

Millersville University

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Jan.  
2022

Dear Millersville University community,

Welcome back to the spring semester! It has been a pleasure watching our campus come back to life over the past week, as we settle back into our routines and the regular flow of campus life.

While the COVID omicron variant and the high level of positive cases in our region and the Commonwealth continue to be a serious concern, I am encouraged by how our campus is faring so far. I am thankful for the collective efforts of our community and the shared concern for care and compassion each day.

Our entry-testing process for residence students reported 21 positive cases and the students returned home voluntarily for their isolation period. Many of our returning students were vaccinated and or recently tested. Our indoor masking protocol continues and we have made additional higher-quality masks available at many public locations across campus.

Together, we are taking the right measures to put our best foot forward. We will continue to update information on the COVID Updates webpage as needed and make adjustments to our mitigation efforts as we seek to maintain the safety and well-being of our community.

In the coming weeks, several leadership searches will reach critical junctures. Candidates who are finalists for the two dean positions in the College of Education and Human Services and the College of Science and Technology, started arriving on campus beginning this week. My sincere thanks to Drs. Ieva Zake and Marc Tomljanovich and their respective search committees for their hard work and dedication to the search process.

We are also launching the searches for two Cabinet positions, the Chief Diversity Officer and the Vice President for Student Affairs. The search committees, under the leadership of Dr. Rachel Finley Bowman and Mr. Victor Ramos, have been established and will work closely with the Office of Human Resources and the search consultant, RPA, Inc. I encourage all members of our campus community to participate in the search process for these key leadership positions by attending campus forums and offering their feedback.

In the articles below, we highlight several resources on campus. These include a recent grant award to combat sexual assault, the launch of a new community outreach program to support STEM education, and our recently-opened 'Ville Perk Café. We also welcome recent additions to our new campus community and read some parting reflections from our former Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, Mr. Steve diFilipo.

Kind regards,

Daniel A. Wubah  
University President

## MILLERSVILLE SHARES IN \$1 MILLION GRANT TO COMBAT SEXUAL ASSAULT

Many colleges and universities across the country seek to spread awareness and combat sexual assault on their campuses. Millersville University was recently awarded a \$29,990 grant as part of the "It's On Us PA" campaign to do just that.

The Wolf administration announced that 34 colleges and universities across the state would be awarded a portion of the nearly \$1 million grant. The It's On Us PA campaign stems from the nationwide It's On Us movement.

The movement's mission is to combat campus sexual assault by engaging all students and activating the most extensive student organizing program of its kind in grassroots awareness and prevention education programs. Our Title IX Coordinator, Elizabeth Swantek, helps with the coordination of the movement at the 'Ville.

With the grant, we'll have new programs and events, including a symposium for K-12 educators and administrators focusing on equipping educators with updated information on sexual violence, supporting student survivors, and making changes in their organization. In addition, there will be It's On Us weeks of action during the Spring 2022, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters.

[Click here](#) for more information about the It's On Us chapter at Millersville University.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS STEM TEACHERS

Our Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology department is collaborating with Maplewoodshop over the next five years to help our education students incorporate woodworking into their future grade-school classrooms.

The collaboration comes in the form of a donated program which includes curriculum, training, support, and a portable tool chest that enables students in grades 3-8 to learn about woodworking in any classroom. The program, which started in the fall includes Maplewoodshop providing MU with lesson plans on how to implement woodworking in grade school classrooms and providing training to MU students who will run workshops focused on introducing woodworking to kids. The curriculum provided will help MU students studying to become STEM teachers.

By giving students experience in woodworking early on, they are also being exposed to types of careers that they may not have previously considered.

The Maplewoodshop program will be used at our technology and engineering summer camps geared towards children. The camp brings kids to Millersville to learn more about the programs offered here. The woodworking curriculum and tools will be used in courses for integrative STEM education methods students. For example, one class involves working with local children to promote STEM learning. Millersville students will have the opportunity to integrate the tools and materials donated into their field experiences for that course.

## 'VILLE PERK CAFÉ OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The 'Ville Perk Café is now open on campus. During the fall semester, Millersville University celebrated the opening of our newest student-run café. You can stop by for coffee, snacks and baked goods every day between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The 'Ville Perk Café opened in collaboration with the Lombardo College of Business. Located in Gordinier Hall in the space previously held by Saxbys, the new café will provide valuable leadership and work experience for students each semester. The cafe will also be the focal point for future academic initiatives being developed in the college.

'Ville Perk Café will train multiple students to serve as CEO to give as many as possible experience with the challenges and opportunities that come with running a business.

The café itself will also provide a space for students to study, meet with friends or grab a quick bite to eat. Students may use their Marauder Gold funds, Flex dollars, or cash or credit at 'Ville Perk Café.

Because the café is no longer run through an off-campus organization, it will provide students and faculty with an atmosphere and experience unique to Millersville University.

Also, the Millersville Student Café Competition to design the operation and space of the cafe is now underway. The winning student team will receive \$2,500! [Details are available here.](#)

## WELCOMING NEW EMPLOYEES

While 2021 was a busy year on the Millersville University campus, it was bustling for the Office of Human Resources. During the year, 65 new staff and seven new faculty members were onboarded. And 2022 promises to be a busy year for HR staff as well.

The New Employee Orientation for staff includes a two-step process. The first orientation session is held monthly and provides a foundation for the employment experience at MU. Recruits are taught our mission, vision, EPPICC values and about safety and security on campus. The second session is held quarterly and aims to broaden the knowledge base of our newest team members. It explores functions such as sustainability, facilities, and communications and marketing. Both sessions allow participants to speak with experts and connect with other new team members.

The two-step process was developed by Wendy Bowersox, our workplace training coordinator, in 2016. Sessions were held in person until the pandemic in March 2020. After that, virtual sessions were held through recorded presentations. Live sessions returned in July. The second session of the orientation is now being redeveloped.

The seven faculty who joined us are Dr. Charles Stricker, AEST; Stephanie Jerstad, Criminology, Sociology and Anthropology; Dr. Jessica Fellmeth, Biology; Dr. Kristen Lawson, Academic Advisement & Student Devel.; Rachel MacIntyre and Dr. Hannah Osborn, both in Psychology; and Dr. Kelly Rotondo, Nursing.

Each of us has our reasons for coming to the 'Ville, but some reasons that HR hears include location, the beauty of our campus, an inclusive environment, working in a culture that fosters exploration/ingenuity and excellent employee benefits.

I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new employees who joined us in 2021.

## STEVE DIFILIPO'S PARTING REFLECTIONS

Last Friday, January 21, 2022 was Steve diFilipo's last day with Millersville. Since November 2018, he has been the Chief Technology Officer, leading our information technology efforts. We caught up with Steve on his last day to ask him about his three years at Millersville.

As CTO, Steve helped shape the vision for technology throughout the University and he established a strategic plan for technology that aligns with our master plan.

**Tell us about some of your accomplishments at Millersville.**

- Redesigning MyVille portal with improved user experience and enhanced functionality
- Migrating mission-critical services to the cloud to provide ubiquitous access
- Implementing Multi-Factor Authentication to enhance network security
- Migrated internet and cable television services in the residence halls to a commercial firm to enhance services for residential students
- Guiding the University through the transition to remote learning and remote work and responding to a cyberattack while simultaneously upgrading the network.

**As you leave us, what's next in the line of upgrades for IT at Millersville?**

Millersville is in the capable hands of Josh Hartranft along with George Ciarrocchi and Srini Gotety to continue progress identifying technology solutions that will enhance the university security, advance operational excellence and discover opportunities for innovation.

I have enjoyed my time at Millersville. It has been rewarding and gratifying. I am grateful for the opportunity and humbled by the acceptance of the Millersville community.