

Millersville University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

FALL NEWSLETTER

2025, VOLUME 8

from the Dean's desk



DR. LARA WILLOX
Dean

College of Education
& Human Services
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Welcome aboard the Fall 2025 voyage of the College of Education & Human Services Stakeholder Newsletter!

As we set sail into a new academic year, I am delighted to share the remarkable progress, achievements, and innovations taking place across our college. This issue charts our course through the grand opening of our state-of-the-art Simulation Lab, national accreditations for our education programs, and the launch of our new Artificial Intelligence Endorsement. Our social work program is steering ahead with distinction, as Millersville's Online BSW program was recently ranked #2 in the nation. Our psychology faculty and students continue to make waves with impactful research and national presentations. From advancing civic engagement and leadership to publishing new resources and supporting community well-being, these departments exemplify our dedication to helping students and communities navigate new horizons.

Throughout this newsletter, you'll meet new crew members joining our community, celebrate faculty and student accomplishments, and discover upcoming events designed to foster collaboration and excellence. From international recognitions and research presentations to alumni spotlights and community initiatives, our college continues to make a meaningful impact both locally and globally.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. With your support and partnership, we are charting a course toward a brighter future for education and empowering our students to thrive.

Enhanced Learning Spaces

The Simulation Lab is now open for business!

For the past 9 months, the College of Education & Human Services has been renovating its buildings to meet the needs of today's students and the ongoing innovations in technology. In mid-September 2025, the final renovations to an under-utilized space were completed. Today, the two-room laboratory allows students to use cutting-edge technology to prepare them for employment.



Specifically, the lab has spaces for students to practice their teaching skills with a room full of AI students, travel the world through virtual reality headsets, or have classmates observe their counseling skills & provide feedback in real-time!



Whether students have never interacted with advanced technology or live for the thrill of cutting-edge developments, the EDHS Simulation Lab is ready for them!

Interested in checking out the new space? **Mark your calendars for the 2025-2026 End of Year Celebration on Tuesday, April 28th from 3 - 6 PM.**



National Accreditations

Recently, Millersville University has been awarded two national accreditations for its outstanding education programs!

Thank you, Dr. Aileen Hower, for your industrious work on this endeavor!

ILA National Recognition with Distinction:

The International Literacy Association (ILA) National Recognition *with Distinction* was awarded to Millersville University for its Reading/Literacy Specialist Program in April 2025. This accolade is given only to the best licensure, certificate, and endorsement programs for Reading Specialists and/or Elementary Educators. Programs with the ILA recognition meet rigorous, evidence-based standards that guide the development of reading experts.



Currently, only 5 other universities have been recognized by the ILA *with distinction*, and a mere 16 others have received general recognition.

IDA Accreditation:

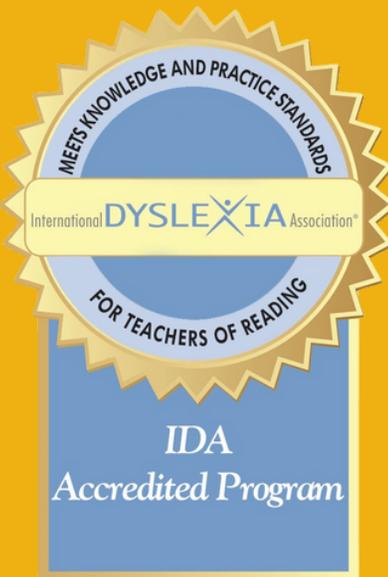
Thanks to the work of Drs. Aileen Hower and Jennifer Shettel, the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) accredited the M.Ed. In Language & Literacy - Reading Specialist for its alignment with the IDA's Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading (KPS).

This means that graduates who choose to take the KPEERI exam will be Center for Effective Reading Instruction nationally certified in Reading/Dyslexia.

There are currently only 31 other accredited institutes of higher education.

IDA accredited programs must also prove efficacy, producing educators with comprehensive supervised experiences in structured literacy. According to the IDA, the goal of such rigorous training is "preventing reading failure and remediating off-track readers with profiles characteristic of dyslexia."

Overall, the IDA values consistency, improving student outcomes, advocating for students, and shaping the best practice.





More info here!

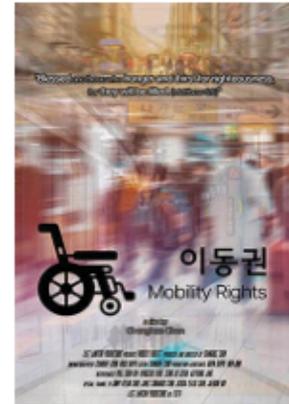
Millersville University Disability Film Festival 2025

MOBILITY RIGHTS

**October 16th 6:00-9:00pm
Myers Auditorium, McComsey Hall**

Mobility Rights is a poetic visual exploration of disabled people's struggles in South Korea. The film captures their long fight for recognition, daily challenges, and resilience, inviting audiences to reflect on both societal exclusion and their own pursuit of rights and happiness.

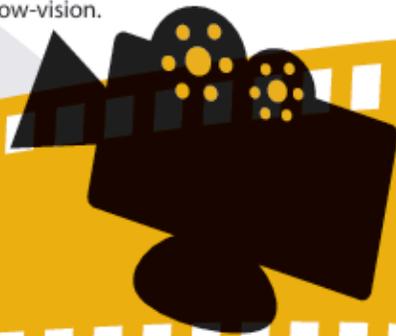
Post-show Q & A with director Changhee Chun



LISTEN TO THE UNIVERSE

**October 16th 6:00-9:00pm,
Myers Auditorium, McComsey Hall**

NASA is famous for beautiful space images, but did you know you can listen to them? Go behind the scenes with the team that creates "sonifications," translations of data into sound, and learn how meaningful they are to people who are blind or low-vision.



LIFE AFTER

**November 13th 7:00pm
Steinman Hall, The Ware Center**

A gripping personal investigation that exposes the tangled web of moral dilemmas and profit motives surrounding assisted dying. Disabled filmmaker Reid Davenport uncovers shocking abuses of power while amplifying the voices of the disability community fighting for justice and dignity in a matter of life and death.

**6:15 Pre-show community panel discussion
Post-show Q&A with director Reid Davenport**



Thank you to our event sponsors: PA Inclusive Higher Education Consortium | MU Office of Visual and Performing Arts Integrated Studies | The Learning Institute | MU ADAPT | Special Thanks to the Office of the Provost



New Endorsements



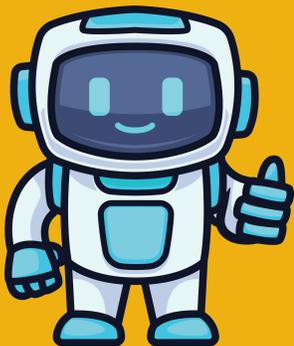
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ENDORSEMENT



The College of Education & Human Services is proud to announce that we now offer an Artificial Intelligence Endorsement!

Created for teachers with an initial teaching certification in any K-12 discipline, this four-course endorsement will guide teachers through effectively and ethically integrating emerging AI into their curriculum. Grounded in cognitive, emotional, and social development theories, this endorsement enables educators to explore the foundation & applications of AI, student AI literacy, and leadership. Courses include field components so that educators can witness the theories come alive in real (not AI) classrooms!

For more information OR to enroll today, click the robot or scan the QR code!



New Hands on Deck!



Leslie Kunkle, the new secretary for the departments of Special Education & Early, Middle, & Exceptional Education (EMEE), hopped aboard on 8/25/25.

Leslie joins the EDHS crew after spending 5 years working with elementary-age children on the Autism spectrum. When asked about her prior work, Leslie exclaims, "I absolutely loved the students I worked with, many of whom I worked with the entire five years. It was a tough job but very rewarding. Now it is time for me to pursue a new career path."

And it's clear that Millersville is the right place for Leslie: her two sons already attend the University! One is a senior studying computer science and the other is a freshman majoring in economics.

Sarah Maser, the new secretary for the department of Educational Foundations, launched her career with Millersville on September 2, 2025.

Sarah hails from Lancaster, PA, and brings with her a rich academic background, including a degree in Scientific and Philosophical Studies of the Mind from Franklin and Marshall College. Sarah's final thesis on "Theories of Consciousness" demonstrates both her intellectual rigor and a profound curiosity about the nature of human experience. Succinctly, she's a perfect fit for the education department! Before boarding with EDHS, Sarah spent 10 years working in marketing with small businesses in Lancaster, PA.



Leiland is our "freshest" Dean's office crew member!

A native of Reading and Philadelphia, Leiland is a freshman at Millersville who is majoring in sociology and hoping to minor in either political science or art history. She joined the Dean's Office Team in mid-September as a student worker.

When asked about her dreams for college, Leiland shares that she wants to "learn the ropes" for becoming a successful student in and out of the classroom. When she is not studying or in the office, Leiland likes to go to the movies, take boxing classes, and do yoga. She cannot wait to see what the rest of the semester holds!



New Hands on Deck!



Dr. Megeara Mabry: Assistant Professor of Literacy & TESOL

Millersville Alumna Dr. Megeara Mabry is the newest Assistant Professor of Literacy and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL). Dr. Mabry earned a Ph.D. in Education, Literacy, and Learners from Temple University and has spent the past 7 years working in Temple's College of Education as the Program Manager for the *Transforming School LIFE for English Learners* program. In this role, Dr. Mabry oversaw the implementation of a federally funded grant in 9 Philadelphia schools. This work included collaborating with school leaders to enact necessary changes for the improved social and academic lives of multilingual students.

Dr. Alessandra Landini

Dr. Alessandra Landini is an educator, researcher, and innovator from Italy who is joining the College of Education & Human Services as a Fulbright Scholar this academic year.

She will be partnering with Drs. Guadino, Powers, and Wright to further advance Millersville's educational programs. Read more about Dr. Landini on the next page!



Introducing Zachary, the newest Graduate Assistant to the Dean!

Originally from Reading, Zach began his professional voyage as a Certified Surgical Technologist. After years of fluorescent lights and sterile operating rooms, Zach set his sights on new horizons, earning a degree in Sociology from Kutztown University.

Today, Zach is charting the next leg of his journey as a graduate student in Clinical Psychology here at Millersville University, with hopes of becoming a counselor to help others navigate life's waters. With his unique background and desire to help others, Zach is ready to be a valued member of the Dean's Office crew, keeping things on course and making this semester smooth sailing for everyone aboard!





FULBRIGHT



Dr. Alessandra Landini is an Italian educator, researcher, and innovator who is joining the College of Education & Human Services as a Fulbright Scholar this academic year.

Dr. Landini's professional interests include integrative education, narrative approaches to science education, research in STEM education (especially physics), vertical curriculum development, inclusive education for students with specific disabilities, multicultural education, and teacher education. In fact, when she arrived to Millersville, Dr. Landini was immediately intrigued by the simulation lab. She is eager to train in use of the lab and explore its possibilities for advancing education!

In Italy, Dr. Landini is the Headmaster of the Istituto Comprensivo A. Manzoni (Comprehensive School A. Manzoni) in Reggio Emilia, Italy. The Comprehensive school is comprised of 5 separate buildings/schools, including a childhood center, 3 primary schools, and a middle school. Altogether, the schools serve over 950 students, ages 3 through 14, of whom at least 50% are immigrants.

Dr. Landini's most recent project has focused on moving education out of the classroom and into the larger cultural context of the town in which the schools are located. What initially began as a social distancing solution during the COVID-19 pandemic has turned into an innovative pedagogy. Dr. Landini's schools are currently implementing a 3-year curriculum "of heritage and citizenship" that promotes peace among cultures and is inherently inclusive. On any given day, the students may be learning anywhere in the city, a concept known as "wide-spread schools" that promotes feelings of civic responsibility by students and improved interactions between the general public and students. The curriculum also promotes education as a process of curiosity that is not confined to the school building.

While at Millersville, Dr. Landini is excited to collaborate with Dr. Beth Powers, Dr. Tiffany Wright, and Dr. Ann Gaudino to update Millersville's approach to educating educators, especially those focusing on Literacy, Educational Leadership, and Curriculum/ Assessment.



You're Invited to

Excellence in Education Awards

Celebrate Educators Making a Difference

Will be held on

7th November, 2025

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Biemesderfer Hall

**OPEN
BAR**

RSVP REQUIRED

**SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER**





CELEBRATE EDUCATORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS

Nominate Today!



Friday, November 7 2025 at 5 PM

Millersville University's Biemesderfer Hall

We are excited to invite you to nominate outstanding educators for the Excellence in Education Awards, celebrating teachers and future teachers who are making a lasting impact on students and the community.

Awards to be Presented:

- Exemplary Mentor Teacher Award – Honoring a cooperating teacher who goes above and beyond in mentoring pre-service teachers.
- Outstanding Pre-Service Teacher Award– Recognizing a pre-service teacher who demonstrates creativity, engagement, and student-centered practices.
- Innovative Instruction Award – For a K–12 teacher using creative, research-based strategies to inspire students.
- Excellence in Project-Based Learning Award– Celebrating teachers designing high-quality project-based learning experiences.
- Community Connector Award – For a teacher building strong classroom-community partnerships.

[Click to Nominate!](#)

Faculty Features



Dr. Jennie Burke

Dr. Jennie Burke delivered the kickoff address for a national professional development series hosted by the Department of Education of the Philippines in partnership with Thames International School, Manila.

Her session, *Fostering Belonging: Connecting SEL & Diversity in the Classroom*, reached over 3,900 educators across the country. The session launched a nationwide effort to promote social-emotional learning and inclusion in classrooms throughout the Philippines!

Dr. Burke also had the incredible opportunity to spend time at the Library of Congress this summer as part of the *Transformative Teaching Initiative Fellowship*, through the *Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Consortium*.

To build upon this experience, Dr. Burke has been invited to attend the TPS Consortium Meeting. This national engagement highlights Dr. Burke's contributions to teacher education, her commitment to social studies pedagogy, and her role in strengthening Millersville University's visibility and connections at the national level.



Faculty Features



Dr. Andrew Bland

Dr. Andrew Bland (Psychology) has been working tirelessly over the past decade as a core faculty member in the Clinical Psychology Master's Program. Beyond his typical duties of teaching and guiding students, Dr. Bland has been actively involved in the professional development of his field.

In the past 6 months alone, Dr. Bland has:

- Published an article, "Hope in Trust, Trust in Hope," in the Samaritan Center 2024 Community Impact Report.
- Published a book chapter, "Research on Existential–Humanistic Psychotherapy," in the edited volume, *Evidence-Based Foundations of Existential–Humanistic Therapy* (published by the American Psychological Association).
- Reviewed a total of 6 manuscripts for the *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, *Qualitative Psychology*, and *The Humanistic Psychologist* (for which he serves on the editorial boards) and for *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science* (as an invited ad hoc reviewer).
- Reviewed a manuscript of a book by Dr. Jim Dillon (University of West Georgia).
- As co-editor of the semi-annual newsletter for the Society for Humanistic Psychology (Division 32 of the American Psychological Association), Dr. Andrew Bland published the summer edition of the newsletter, which was devoted to generational perspectives on humanistic psychology.
- Delivered a training, "Potentials and Pitfalls of AI in Clinical Practice," to the clinical staff at Samaritan Center, Lancaster, PA
- Served as an invited discussant in the "Higher Human Nature: Maslow's Path Today" symposium at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association (Denver, CO, USA).
- Presented "Outcome Research on Existential-Humanistic Psychotherapy" within the "Understanding the Evidence-Based Foundations of Existential-Humanistic Psychotherapy" symposium at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association (Denver, CO, USA).



SAVE THE DATE

NSTOY-PA's Fall Conference at Millersville University
National State Teachers of the Year-Pennsylvania Chapter

CAMPFIRE CONVERSATIONS:

Sparking Ideas in the Classroom



Saturday, November 15, 2025

Join us for a day of motivational messages, break-out sessions, lunch, networking, prizes, and fun!

[REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE HERE](#)

Registration closes October 31, 2025.

Registration fee is \$15 and can be made via check or by Zelle.

Contact Leanne.Jarossy@gmail.com with any questions.

Faculty Presentations



Dr. Deborah Tamakloe presented her research titled "The impact of small group instruction on primary education" with three students Olivia Erikson, Abigail Azizkhan and Claire Wang- Masters in ESL and an Early Childhood and Special Education major) at the Division of Special Education and Services conference on 07/01/2025 in Nairobi, Kenya.



Dr. Lesley Colabucci co-presented a session with Dr. Lydia Brauer (Arkansas Tech University) at the American Library Association Annual Conference in June 2025. The session was entitled "Broadening Textuality: Using Media Literacy Frameworks with Picture Books."



Dr. Charlton Wolfgang presented his research, entitled "Bridging the Gap: Parallels Between K–12 Gifted Education and Postsecondary Honors Programs" at the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) 2025 World Conference in Braga, Portugal. (July 29, 22025 - August 2, 2025).



Dr. Joel Winnick presented a poster of his original research entitled, "Youth with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Depression, Functional Impairment, and School Accommodations" at the American Psychological Association's National Annual Convention on August 7th, 2025 in Denver, CO.



Dr. Jessica Stoltzfus Grady presented research entitled, "Expecting kindness and independence: Socialization goals moderate the relation between emotion socialization and toddler adjustment" at the Society for Research in Child Development meeting on May 3, 2025 in Minneapolis, MN.



Drs. Pérsida & William Himmele (EMEE) also presented a full day workshop on Total Participation Techniques at William and Mary University, through a partnership with William and Mary and the Virginia Department of Education on 8/20/2025.

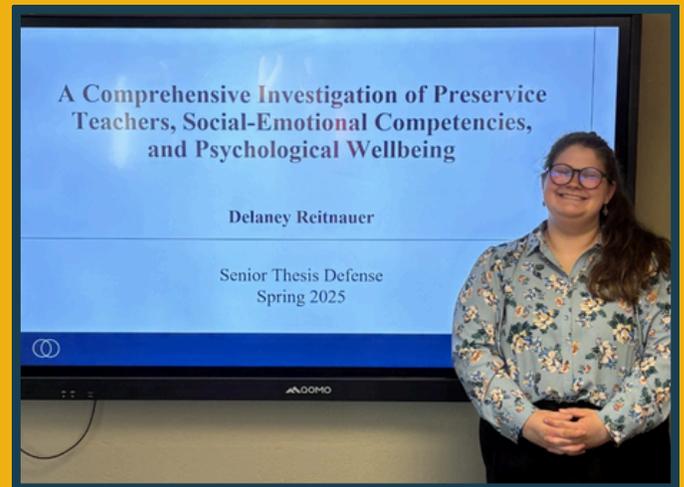


Dr. Jason Petula presented a Masterclass on "Climate Change Across the Curriculum" at Thames International (Manila, Philippines).

CONGRATULATIONS!

Delaney Reitnauer Thesis

Congratulations to Delaney Reitnauer who successfully defended her undergraduate honor thesis in May 2025. This empirical study examined preservice teachers' socioemotional competencies and psychological well-being. Delaney majored in elementary education and successfully completed student teaching. Congrats, Delaney!



DSW Students Publish OER Book

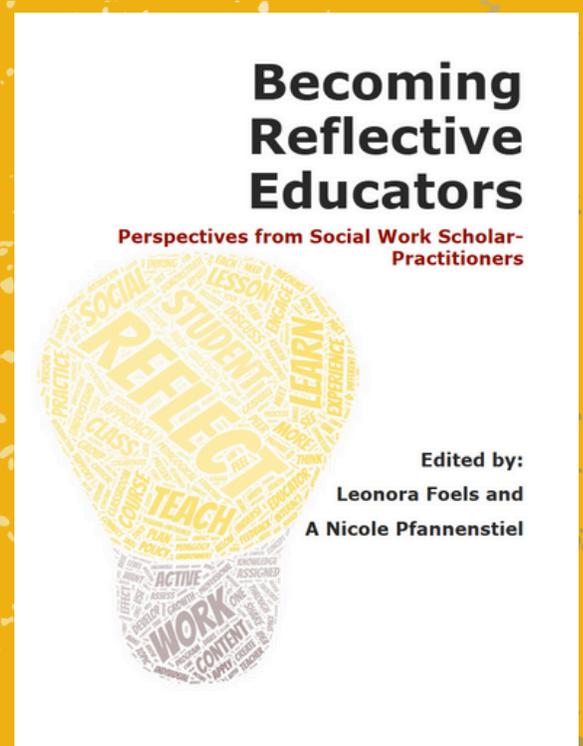
Drs. Foels and Dr. Pfannenstiel collaborated with Doctoral Social Work (DSW) students during summer 2025 to produce a book exploring the process of guided reflection, peer mentoring, and interdepartmental collaboration on pedagogy. Developing the book was experiential learning. Open Educational Resources (OER) Commons is a free, public digital library.

Click on the book to read it!

Millersville's Online BSW Program Ranked as #2 in the Nation!

Counseling Psychology has ranked Millersville's Online BSW program as #2 in the nation!

Millersville University's Social Work Degree Completion Program is designed for students with prior college credits who want to complete their Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. This flexible, online program combines academic coursework with field experience, preparing graduates for careers in social work and eligibility for advanced standing in MSW programs.



Student Research



Left to Right: Sidney, Ella, and Hailey

This summer, faculty and students traveled across the U.S. to present results from the Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership's (CCRL) research during the 2024-2025 academic year. The research was entitled **“Exploring Levels of Civic Engagement Among Undergraduate Students at Millersville University: New Roles for Macro Social Workers.”**

Two Master of Social Work Students, Evelyn Morales (2025) and Alexis Stengel (2025), traveled to both the **Macro United Conference in St. Louis, MO** during May 2025 and the **National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Conference in Chicago, IL** during June 2025 to present their research findings.

The research was designed and implemented by Dr. Lara Granruth (SOWK) and CCRL undergraduate fellows Hailey Peirce (Biology), Sidney Bernhardt (History Education), and Gabriella “Ella” Vilardo (Special Education). Alexis and Evelyn analyzed the data, created their poster, and raised funds for the trip with the support of Dr. Granruth.



The Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership at Millersville University

exists to develop students' civic development. It provides student-centered projects and activities, including fellowships, to aid students in honing skills essential for being active, engaged citizens.

Overall, the research contained two significant findings:

1. Undergraduate students at Millersville University who identify as belonging to "lower" income families had higher mean scores on the total scale for civic engagement attitude and behaviors compared to students who identified coming from "higher" income families.
2. Students who had a “service learning experience” had higher civic engagement scores compared to students who did not complete a service learning experience

For more information, view their slideshow here:

<https://macrounited25.weebly.com/>



Evelyn Morales and Alexis Stengel

Keep your eyes open for more data flowing out of the CCRL this year: All three undergraduate are CCRL fellows again this academic year!

SAVE THE DATE

9TH ANNUAL

**CONFERENCE ON
EDUCATION AND
POVERTY**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 15TH
2025**

**AT MILLERSVILLE
UNIVERSITY**

Points of Pride



Dr. Marc Felizzi moderated a panel discussion at the Sustainable Development Goals Conference held at the Ware Center on June 5, 2025. The discussion, entitled "Promoting Community Resiliency and Recovery: Innovative Programs and Student Perspectives on Safer Communities" highlighted the work of Millersville's Social Work students and alumni within the Lancaster community.



Dr. Karen Rice (SOWK) moderated a session on "Utilizing Social Workers in Law Enforcement Agencies" and offered closing remarks at MU's 5th Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference on June 5, 2025.



Dr. Aileen Hower was featured on the *Literacy Elevated: A TALE of Texas* Podcast. The episode aired on Monday, September 1, 2025 as part of the celebration of International Literacy Month. Listen to the podcast on Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/52Ds6EyJgEmirnWK2dCbAf>



Dr. Jason Petula jetted around the world this summer. His activities included:

- Co-leading the Honors College: Ancient Cultures study abroad program to Rome, Athens, and Istanbul from May 13th through the 25th, 2025.
- Leading the Swedish segment of the MU Around-the-World Program, during which he helped open up two new Swedish schools to practicums (IES Umea and IES Alvsjo). He also supervised 4 MU students who led a middle-level afterschool model rocketry program with IES Huddinge (a school with a high percentage of refugee students) from May 25th through June 1, 2025.



Dr. Janet Bertoni served in May 2025 as a volunteer Group Leader with the Autism on the Seas program on a 5-night adventure from Bayonne, NJ to Bermuda to support 13 families and their exceptional children and adults. She also led a team of 12 professional staff while onboard. She was responsible for scheduling all activities onboard, managing the safety of guests while in respite care, and providing staff development opportunities when the need arose.



Dr. Anne Gaudino is the founder and editor of The Excellence in Education Journal and she recently published Volume 14, Issue 2. It can be viewed here: www.excellenceineducationjournal.org
Dr. Ann Gaudino served as an adjudicator for middle and high school choirs from PA, VA, MD, NJ, and MA at the Music in the Parks Festival, Hershey, PA on weekends in May and June 2025.



Dr. Karen Rice (SOWK) was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Council of Social Work Education's Board of Accreditation.

Psi Chi Inductees



In May 2025, MU's Chapter of Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology, inducted several new members. Among those inducted were members with familial ties to Millersville.



Kristen Ajala, Denise Ajala, and Anita Samples

Kristen Ajala's mother and grandmother attended Kristen's induction ceremony in Luek Hall. They are both MU alumni!



Isabella & Jennifer Irizarry

Isabella Irizarry was inducted into Psi Chi and her mother, Jennifer Irizarry, is a 2020 alumna of the School Psychology program!



Morgan & Lucretia Shelton

In May 2025, graduating Psychology senior Morgan Shelton defended her departmental honors thesis. Her mother (Lucretia), who is also an alumna of Millersville's Psychology Honors program, attended her daughter's defense. Turns out Lucretia was the first student for whom Dr. Thyrum served as a thesis advisor back in 1995!

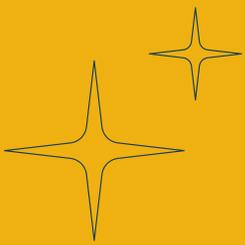
 Millersville University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
& HUMAN SERVICES

Lockey Lecture

 **SAVE THE DATE**

Thursday, March 26 | 7 PM
Biemesderfer Concert Hall



Faculty Publications



Dr. Sarah Jackson (EMEE) co-published an article in *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature* (RDYL) in May 2025. Dr. Jackson and her co-authors propose a framework to use for critically evaluating the peritext of children's literature (such as the cover, dedication, author/illustrator note, maps, glossaries, etc.). The goal of this work is to help educators rely on the additional material in a children's book to facilitate thoughtful conversations with children about culture, representation, and justice.

The article is open-access and can be viewed here:

<https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/journals/rdyl/article/view/1607/1544>



Drs. Pérsida & William Himmele (EMEE) published a set of "Quick Wins Strategy Cards" based on their ASCD bestselling book, *Total Participation Techniques*. The cards provide 50 tips and strategies for creating engaging classrooms packaged in a convenient deck of cards designed for busy teachers.



Dr. Aileen Hower (EMEE) took a leading role in the creation of the International Literacy Association's 2025 Literacy Month Toolkit. The Toolkit is free for educators and can be accessed at the following link:

https://www.literacyworldwide.org/docs/default-source/ild/ild-2025/literacy-month-kit-and-calendar.pdf?sfvrsn=1f6549e0_4



Dr. Joel Winnick (Psychology) published an article entitled, "Anxiety in school-age youth" in the Summer 2025 issue of *The Pennsylvania Psychologist* with Millersville University School Psychology Program student Olivia Foster, BA.



Dr. Andrew Bland (Psychology) published a book chapter, "Research on Existential–Humanistic Psychotherapy," in the edited volume, *Evidence-Based Foundations of Existential–Humanistic Therapy* (published by the American Psychological Association).

Dr. Andrew Bland also published an article, "Hope in Trust, Trust in Hope," in the Samaritan Center 2024 Community Impact Report.



Dr. Marc Felizzi also recorded a series of training videos for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The videos discussed mental health and trauma for first responders and crisis workers. This was completed with assistance from the MU Program Director of the Safer Communities grant through the department of University Relations and Strategic Initiatives.

2025 National Teacher of the Year



Ashlie Crosson, an Alum of Millersville University, was named the 2025 National Teacher of the Year!

Ashlie Crosson was named the 2025 National Teacher of the Year on May 1st by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Although she received her initial teaching certification from Penn State University, Ashlie turned to Millersville University for earning her Gifted Education Endorsement.

Crosson is being honored for all the work she has done to inspire students, especially first-generation students and future writers. And Crosson's list of accomplishments is extensive. Not only was she a first-generation college student who grew up in the school district where she now teaches, but she mentors students as her teachers did for her. In her 14 years of teaching, Crosson revitalized a journalism program that enables students to creatively express themselves, and began advising two student publications. In 2018, Crosson was a Fulbright Teacher for Global Classrooms Fellow. As a Fulbright Fellow, Crosson refocused her courses to foster global citizenship.

Clearly, Crosson's many accomplishments and positive impact on student lives is why she was chosen as National Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Ashlie!



[Click for more information about Ashlie Crosson.](#)

Millersville University's **SUPPORTING DYSLEXIC LEARNERS: STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS**

Featuring Keynote Speaker: Dr. Molly Ness and breakout sessions with state-wide experts



**FEBRUARY 7, 2026
STAYER HALL
9 AM-3 PM**

Please visit <https://www.millersville.edu/eled/dyslexia/> for more information and registration in October.

Alumni Spotlights



Rob Dallas

Millersville University Alum on the Field

Millersville University Alumnus Rob Dallas was named the head coach for men's soccer and fitness center coordinator at Immaculata University! Rob spent the 2024 season as the assistant coach at West Chester University. Prior to coaching at West Chester, Dallas spent 18 years advancing Cabrini University's program.

Rob earned his Bachelor of Science in Education in Social Studies, with a minor in Athletic Coaching here at Millersville University in 2005, where he also played varsity men's soccer. He then obtained his Master of Science in leadership at Cabrini University. Good luck, Rob, with your first season at Immaculata!

LeTort Elementary Welcomes MU Alumna

Millersville Alumna, Lisa Suydam, has been named principal of LeTort Elementary, effective July 1, 2025.

Lisa received her K-12 principal certificate and K-12 supervisor of curriculum and instruction certificate from Millersville University in 2019. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1997.

Lisa has been assistant principal at Central Manor Elementary School since 2020. "I am absolutely thrilled to step into my new role as the principal of LeTort Elementary," she said. "I can't wait to collaborate with our dedicated teachers, staff, students, and families to build upon the continued success and growth of the LeTort community. Together, I know we'll accomplish even greater achievements in the years to come." Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Suydam on this new position!



New Acting Principal at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School

Dr. Wendy Zimmerman was appointed as Acting Principal of Banneker Elementary School (VA) over the summer 2025. Dr. Zimmerman holds a Doctoral degree from the University of Maryland at College Park, a Master's degree from Towson University, and a Bachelor's degree from Millersville University. Dr. Zimmerman currently serves as Supervisor of Instruction in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Congratulations, Dr. Zimmerman!



Alumni Spotlights

Alumna Glides into Athletic Leadership!

Millersville University Alumna Lisa Rich was recently named Robbinsville High School's Athletic Director!

Lisa earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education and Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Millersville. She first began teaching and coaching softball at Robinsonville High in 2014. When she stepped down from coaching, Rich found new ways to stay involved with sports at Robinsonville, eventually earning herself a stipend as the assistant Athletic Director. Rich gained a plethora of experience as the assistant, so when she applied for the opening of Athletic Director, she received overwhelming support from other coaching members and family. "I've always liked to problem solve and be someone who is there for people." Rich stated. One thing is for sure, Robbinsville High Athletics is in good hands.

Congratulations, Lisa!

New Assistant Principal at Garden Spot High School!

Mrs. Edalmira Rivera was recently appointed Assistant Principal in Garden Spot High School. She was a science teacher and an admissions counselor prior to working as an assistant principal in another institution.

Through her new role Rivera will serve as the head administrator for a high school freshman academy, support PBIS & MTSS, and facilitate curriculum development.

Congratulations, Edalmira!



Lisa Rich



Eldamira Rivera



John Hersh



Traditions on the Beach

John Hersh is a retired veteran and graduate from Millersville University. He is also a staple in Long Beach Township, NJ, where--for the past 10 years--he has played taps on the beach every evening at sunset, rain or shine. Although the tune lasts only 59 seconds, it is long enough to cause his neighbors to pause and reflect.

Hersh first conceived of the idea to pick up his trumpet again while renovating his house. He found the instrument in a closet. "It was still in working order," John recalled. "Then I was wondering what to do with it. I thought about playing Taps. But then I had to practice, to make sure I got it right."

Today, we take a moment to thank Mr. Hersh for his service and for initiating this beloved tradition in his neighborhood. If you ever want to hear him play, head down to Beach Haven Gardens!





SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, DEC. 5TH



5TH ANNUAL

STUDENT TEACHER

ACTION RESEARCH

CONFERENCE



Alumni Spotlights



Millersville Alumnus goes Viral!

Principal Zac Bauernmaster of Providence Elementary School went viral earlier this year for a video compilation of his interactions with students. The video garnered over 21 million likes and drew the attention of PEOPLE magazine, who wrote an exclusive on him.

Bauernmaster graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Education from Millersville University in 2009. Since then, Bauernmaster has been working hard to create safe, collaborative learning environments. His goal? Transforming his school into a place "where kids want to be, a place that staff want to be as well, and then a place that families trust and are proud to send their kids." Join us as we congratulate Bauernmaster for his leadership & creativity!

New School Board Director Brings Unique Perspectives

Terrance Shepler was appointed to the Juniata County School District Board of Directors and began his service in June 2025.

Shepler graduated from Millersville in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in history education and has been serving as a public school teacher (in another school district) for the past 17 years. During his tenure as a history teacher, Shepler has earned awards and helped students earn real-life experience creating advertising for local businesses.

Although some current school board members are concerned that Shepler's connections with local teachers will cause a conflict of interest, Shepler does not agree. He believes that teachers' voices are needed as important decisions regarding funding and charter schools come to the Board's attention.



Advancements in Sustainable Pest Management

Dr. Jim Fredericks, a 1995 MU Alumnus, published a featured article this June on sustainable pest management practices. Dr. Jim Fredericks is a Board-Certified Entomologist and Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at NPMA (The National Pest Management Association).

Dr. Fredericks received his Bachelor's of Science in Biology Education from Millersville University of Pennsylvania in 1995 and his MS in Entomology from The University of Delaware in 2001. In 2012, Dr. Fredericks received his Ph.D in Entomology and Wildlife Ecology from the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.



[Click here to read his article on sustainable pest prevention!](#)

Alumni Spotlights

Alumna Assumes Role as Vice President of Education Services

Dr. Colleen Katzenmoyer, a graduate of Millersville's Clinical Psychology Masters Program, was recently promoted to Vice President of Education Services for Devereaux. As Vice President, Dr. Katzenmoyer will supervise a variety of educational initiatives for the company, including grant applications / implementation, consulting contracts, and educational product evaluations. She will also spearhead transformations of Devereaux's educational products, including diversifying service delivery.

Although Dr. Katzenmoyer was significantly accomplished prior to joining Devereaux's team—having served as both a school psychologist and special education supervisor—her career has flourished under its purview: Dr. Katzenmoyer began as a state-level director of student services in 2021 and was promoted to national director of student services in 2023. Now, she is Vice President of Education Services!

Congratulations, Colleen, and good luck in your new role!



Exploration Meets Technology

Adam Zurn, three-time graduate of Millersville University, loves the great outdoors and exploring history! This love prompted him to create “Uncharted Lancaster,” a website that takes “adventurers off the beaten path in pursuit of Lancaster County's history, lore and best-kept secrets.”

Zurn earned his bachelor's and two master's degrees (technology education & leadership and learning) from Millersville University. Today, he teaches technology education and is a department head at Lampeter-Strasburg High School.

To participate in an adventure, all you need to do is visit [Uncharted Lancaster's website](#), where you can choose from about a dozen adventures that provide something for everyone. Have fun exploring!



Save the Date

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

3 - 6 PM

for the

Millersville University College of
Education & Human Services

4th Annual

End of Year Celebration

mark your calendar



10/3 & 10/4 - Homecoming Weekend



10/7 - Job & Internship Fair

10/7 - On-Screen/In-person: Preschool to Prison

10/10 - Fall Break



10/18 - University Open House

10/24 & 10/25 - Marauder Family Weekend

10/28 - Graduate School Fair

10/31 & 11/1 - Midst of Faith: Play celebrating the life of Hazel I. Jackson

11/8 - University Open House

11/14 - Future Educators Annual Conference

11/15 - Conference on Education & Poverty

11/15 - PA-NSTOY Conference (National State Teacher of the Year)

11/25 - Thanksgiving Break

12/1 - Thanksgiving Break ends



12/5 - STAR (Student Teacher Action Research) Conference

12/6 - Glorious Holidays at the Ville

12/6 & 12/7 - Glorious Sounds of the Season Concert

12/8 - Last day of Classes

12/13 - Fall Commencement

12/25 until 1/1 - Holiday Break. All offices closed.

1/20 - Spring classes begin

2/18 - On-screen/in person: Silent War Asian American Reckonings with Mental Health

3/9 until 3/16 - Spring Break

3/21 - Admitted Students Day

3/26 - Annual Lockey Lecture

3/27 - Global Wellbeing Conference

4/17 - One Day Give

4/25 - Leadership Symposium

4/28 - EDHS End of Year Celebration

5/04 - Last day of classes

5/09 - Spring Commencement





CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) is officially re-opened!

After a three-month hiatus, the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) on Millersville Campus has re-opened in a limited capacity. CAMP offers migrant students financial and academic aid to attend Millersville University. CAMP students receive individual guidance and support to insure academic success for future career opportunities.

Thanks to the hard work of our administrators, funding for this vital service has been restored!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

ALUMNI



[Click here to share your insights with current students!](#)



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