limits of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Participants also may designate all or a portion of their deferral contributions as after-tax contributions into a Roth account. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants also may contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans (rollover). The employer matching contribution is discretionary and is determined by the Sterling College Board of Trustees. For years ending December 31, 2024 and 2023, the employer match is up to 2% of eligible compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan. Participants age 21 and older are eligible to receive employer matching contributions after completing one month of employment. Contributions are subject to certain IRC limitations.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Description of Plan (continued)

Participant investment account options - Participants may direct the investment of their contributions into any of the various investment options offered by the Plan and may change their investment options at any time, subject to the terms of the funding vehicles.

Participant accounts - Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the College's employer matching contributions, and an allocation of the Plan's earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Fund managers' fees and investment fees are charged indirectly to participant accounts as a reduction of the return earned on each investment option and totaled \$26,072 and \$26,041 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Direct fees of \$9,951 and \$8,702 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, were deducted from participant accounts to pay for investment advisory fees and are included with recordkeeping fees of \$23,676 and \$21,332, respectively, as administrative expenses in the accompanying statements of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Vesting - Participants are vested immediately in their individual contributions and the College's employer matching contributions, plus actual earnings thereon.

Payment of benefits - On termination of service, death, disability, or retirement, a participant may elect to receive a distribution of his or her accumulated Plan balance, subject to the terms of the funding vehicle. Distribution options include lump-sum payments, partial payments, installment payments, or annuity contracts. If a terminated participant's vested balance is less than or equal to \$5,000, the amount may be automatically distributed in the form of a lump sum direct rollover to an individual retirement plan (IRA) designated by Plan administrator. In addition, the Plan allows for hardship distributions if certain criteria are met.

Other income - Other income consists of unallocated funds paid to the Plan from fund companies for revenue sharing payments.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting - The accompanying financial statements have been prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). Accordingly, additions are included in the year in which they are collected and deductions are included in the year in which they are disbursed; however, earnings on investments include adjustments to fair value.

Use of estimates - The preparation of financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment valuation and income recognition - Investments are reported at fair value (except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value). Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisers, custodians and insurance company, as applicable. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Lincoln Stable Value Account and certain TIAA Traditional Annuity contract types including the Supplemental Retirement Annuities (SRA) and the Group Supplemental Retirement Annuity (GSRA), are considered fully benefit-responsive and contract value approximates fair value for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. See Note 5 for further discussion of the TIAA Traditional Annuity and Lincoln Stable Value Account.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded when received. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. Summary of Accounting Policies (continued)

Unit values - Individual participant accounts for the variable annuity contracts and pooled separate accounts are maintained on a unit value basis. Participants do not have beneficial ownership in the specific underlying securities or other assets in the funds but do have an interest therein represented by units valued daily. The funds earn dividends and interest which are automatically reinvested in additional units. Generally, contributions to and withdrawals from the funds are converted to units by dividing the amounts of such transactions by the unit values as last determined, and the participants' accounts are charged or credited with the number of units properly attributable to each participant.

Payment of benefits - Benefits are recorded when paid. There were no benefits requested before year end that were not paid.

Administrative expenses - Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the College. Expenses that are paid by the College are excluded from these modified cash basis financial statements. Fees specific to participant transactions are charged against that participant's account balance and are included in administrative expenses. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments. Investment advisory and recordkeeping fees are charged to participant accounts as applicable and also included in administrative expenses.

Subsequent events - The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through the date of this report, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No significant items were noted during this evaluation that would require additional disclosure in the financial statements or accompanying footnotes.

3. Information Certified by Custodians

The plan administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA), a recordkeeper of the Plan as an agent for TIAA and College Retirement Equities Fund (CREF), and Lincoln Financial Group Trust Company (Lincoln Financial) are the custodians of the Plan.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

3. Information Certified by Custodians (continued)

Respectively, the custodians have certified to the completeness and accuracy of all investments reported in the accompanying Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits—Modified Cash Basis as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the supplemental Schedule H, Line 4(i) - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2024, and the related investment activity reported in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits—Modified Cash Basis for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Accordingly, TIAA-CREF and Lincoln Financial have certified that the following data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule is complete and accurate with respect to investments:

- Investments, at fair value
- Investments, at contract value
- Net appreciation in fair value of investments
- Interest and dividends
- Schedule of assets (held at end of year) - modified cash basis

The Plan's independent auditor did not perform auditing procedures with respect to his information, except for comparing such information to the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule.

4. Fair Value Measurements

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurement*, are described as follows:

Level 1 - Inputs to the valuation technique are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 - Inputs to the valuation technique include:

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

- quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 - Inputs to the valuation technique are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation techniques used for assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits - modified cash basis. There have been no significant changes in the techniques used during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the U.S Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded (Level 1).

Variable annuity contracts: The College Retirement Equities Fund (CREF) accounts invest principally in equity securities, fixed-income instruments, and short-term investments in accordance with each portfolio's investment objectives. Account investments are primarily valued using market quotations or prices obtained from independent pricing sources that may employ various pricing methods to value the investments including matrix pricing. The fair values of accumulation units are based on each account's daily NAV, which is considered by Plan management to be the best approximation of fair value. CREF Money Market Account holdings are generally valued at amortized cost. There are no unfunded commitments or significant redemption restrictions.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

TIAA Access is a variable annuity product that is funded through TIAA Separate Account VA-3, a separate investment account of TIAA registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. VA-3 invests in proprietary and nonproprietary mutual funds through various subaccounts which include fixed income funds, equity funds and target retirement date funds. Subaccount unit values are calculated based on the daily NAV.

Pooled separate accounts: The fair value of the Plan's interest in the TIAA Real Estate Account is based on the fund's daily NAV, which is considered by Plan management to be the best approximation of fair value. The unit value of the fund is calculated daily and available to Plan administrators and client investors on TIAA's website. Underlying holdings are primarily valued using independent appraisals or independent pricing sources. Although the underlying assets of the fund cannot be quickly sold and converted to liquid assets, the TIAA general account provides the fund with a liquidity guarantee whereby TIAA ensures that the fund has funds available to meet participant redemption, transfer or cash withdrawal requests. There are no unfunded commitments from participants in the Plan who invest in this account.

Fixed annuity contracts: The Lincoln Stable Value Account and TIAA Traditional Fixed Annuity contracts are individual guaranteed investment contracts issued by TIAA and Lincoln Financial and backed by their claims-paying ability. These contracts are considered to be non-benefit responsive, except for the Lincoln Stable Value Account and a portion of the TIAA Traditional Fixed Annuity which are considered to be fully benefit responsive and not reported in the fair value hierarchy (see Note 5 for further explanation). The non-benefit responsive fixed annuity contracts are reported at fair value on the statements of net assets available for benefits - modified cash basis. Plan management has determined the most reasonable estimate of fair value to be contract value. The fair values of the Plan's investment contracts are estimated by discounting the projected cash flows based upon current yields for contracts with comparable durations and credit quality of the issuers. The contract values are guaranteed by TIAA and Lincoln Financial and reflect the exit value available to the Plan and Plan participants. Based upon recent credit ratings for TIAA and Lincoln Financial, management believes no adjustment to contract or market value is required related to credit quality. While transactions involving the purchases and sales of individual fixed annuity contracts are not observable in a public marketplace, contract value has historically provided a good approximation of fair value. These non-benefit responsive fixed annuity contracts are reported as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of the net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments recognized in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits - modified cash basis measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively:

Investments at fair value as of December 31, 2024				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Fixed annuity contracts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,056,321	\$ 3,056,321
Mutual funds	4,080,312	-	-	4,080,312
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	\$ 4,080,312	\$ -	\$ 3,056,321	\$ 7,136,633
Investments measured at net asset value*				
Variable annuity contracts				5,652,185
Pooled separate accounts				154,913
Investments at fair value				\$ 12,943,731

Investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Fixed annuity contracts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,274,520	\$ 3,274,520
Mutual funds	3,491,715	-	-	\$ 3,491,715
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	\$ 3,491,715	\$ -	\$ 3,274,520	\$ 6,766,235
Investments measured at net asset value*				
Variable annuity contracts				5,096,682
Pooled separate accounts				184,198
Investments at fair value				\$ 12,047,115

* In accordance with FASB ASC 820, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits - modified cash basis.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Changes in Fair Value of Level 3 Assets

The following table sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan's level 3 investments for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 3,274,520	\$ 3,279,249
Investment income	150,017	160,065
Purchases and issuances	153,419	133,913
Settlements	(521,635)	(298,707)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 3,056,321</u>	<u>\$ 3,274,520</u>

Quantitative Information about Significant Unobservable Inputs Used in Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

The following table presents the Plan's Level 3 financial instruments, the valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of those financial instruments as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the significant unobservable inputs and the range of values for those inputs.

Instruments	Fair Value		Principal Valuation	Unobservable Inputs	Range of Significant Input Values
	As of December 31, 2024	2023			
TIAA Traditional Fixed Annuity Contracts	\$3,056,321	\$3,274,520	Discounted cash flow	Risk-adjusted discount rate applied*	RA - 3.65% - 6.50% SRA - 3.00% - 5.75% GRA - 3.65% - 6.50% GSRA - 3.00% - 5.75% RC - 3.90% - 6.75% RCP - 3.15% - 6.00%
			Theoretical transfer (exit value)		

* Unobservable inputs include discount rate applied.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

Fair Value of Investments that Calculate Net Asset Value

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on net asset value (NAVs) per share practical expedient as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. There are no participant redemption restrictions for these investments; the redemption notice period is applicable only to the Plan.

December 31, 2024:				
Investment	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
CREF Variable Annuities	\$5,423,982	NA	Daily	One day notice
TIAA Variable Annuities	228,203	NA	Daily	One day notice
TIAA Real Estate Pooled Separate Account	154,913	NA	Daily	One day notice
December 31, 2023:				
Investment	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
CREF Variable Annuities	\$4,869,383	NA	Daily	One day notice
TIAA Variable Annuities	227,299	NA	Daily	One day notice
TIAA Real Estate Pooled Separate Account	184,198	NA	Daily	One day notice

5. Guaranteed Investment Contracts

TIAA Traditional Fixed Annuity Contracts account and Lincoln Stable Value account balances are reported at contract value. Contract value is the aggregation of contributions, plus interest, less withdrawals, if any. Crediting rates are a combination of a guaranteed rate and an annually established discretionary rate. Additionally, the discretionary rate applied to contributions received during a reporting period may vary from the discretionary rate applied to account balances at the end of the prior reporting period. Contract value has been determined to be a close approximation of fair value. Contract value approximates a discounted cash flow value calculated using an appropriate risk-adjusted market discount rate which correlates closely with TIAA Traditional Annuity and Lincoln Financial historical credit rates, respectively.

The Plan offers the option to invest in guaranteed investment contracts with TIAA and Lincoln Financial. TIAA and Lincoln Financial maintain the contributions in a general account. The account is credited with earnings based on a guaranteed rate of return determined by TIAA and Lincoln Financial, respectively. The guaranteed investment contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

5. Guaranteed Investment Contracts (continued)

TIAA Traditional Fixed Annuity Contracts are offered through a variety of contracts, including Retirement Annuities (RAs), Group Retirement Annuities (GRAs), Supplemental Retirement Annuities (SRAs), Group Supplemental Retirement Annuities (GSRA), Retirement Choice (RC) and Retirement Choice Plus (RCP) annuities. The TIAA RA, GRA, RC, and RCP contracts have liquidity restrictions, are non-benefit responsive, and are reported as investments, at fair value on the statements of net assets available for benefits - modified cash basis. Distributions, withdrawals, and transfers out of these contracts can only be made in ten annual installments. The GSRA and SRA contracts contain no liquidity restrictions and are fully benefit responsive as contemplated by FASB ASC 962-325-35-5. The Lincoln Stable Value Account is also considered fully benefit responsive. The contract values of the fully benefit responsive contracts were \$314,182 and \$320,368 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and are reported as investments, at contract value on the statements of net assets available for benefits - modified cash basis.

Contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits attributable to fully benefit responsive investment contracts. Contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Investments in the RA, GRA and RC contracts, and the Lincoln Stable Value Account do not require an adjustment since contract value is the best approximation of fair value.

There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise. The credit interest rate is based on a formula agreed upon by the issuer, which will not be less than zero percent. Such interest rates are reviewed on an annual basis for resetting.

The Plan's ability to receive amounts due is dependent on the issuer's ability to meet its financial obligations. The issuer's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments.

Certain events might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. These events may be different under each contract. Such events include:

1. Amendments to the Plan documents (including complete or partial Plan termination or merger with another plan);

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan

Notes to the Financial Statements

5. Guaranteed Investment Contracts (continued)

2. Changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions;
3. Bankruptcy of the Plan sponsor or other Plan sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan;
4. The failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA; or,
5. Premature termination of the contract.

No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuers that also would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

The guaranteed investment contract does not permit the insurance company to terminate the agreement prior to the scheduled maturity date.

6. Related-Party and Party In Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are units of fixed and variable annuity accounts or pooled separate accounts that are managed by an entity related to TIAA or Lincoln Financial, which are the Custodians for the Plan. The Plan's traditional annuity contract is maintained in TIAA's general account. Fees paid by the Plan for the investment management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment (see Note 1).

The Plan made direct payments to the recordkeeper and investment advisor of \$33,627 and \$30,034 for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, which were not covered by revenue sharing and are considered to be party-in-interest transactions under ERISA. The College pays directly any other fees related to the Plan's operations.

7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the College has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

Sterling College Defined Contribution Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements

8. Tax Status

The Plan adopted a volume submitter plan offered by Lincoln Retirement Services Company LLC stating that the written form of the underlying specimen plan is qualified under Section 403(b) of the IRC. The volume submitter plan received an IRS Advisory Letter dated March 31, 2017, that the Plan is designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the IRS Advisory Letter, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed, and is currently being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and, therefore believes that the Plan is qualified, and the related custodial accounts and tax-deferred annuities are tax exempt.

Plan management is required to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Services (IRS). The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress (2021 and after).

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits - modified cash basis.

10. Other Matter

The Plan is in the process of submitting additional data to assist in completing non-discrimination testing for the Plan year 2024. By providing the additional data, Lincoln Financial has indicated the Plan should pass the outstanding 410(b) test. However, if the additional data is not complete, the Plan may need to provide for a Qualified Nonelective Contribution, which if needed, is estimated not to exceed \$1,000. This amount is considered to be immaterial to the financial statements as of December 31, 2024 and has not been accrued. Management expects the Plan to remain in compliance with the minimum coverage non-discrimination requirements.

Supplemental Schedule

STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) -
MODIFIED CASH BASIS
DECEMBER 31, 2024

EIN: 48-0543728
Plan Number: 001

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment		Cost	Current Value
Fixed Annuity Contracts				
*	TIAA-CREF	TIAA Traditional Fixed Annuity Non Benefit Responsive	(1)	\$ 3,056,321
*	TIAA-CREF	TIAA Traditional Fixed Annuity Benefit Responsive (at contract value)	(1)	63,760
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Stable Value Account (at contract value)	(1)	250,422
	Total Fixed Annuity Contracts			<u>3,370,503</u>
Pooled Separate Accounts				
*	TIAA-CREF	TIAA Real Estate	(1)	<u>154,913</u>
Variable Annuities				
*	CREF	CREF Stock	(1)	2,584,333
*	CREF	CREF Money Market	(1)	209,837
*	CREF	CREF Core Bond R1	(1)	134,570
*	CREF	CREF Social Choice	(1)	121,453
*	CREF	CREF Global Equities	(1)	509,496
*	CREF	CFEF Growth	(1)	1,021,235
*	CREF	CREF Equity Index	(1)	760,720
*	CREF	CREF Inflation-Linked Bond	(1)	82,338
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Core Bond Plus	(1)	3,338
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Equity Index	(1)	5
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Core Equity	(1)	8,414
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen International Equity	(1)	22,881
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle Retirement Income	(1)	12
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle Retirement Income	(1)	2
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Large-Cap Growth	(1)	6,540
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Large-Cap Value	(1)	17,114
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2010	(1)	2
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2015	(1)	2
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2020	(1)	2
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2025	(1)	2
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2030	(1)	17,405
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2035	(1)	65,400
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2040	(1)	1,768
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2045	(1)	2,278
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Lifecycle 2050	(1)	3,837
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Mid-Cap Growth	(1)	14,385
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Mid-Cap Value	(1)	7,735
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Real Estate Securities	(1)	12,163
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Small-Cap Blend Index	(1)	14,638
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Quant Small-Cap Equity	(1)	15,298
*	TIAA	TIAA Access Nuveen Large Cap Res Equity	(1)	14,982
	Total Variable Annuities			<u>5,652,185</u>
Mutual Funds				
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2020 Institutional	(1)	31,318
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2025 Institutional	(1)	533,867
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2030 Institutional	(1)	513,910
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2035 Institutional	(1)	204,668
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2040 Institutional	(1)	873,767
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2045 Institutional	(1)	414,032
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2050 Institutional	(1)	328,940
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2055 Institutional	(1)	329,908
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2060 Institutional	(1)	152,422
*	TIAA	Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2065 Institutional	(1)	2,518
*	Lincoln Financial Group	American Funds EuroPacific Growth	(1)	85,395
*	Lincoln Financial Group	American Funds New World	(1)	28,753
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Cohen & Steers Real Est Sec Z	(1)	28,124
*	Lincoln Financial Group	DFA Inflation ProtSec	(1)	3,282
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Dodge & Cox Stock Class X	(1)	5,730

STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) -
MODIFIED CASH BASIS (CONTINUED)

DECEMBER 31, 2024

EIN: 48-0543728
Plan Number: 001

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value	
Mutual Funds (continued)				
*	Lincoln Financial Group	MFS Growth	(1)	15,263
*	Lincoln Financial Group	MFS Mid-Cap Growth	(1)	20,108
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Parnassus Core Equity Institutional	(1)	18,528
*	Lincoln Financial Group	PGIM Total Return Bond R6	(1)	14,689
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Undiscovered Managers Behavioral Value	(1)	53,159
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Vanguard 500 Index Fund Admiral	(1)	251,154
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Admiral	(1)	20,251
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Admiral	(1)	55,486
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Admiral	(1)	37,676
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Victory Sycamore Established Value Fund Institutional	(1)	37,047
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Wasatch Core Growth Fund Inst	(1)	20,317
	Total Mutual Funds			<u>4,080,312</u>
	Total Investments			<u>\$ 13,257,913</u>

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA

(1) Cost information may be omitted for plan assets which are participant-directed.

STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) -
MODIFIED CASH BASIS
DECEMBER 31, 2024

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Plan Number: 001

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*	Lincoln Financial Group	DFA Inflation ProtSec	(1)	3,282
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Dodge & Cox Stock Class X	(1)	5,730

STERLING COLLEGE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN
SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) -
MODIFIED CASH BASIS (CONTINUED)

DECEMBER 31, 2024

EIN: 48-0543728
Plan Number: 001

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
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*	Lincoln Financial Group	MFS Mid-Cap Growth	(1)	20,108
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Parnassus Core Equity Institutional	(1)	18,528
*	Lincoln Financial Group	PGIM Total Return Bond R6	(1)	14,689
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*	Lincoln Financial Group	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Admiral	(1)	55,486
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Vanguard Total International Stock Index Fund Admiral	(1)	37,676
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Victory Sycamore Established Value Fund Institutional	(1)	37,047
*	Lincoln Financial Group	Wasatch Core Growth Fund Inst	(1)	20,317
	Total Mutual Funds			<u>4,080,312</u>
	Total Investments			<u>\$ 13,257,913</u>

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA

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