

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

October
2018



On the first day of this fall semester when I stepped out of Tanger House, I felt a whiff of fresh air - from the waning days of summer - across my face as the bright sun peered behind the clouds on the horizon. I smiled when I saw the black and gold fire hydrant adjacent to Boyer Hall on the other side of the rugby practice field. Little did I know that I was going to experience authentic Marauder hospitality that day. Just after crossing the bridge from Tanger House, I saw a hearty greeting directed at me that was written with colored chalk on the ground. From that point on, there was an inscription every few steps welcoming my family and me to Millersville. These chalk signs continued all the way around the pond past Wickersham Hall to the Biemesderfer Executive Center! That was a special treat that I will never forget. My thanks to the welcoming committee and we should all strive to further their work.

Fast forward a month later, we are now returning from Fall break. So, what happened in between? I can think of several exciting things that have happened. Classes started with zeal and I have enjoyed meeting and greeting our students as they traverse the campus. I have attended several events on and off campus, hosted a few groups at Tanger House, participated in the United Way Day of Caring, met a lot of outstanding people who are dedicated to our university, and watched our athletes compete. Overall, I can't believe I am into my fourth month already. I am inspired by our students, faculty and staff.

I am pleased to report that we are making progress on filling two key leadership posts on campus. The search committee for the chief diversity officer has narrowed the pool of candidates and will begin their next round of information gathering and candidate screening shortly. In addition, I will soon finalize the search committee for our next vice president for advancement. I encourage you to participate in the open forums and provide feedback on these important searches.

As part of my acculturation process, I announced a Listening Tour during the State of the University address. One of the most common answers to the question about how we can improve our institution has been COMMUNICATION. This newsletter is the first in a series that I will send out monthly to provide updates on what's happening on our campus.

LISTENING TOURS

As announced in my State of the University address, I am in the process of conducting an aggressive schedule of 40 Presidential Listening Tour meetings and have completed 25 events to date. I have met with students, alumni, faculty, staff and others to uncover the perceived strengths, areas of improvement and aspirations of our constituents. While the dates for the Listening Tour can be found on the Office of the President's website, I encourage all Marauders to visit the [online portal](#) and offer their feedback as well.

A summary of what has been shared so far can be found on my Listening Tour webpage. In the upcoming weeks, I will continue to share findings as well as some of the progress undertaken to resolve problems and challenges that have been uncovered during my visits. | [View Listening Tour Findings](#)

ENROLLMENT UPDATE

I am pleased to report that this fall's first year class shows great promise. Approximately 1,380 freshmen and 500 transfer students joined us this semester. The average GPA for this freshmen class is 3.41, and the average SAT total increased by 16 points to 1079. This class includes nine high school valedictorians and our Honors College enrollment is among the strongest on record.

As part of our strategic efforts, we welcomed 29 international students – up from 11 a year ago, and our out-of-state freshmen enrollment has gone from 156 students to 188 students. I am confident that our international enrollments will continue to grow in coming years as several new initiatives begin to produce positive outcomes.

In terms of overall fall enrollment, our undergraduate enrollment on census date was virtually the same as last fall and stands at 6,779 students. A slightly higher number of our undergraduate students are studying part-time this fall as compared to last fall. On a positive note, graduate enrollment showed a small increase and crossed the 1,000 student threshold to 1,002, up from 970 last fall. | [Read 2018-19 Fact Book](#)

CHANCELLOR'S VISIT

We welcomed the new Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to our campus on September 18. Millersville was the first campus that he visited on his tour of the system and his day included meetings with students, faculty, staff, trustees and administrators. I found Chancellor Dan Greenstein to be very approachable and energetic and was enlightened by our conversations. I encourage all campus community members to read the Chancellor's Blog and learn more about his initial campus visits. | [Visit the Chancellor's Blog](#)

INTEGRATED STUDIES

Our Integrated Studies program, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Neuville, is emerging as a unique signature program on campus. On September 24, we awarded our first certificates to several students who successfully completed the program. This program offers students with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in a 2 or 4-year inclusive post-secondary experience. Students are fully immersed in the Millersville campus through engaging academics, career exploration and building relationships.

On a related note, Millersville was proud to co-host an important one-day conference to commemorate important milestones in disability rights in Pennsylvania on September 28. Our partners included the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance, The Arc of Pennsylvania and other disability advocacy organizations. Over 150 prominent advocates, policymakers, scholars and our students participated in this

historic event. | [Certificates signed by President Wubah](#)

DAY OF CARING

On Saturday, September 8, more than 300 Millersville University students, staff and faculty members participated in the 2018 United Way of Lancaster's "Day of Caring." Under the direction of our team from the Office of Experiential Learning and Career Management, the volunteers provided service to 16 different projects and community partner organizations. They completed community gardening and landscaping work, historic property restoration, meadow trail conservation, and cleaning and beautification of parks, playgrounds and education centers. The group was comprised of 15 UNIV 103 courses and the University Honors College, marking the 17th consecutive year of involvement in the United Way program. I had the pleasure of welcoming the students at 7:45 a.m. to help set the stage for the day and engaged with them on several work sites. I came away very impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the groups. I look forward to efforts next year to extend this program to a larger number of faculty, staff and students. | [Learn about volunteer opportunities](#)

POSITIVE ENERGY FUND

As most of you are aware, our [Lombardo Welcome Center](#) is one of only a handful of zero-energy buildings in North America. In its first months of existence, this positive energy facility has produced three-times more energy than it has consumed. Inspired by this performance, I am pleased to announce that effective this spring we will establish a Positive Energy Fund program. This program will provide grants to faculty and students to carry out projects that will contribute positively to our community and beyond. The utility rebates from the zero-energy building will be used to power the human energy of our students; inspiring them to create a positive, sustainable future aligned with the U.N. development goals. I encourage all members of our campus community to visit the Lombardo Welcome Center this fall to learn more about Millersville's leading-edge commitment to sustainability and emerging energy technologies. | [Read about campus sustainability](#)

CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

As the weather begins to cool and we ease into the fall season, our campus has begun welcoming hundreds of prospective students and their families on Saturday mornings. We have come to learn through our Listening Tour sessions that our beautiful campus is high on the list of what makes Millersville so special. As fall plantings bloom and the leaves start turning to shades of yellow, orange and red, I am enthralled each and every day at how gorgeous our campus grounds are and thankful for the efforts of the team in Finance and Administration that maintain our surroundings.