

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Oct.
2021

Dear Millersville University Community,

Fall is my favorite time of year, the beautiful trees and foliage on campus, the buzz of activities and Homecoming! What a wonderful, invigorating weekend we had, from the parade featuring many of our students through the block party with hundreds of our alums and the swan drop, which raised \$44,000 for the restoration of the pond. We also unveiled our new Memorial Walkway and Unity Plots near the SMC.

As the mercury falls below 50 degrees, we know Halloween celebrations are around the corner and I enjoyed seeing trick or treaters outside Biemesderfer yesterday. If you plan to participate in celebrations by dressing in costume this weekend, kindly be mindful that costumes based on cultural differences have the potential to negatively impact the inclusive community we strive to maintain at Millersville University.

As one of our EPPiC values, I am steadfast in my commitment to advancing inclusion within our campus community. At this time, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Karen Rice, Chair, School of Social Work as the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion effective immediately. Dr. Rice will remain in the post until the arrival of a new Chief Diversity Officer.

In her interim role, Dr. Rice will oversee the Office of Diversity and Social Justice and work closely with the Provost and the Cabinet on strategic and operational issues related to our DEI initiatives. A search will commence before the winter break to have a permanent CDO on campus by summer 2022.

In this edition of my monthly newsletter, the articles include two new grants that will help us train the workforce and businesses of Central Pennsylvania. It also includes a look at the new Office of Grants and Sponsored Research and go over the new programs we have this fall that will give our students more degree options. Finally, there is a focus on Starfish, a program to help our students be successful.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Daniel A. Wubah
University President

HELP ON THE WAY FOR LOCAL WORKFORCE

The workforce and businesses of Central Pennsylvania will soon have extra help, thanks to two recent grants to Millersville University. The grants will be used for training employees in small businesses and high-risk industries.

The University will share in an \$11.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Millersville's portion is \$79,874. It will be used to help small businesses train their employees in fall prevention and ergonomics.

Another grant is for \$193,000, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and covers "Workplace Safety and Health Training on Infectious Diseases, including the Coronavirus." The targeted training specifically looks at how infectious diseases can affect the workplace, specifically healthcare facilities.

Dr. Jack Ogutu, who has led the University's occupational safety and environmental health program since 2015 says the grants will provide training opportunities and materials on infectious diseases, including COVID-19, and additional training on fall prevention and ergonomics at no cost.

To help the community, the training provided by these grants will help businesses in the surrounding Lancaster area learn and practice workplace safety. Bringing in local business owners and employers will be a priority so Millersville University can provide aid to the community.

NEW LEADER FOR OFFICE OF GRANTS AND SPONSORED RESEARCH

Academic Affairs opened a new Office of Grants and Sponsored Research, hiring Jeffrey Porter as the new associate vice president to direct grant activities.

The office assists the Millersville community members pursuing funding for scholarly, creative or other initiatives. Their mission is to advance the research and educational agendas of Millersville University by encouraging research in all academic disciplines supported by the University.

Porter and his team offer assistance with all aspects of the grants process including funding searches, proposal writing, budget construction and Institutional Research Board Approval.

The latest grant to be posted is the PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Council grant program. The deadline at Millersville to apply is Dec. 1. The grant program supports a variety of faculty activities including research, student-faculty research and other professional development activities. More information is available [here](#).

Porter has his bachelor's in biology from Edinboro State College and a master's in Natural Resource Management and Administration from Antioch New England Graduate School.

From 2014 until his arrival at Millersville Porter was the director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Please join me in welcoming Jeffrey Porter to Millersville.

NEW PROGRAMS OFFER STUDENTS EXPANDED DEGREE OPTIONS

Beginning this semester, several new programs have been added giving students more degree options. Students can choose from seven new degree programs, including four online. The new programs are designed to meet the changing needs of employers and students.

Each of these new majors integrates an internship within the curriculum, and incorporates impactful programming, such as interactions with alumni and business experts inside and outside of the classroom. These new majors will help students gain the skills and experiences they need to begin successful careers in these essential areas of business. Students will now be able to choose majors in accounting, finance, management and marketing, in addition to a business administration major.

Here's a list of the new degree programs that launched this semester:

Traditional Programs:

- B.S. in Accounting
- B.S. in Finance
- B.S. in Management

Online Degree Completion Programs:

These programs feature online instruction and interaction and are targeted to adult learners.

- B.Des. in Interactive and Graphic Design
- B.S. in Marketing
- B.A. in English/Writing Studies
- B.S. in Emergency Management

STUDENT SUCCESS NETWORK AND STARFISH

Everyone within our campus community has a role in helping students be successful, and deploying additional tools is essential. Starfish is a new student success platform within our Student Success

Network. It works with all members of our institution to address specific student needs and connect students to resources.

Starfish promotes communication between students, course instructors, faculty advisors and staff in support of student academic achievement. Key tools include progress surveys, early alerts and student-generated "request help questions."

The purpose of Starfish is five-fold:

- Facilitate communication between campus stakeholders to foster student academic achievement.
- Connect students to valuable resources, services and personalized interventions.
- Mitigate student risk by identifying areas of concern and devise success pathways.
- Provide reliable data to more effectively focus student success and retention strategies.
- Promote a proactive, student-centered culture of learners who take accountability for their own engagement.