

Millersville University

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Jan.  
2023

Dear Millersville University community,

Welcome back to the start of the Spring 2023 semester. I am impressed that our campus has sprung back to life with renewed energy and excitement within a short time.

During the holidays, I represented Millersville University on two international trips to Ghana and India. Both trips provided opportunities to build strong relationships with higher education institutions seeking to partner with our University. Last month, I visited the Vice-Chancellor (equivalent to university president) of the University of Cape Coast to solidify plans for upcoming academic partnerships. Earlier this month, I traveled to India as a member of a PASSHE delegation invited by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council. Karnataka is a state in the southwestern region of India. During this trip, I signed a letter of intent to explore academic partnerships with Visvesvaraya Technological University, the highest-ranked engineering university in the state, with an enrollment of about 400,000 students. Since my return, the Provost and I have started discussing how these new partnerships would develop and positively impact our campus community.

With the international travel behind me, I look forward to celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Intercultural Center for Student Engagement today, Monday, Jan. 30, with an Open House from noon – 2 p.m. The Center was named in honor of the late Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El, our beloved faculty colleague and lifelong champion for social justice.

In March, the President's Commission on the Status of Women will hold two events to celebrate International Women's Day. On March 2, there will be a student celebration in the SMC, and on March 8, the annual International Women's Day Theodora Talks will be held at the Ware Center.

In this edition of my newsletter, you can read more about the progress of our Open Educational Resources initiative. As described in direction 1 of our Strategic Plan, providing access and affordability are two of our top priorities. Using OER contributes to accomplishing this goal by decreasing the cost of textbooks for our students. Likewise, new dual enrollment opportunities provide access to future college-bound students, and you can learn more

about our program in Entrepreneurship. We complete this edition with an update on the new medical office building off Shenks Lane and the winning spirit of our Ice Hockey club teams.

I am looking forward to another productive semester with alacrity—my best wishes for a great spring semester.

Kind regards,

Daniel A. Wubah  
University President

## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES LOWERS COSTS FOR 'VILLE STUDENTS



Open Educational Resources is an academic movement that promotes free and open educational materials that students can access in their coursework. Several Millersville University faculty members have been implementing these materials into their coursework. Over 20,000 students have benefited from using these free resources, and the initiative has saved students well over \$1 million.

Beginning in 2019, the [Open Education Working Group](#) helped University faculty transition from commercial textbooks to open educational resources available to their students for free.

OER and Zero Textbook Cost resources include free textbooks and encourage students to engage with more library resources, like journal databases and other publicly published materials. OER also promotes and creates equal access to education by reducing costs and ensuring that each student begins class with the materials needed on day one of their course.

"The goal with this program is to support faculty reducing the cost of attendance," Dr. A Nicole Pfannenstiel, associate professor and coordinator of the Center for Academic Excellence, explains. "More importantly, OER adoption leads to increased access to materials. Students begin class with immediate, free access to textbooks."

"As we transitioned into the pandemic, the Department of Education and other large educational organizations realized the value of open educational materials," she continues.

"Because of our years of work with OER, Millersville faculty were uniquely situated to apply for and earn these grants."

Several faculty members have published OER materials themselves. The Vilas A. Prabhu Center for Academic Excellence continues to launch other initiatives to support the adoption of OER, in addition to helping faculty publish, create and share student-centered course materials, syllabi and assignments. Providing workshops and training encourages other faculty members to adopt OER and improve how they utilize the resources in the classroom.

[The Center for Academic Excellence](#) supports the University's involvement in this academic movement, as Dr. Vilas A. Prabhu was instrumental in the Open Educational Resources adoption project, the Open Textbook Initiative, during his time at MU.

"Faculty I've worked with who adopt OER want their students to be successful, and in every class I adopt OER, I want my students to be successful. I'm happy I can save them money, but I adopt Open because I want my students to succeed!"

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM WITH LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Students at Lancaster Catholic High School had the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship at the college level with [Dr. Christopher McGrath](#), a Communication and Theatre professor here, through a dual enrollment program with Millersville University. This year, the students completed a "Shark Tank" style project to present to judges at the end of the course.



The dual enrollment program began six years ago when LCHS contacted MU to gauge their interest in participating. McGrath explains what inspired him to take the opportunity to teach local high school students. "I enjoy teaching various formats and at different age levels. It has been a rewarding experience helping students to learn more about starting their businesses. I have been teaching the program since 2020."

The "Shark Tank" style project allowed the students to think critically about their business as if it was a real proposal. Students were instructed to create a business concept and research it in several areas, including their target market, the finances needed, and how the business would run from an operational standpoint. The students submitted a business plan and

PowerPoint presentation to present in front of their peers and a panel of alumni judges. The winning team was picked based on preparedness and was congratulated with a prize.

There are two classes the students take in the program. The first class teaches the basics of entrepreneurship and how to apply it to create a business and business plan from scratch. The second is a hands-on course where students take their knowledge from the first class and apply it to social entrepreneurship. Here, students work in teams to develop a community symposium event. Last year, the symposium event shed light on how businesses got through the COVID-19 pandemic. McGrath notes that students gain much from the two classes, including team-building skills, collaboration, communication and dealing with change and conflict.

McGrath explains how beneficial the program will be to the students in their future college careers. "Students will learn firsthand what a college course is all about and then apply this knowledge after taking my class to start a business in the future. Even if they do not plan to start their own business, they know how to start a small hobby. They learn marketing, finance, accounting, leadership and management skills. Individuals become independent and channel their creativity into creating something of their own in this competitive world."

Millersville University currently has 24 dual enrollment partnerships with local high schools.

## NEW MEDICAL SERVICES BUILDING ADJACENT TO CAMPUS



Student Lodging, Inc., and Penn State Health Medical Group are partnering on a medical office building that is now under construction near the Millersville University campus. SLI, which is affiliated with Millersville University, started construction on the building over Winter Break.

The 11,000-square-foot medical office building on SLI property will be located just off Shenks Lane. It is scheduled to be completed by December 2023.

Geoffrey Beers, the CEO of Student Services, Inc. and SLI, says the project will allow Penn State Health Medical Group to move its current practice on Manor Avenue in Millersville to a new and more modern facility. "The project will provide walking distance access to the Penn State Health network of services. It will benefit both the Millersville Borough and Millersville University communities," says Beers.

The campus community should note that the parking area outside the construction fence is now reserved for vehicles with an SLI resident parking permit. There are signs indicating which lots are not available for open parking.

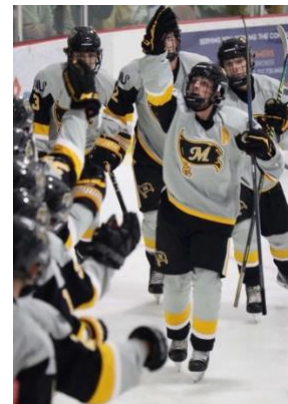
A reminder that the large parking lots, including the Prince Street Garage, the lower level of the Pucillo Garage and the Jefferson parking lot, are mostly vacant during peak commuter hours. And there is a free shuttle bus that stops at the parking lots, academic buildings and residence halls.

While there will be new traffic patterns within the impacted parking lot, University Drive will remain open throughout the project except for the week of Jan. 23, when sewer line work needs to be completed within the street. These dates will be communicated to SLI residents and the greater University Community once they are finalized.

## ICE HOCKEY UPDATE

Intramural Sports serve as an integral part of college campus life. Our Ice hockey teams are among the most active. Judith and I have been out to their home ice at Lancaster Ice Rink several times, and I had the honor of dropping the opening puck this season.

The D2 Ice Hockey team at Millersville University is currently 12-2-1. The leading goal scorer is Cole McCulley, with a remarkable 42 points in 15 games this season. The team finished the Fall 2022 semester with multiple special event nights: Military Appreciation Night, Homecoming and a Youth Night. The team has been spectacular on their home ice this season, only losing one league game. We hope to see the 'Ville community come out to Senior Night on February 4th.



The D3 Ice Hockey Team at Millersville University is off to a 4-8-1 start in only their second season of play. Senior Forward Alex Edelberg paces the club with an impressive 36 points in only 13 games this season. The D3 team's comeback story of the season as of now was their amazing 8-7 comeback victory against Johns Hopkins during their opening weekend. The club is looking forward to recognizing its seniors on February 18th at Lancaster Ice Rink vs. LaSalle University.