

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Dec.
2021

Dear Millersville University Community,

Our campus is becoming quiet and tranquil as we approach the holidays. A few sunny days recently have allowed me to walk across campus and take in the full measure of what we accomplished together this semester. We entered the fall semester enthusiastic but cautiously optimistic, knowing we had created a strong plan for the full reopening of campus and hopeful that the pandemic would not divert us from our path.

Together, we rose to the occasion and our combined efforts allowed us to complete the semester successfully. I am grateful to our students and employees for supporting the fall plan and following COVID-19 protocols to make this a reality. I am mindful, however, that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, and we will continue to promote health and safety practices as a high priority when we return in January.

Last week, the Council of Trustees held their final quarterly meeting for this calendar year and acted on student fees for the next two academic years. In line with our commitment to provide quality education at an exceptional value, we continue to focus on affordability for our students and their families. I am pleased to report that for the fourth year in a row, there will be no increase in housing costs for students for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years. However, we all know that the pandemic continues to impact the cost of goods and services across our nation. To help offset the increased cost of food and delivery due to supply chain issues, the COT voted to increase the board fee by 4.7%, a \$100 increase per semester, in each of the next two years.

Our outstanding faculty are working hard to secure resources to support strategic programs that will prepare our students for the workforce of the future. Led by Dr. Janet White of mathematics, our 11-member faculty team from biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, mathematics, physics and robotics was awarded a five-year grant from the NSF's S-STEM program for \$1,499,560. Our S-STEM project will recruit, retain, and graduate low-income academically talented students in STEM disciplines, and facilitate their employment in STEM fields and/or acceptance to advanced STEM education programs. Such efforts deserve recognition because they fit into our overall plans to create an inclusive campus with opportunities for all students.

For our December graduates, accept my sincerest best wishes. We graduated a total of 350 undergraduate students at the end of the fall semester, with another 25 students completing their degrees after the winter session. At the graduate level, we have 62 new fall degrees, with another six winter session degrees expected. Our graduates continue to demonstrate perseverance and resilience

in completing their studies during these challenging times. I look forward to celebrating with them and their family and friends at our May outdoor commencement.

Finally, as I conclude my last message of the calendar year, let me wish everyone in the Millersville family a very happy and healthy holiday season. You have performed beyond expectations this year and truly deserve the opportunity to rest and recharge over the break. Enjoy and cherish the time with loved ones. While we reflect on all the gifts and joys in our lives and our community, we also hope for a brighter new year. And in case you haven't seen it, please view this [video](#) produced by University Communications and Marketing Department for the holiday season and enjoy the articles below.

Happy holidays.

Daniel A. Wubah
University President

THE YEAR OF MENTORSHIP CONTINUES INTO 2022

2021 at Millersville University has been unofficially dubbed "The Year of Mentorship," which kicked off on campus this September with a mentorship fair, food trucks and more. This kickoff event introduced MU students to the many mentorship opportunities on campus, with their peers, faculty members, and even alumni and community members.

Our [Mentorship Office](#) is a centralized resource center for the Millersville University community, providing mentoring opportunities, guidance, support and recognition for Millersville mentoring relationships and programs. There are a variety of options for Millersville University students seeking the opportunity to connect with a mentor or serve as a peer mentor. There are numerous mentoring programs on campus – many of them in academic departments.

In addition, Millersville partners with Mentor Collective to connect students to mentoring resources. This program connects third-year students to alumni mentors and connects first-year students to second- and third-year peer mentors. The program has a great track record going into the New Year. There are currently over 600 matched mentors and mentees participating in the Mentor Collective program this year. During the fall semester there were over 1,400 reported conversations between mentors and mentees and nearly 6,000 reported text exchanges.

All of our mentoring programs seek to provide support for students as they navigate the college environment and work to set goals for their personal and professional life. The ultimate goal is to make sure all students who desire to have a mentor are connected with one and supported throughout college.

Next up - [National Mentoring Month activities](#) in January 2022.

'VILLE NOW OFFERS PRE-LAW

Students interested in careers in law now have multiple options thanks to recent changes within Millersville University's Department of Government, Policy and Law.

Formerly named the Department of Government and Political Affairs, the rebranded program added a 21-credit minor in pre-law for non-majors, an 18-credit concentration in pre-law for majors and a renewed curricular interest in the policy aspect of its courses.

Coleman Wheeler, a senior from York, Pennsylvania, was the first student to sign up for the pre-law concentration. He is majoring in government, policy and law, and along with the pre-law concentration and minoring in environmental hazards and emergency management.

"I decided during the fall of 2020 that I wanted to attend law school and switch my major from [environmental hazards and emergency management](#) to government, politics and law," Wheeler explains. "It simply made sense to add the concentration in pre-law. Essentially, I joined the program because it aligns with my most intuitive interests and my future goals."

The pre-law concentration is primarily intended for majors who are interested in studying law, how the law intersects with politics, and/or students who are looking to work in law-related fields or continue their education at law school.

"To me, one of the attributes of the field of law that I find so attractive is its near-limitless versatility," Wheeler says. "I do not feel any pressure to determine the beginnings of my post-law school path because I know the number of potential paths are many."

"To be truly interested in law necessitates a great curiosity and thirst for understanding," Wheeler concludes, "Delving into these topics is difficult, but it yields wondrous fruit that helps those of us partaking in its study to understand the world and society around them."

For more information about the pre-law program at Millersville University, visit: <https://www.millersville.edu/programs/pre-law.php>

BUILDING UPDATES

The University took advantage of winter break to demolish two obsolete structures, Luzerne House and the Huntingdon Annex. Prior to the demolition, the University continued its close partnership with Blue Rock Fire Rescue to provide essential training for volunteer firefighters.

The University has a surplus inventory of 180,000 square feet. The demolition of excess buildings/structures supports the University capital project requests and reduces our deferred maintenance backlog.

Named for Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, the building at 8 South High School Avenue was originally constructed as various apartments, a garage and a photo studio. Several years ago, it was home to our Center for Disaster Research & Education. It has been vacant since 2019. In addition to Luzerne, Huntingdon Annex, at 8 South George Street, was also demolished.

The demolition of the structures has two phases. First, the area will provide additional temporary parking expansion at the McComsey Parking lot for about 80 parking spaces. The Campus Facilities Master Plan identifies the long-term plan of creating a greenbelt that enhances campus walkability and the future development of an academic building.

While these structures were coming down, Adams House at 2 North George Street was getting a facelift. Facilities oversaw not only painting but also new windows, doors and repairs to the brick facade. Named for Adams County, Pennsylvania, Adams House, on the corner of George and Frederick Streets, is home to the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center.

LANCASTER CITY ALLIANCE

Recognizing their need to become a more diverse, inclusive and equitable organization and the opportunity this journey would present in influencing community partners to do the same, Lancaster City Alliance began a year-long collaboration with Millersville. LCA contracted with our Office of Community Engagement, Governmental and Economic Development, along with our Office of Diversity and Social Justice in January of 2021, to provide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training for staff, volunteers and board members. The project also focused on developing a roadmap for sustainable organizational transformation.

Because LCA is such a driving force in local economic development, their efforts to represent Lancaster's diverse community have a measurable impact. They work with the intention to serve all neighborhoods within the City of Lancaster, especially where long-time underinvestment has been the reality. They strive to include all voices in the community, empowering residents to create communities where everyone can thrive.

As a public university, we have a responsibility to support the community we serve and collaborate on building greater capacity. Fulfilling our Public Mission puts our EPPIIC values into action. In this project with our friends at LCA, we also serve our EPPIIC value of Inclusion.