

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Feb.
2020

One of the most admirable characteristics of Millersville University is our strong sense of community. I felt this during my first visit to campus and this feeling hasn't changed after almost two years.

A community is a group of people with a common purpose and values. Our common purpose, no matter where you serve on campus or at what level of the organization, is to serve our students to the best of our ability.

Unfortunately, communities such as ours occasionally face tragedy and sadness. Our Marauder family experienced such sorrow last week with the passing of Huong So, a 24-year-old sophomore majoring in business administration. She was a friendly and talented student whom I was fortunate to know through her work in dining services. We go forward this semester with a remembrance of her spirit and a rededication to all of our students.

In this edition of my newsletter, I focus on several aspects of our community. We showcase the hard work of our students, faculty, and staff that culminated in our campus being selected to receive the 2020 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. And we highlight one of our community-engaged faculty members, Dr. Carrie Smith, an associate professor of sociology, who epitomizes community service with her recent election to the Millersville Borough Council.

Inclusion is one of our community's EPPIC values, and the celebration of Black Heritage Month recognizes the culture, heritage and experiences of the black community with a wide variety of programs. In the past few days, I have had the pleasure of attending the inaugural Black Excellence Ball and the Carter G. Woodson Lecture.

Finally, I encourage all of you to participate in our One Day Give tomorrow, February 27. Every gift goes a long way to support our students. Together, let's make this a great day of philanthropy for our community.

PRESTIGIOUS CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLASSIFICATION

Thanks to the hard work of our staff and faculty, Millersville University has been selected to receive the 2020 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. The reclassification highlights our focus on students. Working with faculty on community-based research, service-learning, and volunteerism deepens students' understanding and academic preparation.

Though there are many examples of how Millersville meets the requirements of our reclassification, let me share a few. The University's involvement as a community partner in the Southwest Lancaster Neighborhood Revitalization initiative, as well as collaborations with the School District of Lancaster and with the United Way of Lancaster's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, show our engagement.

We earned our initial classification in 2010 and needed to participate in the re-classification process in the 2020 cycle. This new classification is valid until 2026.

A special thanks to Dr. Lisa Shibley, assistant vice president of institutional assessment and planning, and Dr. James Delle, associate provost, who oversaw work on the application. Also assisting on the application were Melissa Wardwell, Tom Richardson, Lori Leaman, Hope Schmids and Drs. Lawrence Adams, Mary Glazier, Duane Hagelgans and Karen Rice.

DR. CARRIE SMITH NAMED MILLERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Our EPPIC value of public mission calls upon us to respond to urgent and emerging needs of our growing regional, urban and metropolitan communities. Dr. Carrie Smith, an associate professor of sociology at Millersville, epitomizes that value with her service to the Millersville Borough Council.

After a lot of hard work, Dr. Smith was one of the top vote-getters for Millersville Borough Council in November's election. And, she was elected by her peers as the borough council's president. She chaired her first meeting last month and continues to find ways to improve our community.

Dr. Smith moved to the United States from her native Singapore when she was 16 years old. She attended the University of California at Santa Cruz and earned her master's and doctorate from Vanderbilt University. In 2002, she joined the faculty at Millersville University. In addition, Dr. Smith serves on numerous non-profit boards in the area, including Ambassadors for Hope, Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation and the Edward Hand Medical Museum.

Dr. Smith serves as an important figure in our community, and she will assist us in keeping the lines of communication open between the Borough and the University.

STEINWAY ARTIST & TOUR

There are only about 1,800 pianists in the world who are certified as official Steinway Artists and we are lucky to have one on our faculty at Millersville University. Dr. Xun Pan of the Tell School of Music received the honor while touring in China at the end of 2019.

It's exactly this kind of prestige that so many of our faculty members bring to our classrooms as they teach and mentor our students. Our music students benefit from Dr. Pan's vast experience and expertise, and he further enriches our campus community by talking about Millersville University wherever he goes as a performer and visiting professor.

I encourage everyone to hear Dr. Pan perform on one of the stops of his current tour. To honor Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday, he will perform all of the composer's 32 piano sonatas, 10 piano and violin sonatas, five piano and cello sonatas and three variations. The tour will take him around the world—to Europe, North and South America, New Zealand and China. He will perform at the Ware Center on Feb. 29, and I hope many of you can make it.

BLACK HISTORY/HERITAGE MONTH

Black History/Heritage Month is underway at Millersville University with more than 30 events to recognize the culture, heritage, and experiences of the black community. I hope you have stopped by one of the countless film showings, game nights, and discussions that have happened throughout February. Just this past weekend, the University hosted our inaugural Black Excellence Ball in the Bolger Conference Center where students dressed up and were able to celebrate Black Heritage Month in style.

Inclusion is an important part of our EPPIIC Values, and one of my highest priorities is to create a campus community where differences are welcomed and respected. Celebrations like Black Heritage Month help advance that goal, and it is important for us as a community to participate for solidarity and understanding.

The month isn't over yet. There are a lot more events planned! Don't miss a viewing of the new film, "Harriet", tonight at 7 p.m. in the Student Memorial Center. Tomorrow, a group of students will travel to Washington, D.C. to visit the National African American History and Culture Museum, which promises to be a great learning experience. It's a busy week and you can choose from [Black History/Heritage Month events](#) as well as from [all events](#) at the 'Ville.

PRESIDENT'S STUDENT HOUR

Finding out what's on the hearts of students is important to me as president. I enjoy talking with students on my way to meetings as I walk across our beautiful campus. From a simple acknowledgement that their classes are going well to seeing if they have attended a recent basketball game or other event on campus, I want to know what is happening in the life of our students.

I recognize that I can't talk to everyone, so to make myself more accessible, I have set up the "[President's Student Hour](https://www.millersville.edu/president/student-hour.php)." It is an opportunity for students to speak directly with me about campus issues. Up to nine slots are available on each date for students to attend and join the conversation about their experiences and our campus environment. Students can sign up online at <https://www.millersville.edu/president/student-hour.php>.

All sessions are from noon to 1 p.m. in the Biemesderfer Executive Center, President's Office.

Please encourage students to sign up for these important sessions.

ONE DAY GIVE – FEBRUARY 27

What do you love about Millersville? For me, the list is long. There are so many exciting and important things happening on campus, and so much of that is made possible by the generous support of our donors.

I encourage all of you to "give to what you love" during the [seventh annual One Day Give](#) tomorrow, Feb. 27. Whether that's an academic program, a sports team, a club or organization, or something else that might interest you, making a gift is a great way to support these aspects of our University that have made a difference.

This year's event is shaping up to be bigger and better than any before it. Students, every gift you make during the event will be matched by Student Services, Inc. Your generous \$5 gift could turn into \$10 to support student initiatives! For the second year in a row, all employees who make a gift of \$20 or more will receive a pair of Millersville argyle socks. I wear mine often! Additionally, our athletics teams will be going head-to-head in a giving competition throughout the day. Follow their progress on the [Athletics Giving Leaderboard](#). Next year, I expect the student clubs to have a similar friendly competition to support our University.

Tomorrow, I encourage you to follow the University on social media and check in regularly with the One Day Give webpage to track our status and see what's going on. There are a record 18 challenges happening throughout the day. Your gift could be matched, or you could direct challenge funds to whatever you love most at Millersville. Make a gift and tell us

what you love using the hashtag #VilleOneDayGive on social media! I'm excited to see all of the things that matter to you!