

2004 - 2005

## *President's* MESSAGE

This past year, our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration provided an opportunity to showcase the University's history, proud tradition, and achievements with our alumni, friends, donors, and regional community stakeholders.

Our sesquicentennial theme "Tradition and Innovation" allowed intellectual debate and cultural enrichment through a host of national and international speakers and performers. During the year, the University also successfully concluded the focused fundraising campaign and was again recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* and other national organizations.

This recognition was made possible by the contributions of our students, faculty, and staff. I am pleased to present this report summarizing some of our accomplishments.

*Francine G. McNairy*

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## *Tradition & Innovation*



## Highlights & Distinctions

- Millersville University successfully completed a five-year focused campaign of \$36 million, exceeding the goal by generating \$40 million.
- Millersville received \$2.8 million in performance funding from the State System of Higher Education for successful outcomes on the System Accountability Plan, which was the highest award among the 14 system universities.
- The University celebrated its 150th anniversary. Honorary masters' of ceremony Judy Woodruff and Al Hunt highlighted a year of renowned speakers and performers including Pulitzer-prize winning playwright August Wilson; humanitarian Dr. Jehan Sedat; former Secretaries of Education Dr. Richard Riley and Dr. William Bennett; scientist Dr. Neil Tyson; and author and essayist Richard Rodriguez. More than 20,000 visitors participated in our anniversary celebration.
- As part of the 150th anniversary, the world-renowned Bach Choir of Bethlehem performed with the Millersville Choir, a first for both choirs.
- A commemorative book, *We Sing To Thee: A History of Millersville University* by Dr. Dennis Downey was published.
- MU finalized the 2+2+2 grant in advanced manufacturing, with a focus on nanotechnology, with its partners in the Susquehanna Valley Consortium's Workforce Development Pipeline program.
- Four Corners, a three-day international cultural gathering, was introduced in May 2005 and attracted regional school children and community guests to campus.

## Recognition

- *U.S. News & World Report* again ranked MU highly in its Best Universities—Master's category, at #38 of 164 public and private institutions in the north. MU also ranks fifth in the Top Public



Universities—Master's in the north. It is the only Pennsylvania regional university in the first quartile.

- In a report titled "One Step From the Finish Line," The Education Trust cited Millersville as having, within its classification, one of the best six-year graduation rates in the country.
- *The Washington Post* cited Millersville as one of the top six public colleges that is affordable, accessible, and graduates students within six years.
- The Tutoring Center was awarded certification from the College of Reading & Language Association's International Tutor Training Program in fall 2004.
- Millersville was selected by three national organizations as a site for one of the nation's Town Hall meetings on the No Child Left Behind Act.
- The Counseling Center earned full accreditation from the International Association of Counseling Services.

## Students and Their Success

- High rates on national and regional certification tests demonstrate students' ongoing success: the Praxis exams for teachers pass rate increased to 97 percent, exceeding state averages.
- The enrollment management plan allowed MU's highest enrollment ever in fall

2004 with a total of 7,998 students: 6,991 undergraduate and 1,007 graduate students.

- Four-year graduation rates for African-American and Hispanic students nearly doubled: the rate for African-Americans increased from 12.6 percent to 24.1 percent and for Hispanics from 12.5 percent to 21.9 percent.
- African-American students increased 26.9 percent at the graduate level and 3.7 in undergraduates; Hispanic undergraduate students increased 20.5 percent and Native-American undergraduates grew by 30 percent.
- Through MU's commitment to civic engagement, students strengthen citizenship skills and comprehension through real-life experience, including: Scholars in Service to America (4,500 hours of community service); the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, free to the public, and serving 325 community residents.
- A total of 3,500 students contributed 109,016 hours of service-learning, and approximately 1,500 students volunteered 23,000 hours in the community.
- Student leadership training programs enrolled more students in the EXCEL, Collegiate Leadership Development Program, and Maraudership programs. The first ever Women's Leadership Retreat was held.

- The 126-member Marching Band performed at the 2005 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. The band was selected from among dozens of applicants.
- Millersville students held international internships with the British Parliament, the Canadian Parliament, the Costa Rican Embassy and Amnesty International.

## Resources

- MU raised \$9.6 million in private gifts, grants and contracts this year, and \$2.34 million was raised for the focused campaigns.
- The number of donors increased by 8 percent, and the number of alumni donors by 3 percent.
- Endowment assets increased in value to a total of \$13.5 million.
- Millersville was awarded 36 state and federal grants to support new programs and initiatives, totaling \$4.5 million.
- A total of \$3.9 million in Social Equity grants was received from the State System, Migrant Education and Upward Bound Program.
- Millersville received \$90,000 in grant funds for participation in the Pennsylvania Collaborative for Applied Nanotechnology.
- The Occupational Safety and Environmental Health program received a training grant of \$32,000 from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- Support for MU's efforts to reduce alcohol abuse among students was bolstered by a \$10,000 grant from the Pa. Liquor Control Board.

## Technology

- Continued improvements to the wired infrastructure and access to the wireless network were made throughout campus.
- myMU, a new customizable and secure portal system for faculty and staff, was introduced in 2005.

## Resource Utilization

- Sprinkler systems were installed in Hull and Hobbs residence halls; installation in all halls will be completed by 2005-06.
- Caputo Hall, Roddy Hall, Brossman Hall and Nichols House – facilities dedicated to science programs – were collectively renamed the Dr. James and Tasia Argires Science Complex.
- Landes Hall was closed in May to make way for construction of a new building to house the School of Education.
- Shenks Hall, a new student residence constructed by Student Lodging, Inc., was completed and occupied in fall 2005.
- Work was begun on renovations to Biemesderfer Stadium, including a new track and artificial turf field.

## Service to the Region/ Workforce Development

- To expand community linkages and serve regional economic needs, Millersville opened a site at Liberty Place in Lancaster in January 2005. The University is an investor partner in CareerLink, which offers adult continuing education evening courses.
- To provide high quality professional development for area school teachers, MU increased the number of workshops offered by 29 percent and expanded the program to a year-round format.
- A team of Sociology faculty conducted a study of sentencing patterns of Lancaster Court of Common Pleas Court judges in criminal cases for the *Lancaster New Era*.
- A Sociology/Anthropology professor was awarded a contract of \$105,303 for a three-year evaluation of the Lancaster County Drug Court.
- The largest Migrant Education program in the state is housed at MU and serves the children of migrant workers in Lancaster, Berks and Lehigh counties.
- The Millersville Borough Council created a MU student advisor position, and the first representative served in spring 2005.

- The Corporate University, in its second year, increased the number of executive and management development training programs by 14 percent.
- The Weather Information Center (Earth Sciences department) issued hundreds of local forecasts and threat assessments annually to regional media and the local community.
- Millersville joined the Higher Education Working Group, a collaboration of Lancaster County's higher education institutions, to promote the county to college prospects and graduates.
- With a goal of providing regional business and industry with scientific, technological and human resources, the University became a charter member of Lancaster Innovates, Inc., the higher education and corporate roundtable formed in March 2005.
- Workforce development initiatives increased through WEDnetPA training grant applications for 46 organizations, an increase of 53 percent.
- The University worked cooperatively with the Borough of Millersville and donated \$70,000 to the Millersville Fire Company for the purchase of a new fire suppression vehicle.

## Academic Achievements

- The MU Online distance learning program saw an increase of 51 percent in the number of students from 2003-04.
- Cooperative education/internship students earned \$649,458, an increase of 11.7 percent from 2003-04.
- MU continues to lead the State System in the number of faculty members holding a terminal degree – 94.6 percent.
- Three new partners were added to the international curriculum: American Business School in Paris, the University of Caen Basse (Normandie, France), and the University of Burgos (Burgos, Spain).
- The Walk-In Tutoring Center was established to coordinate tutoring services. The number of students using this service increased by 25 percent.

- For the third year in a row, students in the freshman year experience (FYE) living/learning communities had a second-year persistence rate above 85 percent. Student participation grew by 100 percent, and new learning communities were created for academic majors.

### School of Education

- English as a Second Language (ESL) was approved as an option within the master's degree program in literacy and language arts.
- The school collaborated with local school districts to respond to regional needs. Faculty served as educational consultants to the School District of Lancaster.
- Responding to the needs of a local school district, MU delivered an onsite Supervisory Certification in Curriculum and Instruction.
- Faculty in Osburn Hall began using the 15 new multimedia enhanced classrooms that were funded by the Student Technology Fee in 2003-04.
- Industry & Technology faculty collaborated with Rixan Corporation to test specialized software for robotics usage within industry.
- For the first time, the Governor's School in Technology was held on campus.

### School of Humanities & Social Sciences

- Millersville joined the American Democracy Project, sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and The New York Times, formed to foster citizenship activities.
- The Center for Economic Education provided professional development programs for teachers from 89 schools across six counties in the region.
- The Center for Disaster Research and Education (CDRE) sent field teams to Thailand, India and Sri Lanka following the Indian Ocean tsunami.
- The Davenport Project, research for the writing of a biography of John Davenport, the 17th-century Puritan clergyman and founder of the New Haven Colony, is headed by Dr. Francis Bremer, chair of the History department.
- Sociology/Anthropology department faculty and students investigated two local archeological sites thanks to a \$36,000 grant from the Charles Schwab American History Fund.
- The Department of Business Administration received re-accreditation from the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).



### School of Science & Mathematics

- Commonwealth high-need programs increased substantially: biology majors grew by 8.1 percent and 10.6 percent in physics majors. Math and earth sciences majors also increased.
- The meteorology department is on the cutting edge of instructional technology in its use of Access Grid Technology for electronic collaboration and data exchange. MU is the only institution in its class to provide this level of education.
- A new MSN program in nursing education and five multidisciplinary environmental minors (land use, water resources, quantitative environmental methods, environmental policy and regulation, and industrial environmental health) were approved by the Council of Trustees.



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