

Millersville University

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

April
2021

Dear Millersville University Community,

We are nearing the end of a most remarkable year. As I write to you, spring is in full bloom on campus. Flowers are blooming, leaves are beginning to appear on trees, and the grass is turning a more vibrant shade of green. With the increasing daylight and warmer weather, we are seeing more activity on campus as our students have started spending more time outdoors, especially around the pond/lake. While there is much work ahead of us to prepare for the fall, the uptick in activity is motivating.

The warmer weather and availability of vaccines may also be lulling us into a false sense of safety around COVID-19. We have observed an alarming spike in cases on campus these past two weeks. I want to reiterate IMT's guidance to practice good mitigation measures by wearing face coverings, practicing social distancing and avoiding unnecessary social events. Additionally, next week Friday, April 30, is College Day at the Lancaster County Community Vaccination Center. This is a great opportunity for all members of our MU community who are 16 and older to get vaccinated. Learn more at [VaccinateLancaster.org](https://www.vaccinate.lancaster.org).

Despite the immediate challenges, there are encouraging signs of a return to some degree of normalcy. April 1 marked the opening day for Major League Baseball (MLB). Did you notice that two MU alums, Tim Mayza and Chas McCormick, were on the opening day roster? I mention this as a point of pride to celebrate amidst the challenges we've faced this month. Only a small fraction of the 750 players on MLB rosters have earned college degrees, and two of them were graduates of MU. We should be proud of that distinction.

This month we learn about the Color of Teaching Mentoring Program and a new donation to the Applied Engineering, Safety and Technology department. We celebrate the selection of the Newman Civic Fellow and the 40th anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Environmental Health Program. We hear about opportunities to enhance STEM curriculum during COVID-19 and highlight a suite of new rankings achieved by MU.

I hope that these stories provide a brief respite amidst a challenging series of weeks and provide inspiration to finish out the year strong.

Be well,

Daniel A. Wubah
University President

COLOR OF TEACHING MENTORS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Millersville University strives to be a place of both inclusivity and diversity. One of the projects that helps us strive toward this goal is the [Color of Teaching Mentoring Program](#). This group is a student-run club that pairs college mentors with 7th-12th grade students in the School District of Lancaster and Penn Manor School District.

Not only is the club used to inspire future teachers of color, but it also serves to retain education majors of color by creating a network of support. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the club has continued to meet via Zoom and has canceled its annual Scholastic Book Fairs. Recently, the club spoke with the author of the children's book "Pretty to be Dark Skinned," Mijiza Green. They have continued events such as these, along with other games and activities via virtual means.

MU is proud to have the Color of Teaching as one of our campus programs. The Color of Teaching exemplifies our EPPIIC values of Public Mission and Inclusion.

Learn more about the Color of Teaching and other [Educational Foundations programs here](#).

AIRLINE HYDRAULICS DONATION SUPPORTS AEST MAJORS

Research may soon fly forward in Osburn Hall, thanks to a recent donation. Millersville University's Department of Applied Engineering, Safety and Technology (AEST) recently received industrial networking and hardware from Todd Huber of Airline Hydraulics. The donation will be used within the Osburn Hall Automation Lab.

The donation ranges from variable frequency drives and electric motors to programmable terminal blocks and pilot lights. The equipment will be incorporated in multiple automation and controls courses at MU with the help of Dr. John Haughery, an assistant professor in the AEST program.

Dr. Haughery will also collaborate with three undergraduate students to leverage the equipment for research focusing on advanced automation and networking technologies. This

type of technology currently allows essential U.S. industries to meet the nation's demands with reduced workforce numbers due to COVID-19 constraints. All three of the students will use the technology to further their research within their future fields.

Learn more about the [AEST program here](#).

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH LEADS TO NATIONAL AWARD

'Ville student Elizabeth Rohrback, junior sociology major, is Millersville University's Newman Civic Fellow. She was nominated to be a Newman fellow by Dr. Carrie Smith, professor of Sociology, for her passion for social reform.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a year-long program for students from Campus Compact member institutions. The students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

Ms. Rohrback is interested in the criminal justice system and its impact on communities. She plans to study evidence-based policing strategies and the effectiveness of diversion programs and treatment courts in reducing crime and recidivism.

Campus Compact is a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education. Rohrback joins the program alongside a select group of 212 students from 39 states, Washington, D.C., and Mexico.

The fellowship is named for the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, who was a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education. In the spirit of Newman's leadership, Campus Compact member presidents and chancellors nominate student leaders from their campuses to be named Newman Civic Fellows.

UNCHARTERED WATERS

While college students have been coping with the pandemic for the past year, student teachers have had additional challenges, including those working with STEM curriculum. Thanks to the work of Millersville's Dr. Nanette Marcum-Dietrich, her graduate students, and colleagues at Kutztown and the Stroud Water Research Center, others can obtain insights into effective STEM instructional techniques during the pandemic.

The group published their findings, "Uncharted WATERS: Sustaining a Meaningful Student Teaching Experience Amidst a Global Pandemic via an Online STEM Curriculum" in "Current Issues in Middle Level Education."

The Watershed Awareness using Technology and Environmental Research for Sustainability (WATERS) project is a curriculum with the goal of educating middle school science students about the importance of watersheds. Dr. Marcum-Dietrich is a Primary Investigator on this National Science Foundation (NSF) grant-funded project; she leads the educational research. As the COVID-19 pandemic prevented attendance in classrooms, the program had to adapt to the challenges that come with educating remotely.

The article explains adapting STEM curricula to a virtual learning environment and investigates the impact this transition had on the student teaching experience. The WATERS program's 10 lessons were modified to be delivered to students online asynchronously. Working as a team, the classroom teachers adapted lessons for virtual learning, and student teachers recorded supplemental videos to accompany these lessons. The research concludes that student teachers had to sacrifice some learning experiences such as classroom management but also built their skills in unique ways.

One such example is that since student teachers were recording their lessons to be played back by students, they could go back and watch their teaching style. From this, they could see what they were doing right or what needed to be improved. Most important, Dr. Marcum-Dietrich and her team of researchers emphasize that future teachers will need the ability to reach students in a variety of formats, whether it be face-to-face, remotely or a hybrid model.

To learn more about the WATERS program being used in student teaching, read the full article in [Current Issues in Middle Level Education](#).

OSEH TURNS 40

Our Occupational Safety & Environmental Health (OSEH) program is celebrating 40 years on campus. The program is designed for those pursuing professions in the safety and health fields. The courses required for the program focus on applying math and science skills to the various aspects of maintaining a safe and healthy work environment.

The Bachelor of Science degree offered by the program sets students up to mitigate and manage risks in the workplace.

Approximately 30 students graduate from the OSEH program each year. Over 90% of these graduates find a job in a health or safety position. Some of the job titles held by OSEH graduates include Risk/Safety Manager, Safety Representative, Environmental Health and Safety Consultant and Industrial Hygienist. Students can also opt for a minor in OSEH. The minor provides students with an extra set of skills that can be applied to any safety or health role.

In addition to offering students opportunities for internships, the program is one of only six in the nation to be accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Those who graduate are eligible for the Graduate Safety Practitioner designation from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

A virtual celebration for the program's 40th anniversary will take place on April 28, 2021, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The event will be bringing together MU-OSEH alumni spanning four decades.

For more details about the celebration, visit <https://www.millersville.edu/aest/>.

'VILLE RANKINGS

Millersville University recently received multiple national rankings for its programs. The following is a summary.

U.S. News & World Report – online bachelor's – #152. MU offers four undergraduate online programs in business administration (general), sociology with a concentration in criminology, nursing and social work.

The online nursing degree is the most popular of the online programs.

"It's great to have our program recognized for excellence. I think it is really important for potential students to understand that our courses are taught by full-time, tenured faculty and that we have a vested interest in our students," says Dr. Kelly Kuhns, professor and chair of the nursing department.

Full rankings are available here: <https://www.usnews.com/education/online-education>.

Study.com has published its 2021 rankings.

- Millersville ranked [#16 on the list of Best Bachelor's Degrees in Early Childhood Education!](#)

- Millersville also ranked [#24 on the list of Best Online Bachelor's Degrees in Social Work!](#)

Abound's - Millersville was recognized as one of Abound's 2021 Top Adult Degree Programs. Millersville qualified based on factors that cover the essential needs of the non-traditional student—accessibility, affordability, acceleration and advancement. The directory is available here: [exclusive directory](#).

Intelligent.com

- [Online Masters In Emergency Management Degree Programs | Ranked #1](#)
- [Online Colleges and Universities | Ranked #12](#)
- [Online Masters in Gifted And Talented Education Degree Programs | Ranked #29](#)

Value Colleges ranked Millersville one of the Top 25 Best Value Online Occupational Safety and Health Bachelor's for 2021. More info at: <https://www.valuecolleges.com/ranking/best-online-occupational-health-safety-degree/>

2020-2021 Military Friendly® Schools Designation – Millersville was once again designated a Military Friendly® School for the 2021-2022 Military Friendly® Cycle. The guide is available here: <https://www.militaryfriendly.com/survey-schools-guide/>.

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings – Millersville is among the first 45 U.S. universities and the first PASSHE university to be ranked in the global rating system that evaluates higher education institutions' pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings>