Millersville Named a Top “Best Value” College

Millersville University students are getting a bang for their buck. Best Value Schools ranked Millersville 15th on the list of Top 30 Best Value Colleges in Pennsylvania.

“We’re pleased that Millersville has been recognized as being a good value,” said Brian Hazlett, vice president of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. “Our students come to Millersville knowing they will get a world-class education and leave Millersville well-prepared to lead successful professional lives and be engaged citizens of the world.”

Rankings are determined by graduation rate, net price, acceptance rate and 20-year return on investment. Data for these four points of evaluation was collected from Payscale.com and CollegeNavigator.ed.gov. After all data is collected, each college is given a score out of 200 and the top 30 scores make it onto the list.

MU was noted for its scenic location, close proximity to the city of Lancaster, charming shops, plentiful dining options, buggy rides, breweries and more.

West Chester University (No. 12) and Slippery Rock University (No. 19) were the only other colleges from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education included in the list of 30 Best Value Colleges. In the surrounding area, Franklin & Marshall College (No. 10), Lancaster Bible College (No. 24) and York College (No. 14) were listed.

Using practiced and time-proven expertise, Best Value Schools helps students find those schools that can provide the best overall value for their educational dollar, the most available financial aid and assistance, the greatest support and service for the student and the highest ROI, in terms of post-graduation earnings. To see the list of 30 Best Value Colleges in Pennsylvania, please visit http://www.bestvalueschools.com/rankings-by-state/pennsylvania/.
In the wake of Millersville University’s recent acquisition of Creek Lodge and adjacent woodlot, a picturesque cabin nestled next to the Conestoga River and east of Pucillo Gymnasium, Dr. John Wallace, professor of biology and director of the Center for Environmental Sciences (MUCES) at Millersville recognized an opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Nanette-Marcum-Dietrich, associate professor of educational foundations and their students. Last spring, Wallace and Marcum-Dietrich presented a proposal to convert an outbuilding on the Creek Lodge property into a Watershed Education Training institute (WETi). The institute has partnered with the Lancaster Conservancy and Stroud Water Research Center to create and conduct watershed educational programs and student training.

Currently, the professors and Wallace’s students, Frank Herr and Joe Receveur are focused on obtaining funding to modify the building in an attempt to equip and prepare the facility as an outdoor laboratory on Millersville’s campus near Creek Lodge.

“Our goal is to provide an experiential educational opportunity to train citizen scientist educators,” explained Wallace. “What that means is that we will be using Education Foundation and Science and Technology students to work together in the development of programs designed to train K-12 students and the general public on how to systematically collect physical/chemical/biological data from the adjacent spring-fed stream to the institute, the Conestoga River and other nearby watersheds. Essentially, these programs will allow young people to contribute valuable scientific data towards understanding watershed conservation and management.”
“Fresh water is our planet’s most precious natural resource,” said Marcum-Dietrich. “Protecting our planet’s water is a local and global responsibility. WETi brings together many local partners who are committed to watershed conservation. This cooperation with local experts provides the MU community with the opportunity to learn about watersheds issues and to share this knowledge with the wider community.”

“The WETi will serve as a source for internship, community service and scientific research experience for our students. The institute will also serve as a facility to allow both the Lancaster Conservancy and Stroud Water Research Center to work with Millersville faculty and students to raise awareness and advocacy for watershed conservation. By collaborating and using state and federal granting agencies to get seed money, we will be a larger force than working alone,” said Wallace.

“WETi is a science education center for students who desire training as a field naturalist or environmental interpreter,” said Marcum-Dietrich. “Through the use of experiential learning practices at WETi, students will learn how to use hands-on science experiences to engage students and community members in environmental conservation.”

Future projects for WETi include a Spring 2016 reforestation effort to reforest the area stripped of trees from the parking lot construction in the MU Biological Preserve. This effort was made possible through the donation of 300 native trees from Stroud Water Research Center and their care by the local Trout Unlimited Chapter in Donegal. The riparian forest was lost in this section of the preserve and is currently suffering from massive erosion gullies formed from rain events since being deforested. In a short time, the collaboration WETi has formed with Stroud will be forged to regenerate a riparian forest lost and contribute to the campus-wide sustainability efforts. Wallace said, “We have plans to establish real-time monitoring stations on streams and Conservancy preserves to provide a network of data collection that will help training future citizen science educators.”

“We want to create Watershed Ambassadors in our students, and these ambassadors will train tomorrow’s watershed stewards” said Wallace.
Homecoming 2015 – A Festive Week of Events

Homecoming 2015 at Millersville was a festive week of events, beginning last Wednesday and culminating on Saturday, October 24. The celebration included the Millersville Parade with the theme of “Superheroes.” Spectators lined the sidewalks of George St. to watch the 19th annual Millersville Community Parade. More than 2,300 participants were in the parade including members of marching bands, local businesses and student organizations.

Throughout the day, nine reunions took place on campus, including the 50th celebration for the class of 1965.

Other reunion events included Class of ’65 meet & mingle, Sigma Phi Omega reunion, Phi Sigma Pi reunion, MU Alpha Kappa reunion, wrestling reunion, Kappa Alpha Psi reunion, The Snapper 90th reunion gathering, Class of ’65 reunion and Classes of ’70 and ’75 combined reunion.

The 2015 Homecoming King and Queen were announced Saturday.

Samuel Brown is the Homecoming King. Brown is a junior majoring in speech communications with a concentration in public relations and a minor in athletic coaching. He is currently the president of the Black Student Union and is a student ambassador on the Students Helping Admissions Recruitment Program (SHARP) team. He has also volunteered for Walk 4 Melissa, a domestic violence awareness event and he helps with the Coatesville Youth Initiative.

Adriana Ongay was named Homecoming Queen. Ongay is a junior majoring in government and political affairs with a minor in Latino studies. She is a member of the Society of Latino Affairs and has held the positions of secretary and vice president. She was a peer leader at the second annual Latino Student Leadership Institute which encourages Latino students to graduate and seek higher education. She also had the privilege to present at the Midwest Association for Latin American Studies conference recently and plans to present her research findings on gender and the tourism industry in the Dominican Republic.

Additional events held throughout the week ranged from the alumni baseball game to the annual Athletics Hall of Fame inductee dinner and the college of science and technology alumni gathering.

Homecoming photos are available on the University’s Facebook page.
Robotics Program Approved

The new robotics program is shaping up to be one well-oiled machine.

The Board of Governors approved the Millersville University (MU) bachelor of science in automation and intelligent robotics engineering technology (AIRET) degree program last month. The program will be implemented in the spring of 2016. Previously, MU offered a concentration in robotics and control systems technology, as part of the applied engineering and technology management bachelor’s degree.

“This new major will integrate meaningful learning experiences in applied engineering, science and computing to provide a practical education that will prepare career-ready graduates for success in a range of high-demand STEM fields,” said Dr. Jeffrey Adams, associate provost. “Graduates will be prepared for opportunities that exist locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. And, because the program is grounded in Millersville University’s liberal arts tradition, graduates will have the broadly developed critical thinking, writing and oral communication skills that will support their advancement throughout their entire careers.”

The study of robotics involves the design, modeling, optimization, documentation and automation of advanced control problems. The curriculum of the new robotics program includes in-depth technical content of electronics, control systems, mechanical systems and computer programming and applications to prepare professionals equipped to design, improve, maintain and manage robotic and automated process and control systems.

Combining coursework from the applied engineering, safety and technology, and computer science departments, the robotics engineering technology program is designed to produce graduates with the ability to work with multiple types of technology to create and implement projects that have advanced programming needs.

“This new automation and intelligent robotics engineering technology degree will help companies in the region and beyond remain competitive in today’s global market,” said John Wright, AIRET program coordinator.

One upcoming regional opportunity is with the Foxconn Technology Group, manufacturers of Apple Inc.’s iPhone. It is investing $30 million to build an electronic manufacturing site in Dauphin County that will create 500 jobs over the next two years, many in the fields of robotics and advanced manufacturing.
“While the industrial robot has been around for quite some time, the market penetration for robotic solutions in industry has yet to be fully realized. Modern industrial robots are applicable to an enormous amount of industrial applications,” said Wright. “According to the Robot Industry Association (RIA), only 10-15 percent of applications that could be robotized are actually automated with robots. The issue is that we do not produce enough engineering talent with the right skills to be able to evaluate, justify, program and integrate this technology in order to improve an industrial process. Despite this shortage of talent, RIA reports record sales of robots on a regular basis. With the right educational programs in place, we can impact our region and local economy.”

MU has a student chapter of the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE), also known as the Robotics Team. The Robotics Team was formed in 2001 and has earned 31 awards in national or international robotics competitions.

To learn more about the program, visit http://www.millersville.edu/aest/degrees/eng-tech/index.php.

It’s time for Glorious Sounds

The annual Glorious Sounds of the Season concerts will be held Saturday, December 5 at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, December 6 at 2:30 p.m. at the Clair Performance Hall, Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center on campus.

The Millersville University music department will feature more than 200 performers for a holiday music extravaganza. Glorious Sounds of the Season is a scholarship benefit concert that features students from the University’s music department. Those who attend will enjoy a holiday celebration of beloved traditions from around the world expressed in music!

Tickets cost $20 at the door or $16 in advanced. $5 for MU students with ID (Saturday afternoon show only). Tickets may be purchased online at MUTicketsOnline.com, at the Student Memorial Center Ticket Office (Room 103, 21 S. George St., Millersville), by calling the ticket office at 717-871-7600 or at the Ware Center Box Office (42 N. Prince St., Lancaster). The Student Memorial Center ticket office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Ware Center box office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Winter Center Box Office will be opening one hour prior to showtime.
Edward Nase, director of dining services at Millersville University, was recently awarded the Campus Sustainability Champion Title for 2015 by Pennsylvania Green Colleges.

The Campus Sustainability Champion title, presented by the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) is given annually to students, faculty, administration and staff of Pennsylvania colleges and universities who have made contributions benefiting social, economic and environmental sustainability on campus.

“The PERC Campus Sustainability Champion award validates and applauds the great work that Mr. Nase and his team in Dining and Conferences Services have been doing, said Chris Steuer, MU campus sustainability manager, “It puts Millersville’s name in a bold font on the list of Pennsylvania colleges and universities that are finding innovative ways to be more sustainable.”

Nase has been the director of dining services for 10 years. He has assisted in MU’s sustainable efforts through implementing different dining service programs including eliminating landfill waste through composting, recycling and terracycling, reestablishing purchasing habits to buy locally grown and manufactured products, and purchasing from sustainable vendors.

“One person can make a difference and Millersville University is leading the way,” said Josh Hooper, the executive director of PERC.

Dining services is making an effort to reduce their energy consumption through the appliances used in the kitchens and dining facilities. Nase is also an active member of the Sustainability Committee at MU, assisting in creation of a more sustainable campus and educating the students and community.

Information is available on Millersville’s Center for Sustainability. For more information about the award, please visit: http://www.pagreencolleges.org/.

There are some things you can’t learn from a textbook.
Putting Out the Fires

Currently 14 graduate and undergraduate students from Millersville University volunteer at Blue Rock Fire Rescue on East Charlotte Street. These student firefighters are both males and females and come from a wide variety of majors – from early childhood education to meteorology.

The decision to become a firefighter is not easy – there are long hours of training involved, the risk of putting yourself in dangerous situations and the chance that a call could come at just about any time.

“I have learned that you have to be ready at a moment’s notice as soon as you hear your pager activate,” said Katie Prichard, a junior majoring in meteorology and environmental hazards and emergency management.

Jason Lashner, Sam Aquino, Jillian Herrschaft and Korissa Lincoln

“We never know when we’re going to get a call or how many we will get a day,” said Philip Gregg, a senior majoring in middle level education. “Some days it’s none, and other days it can be five or more.”

When a call does arrive, the feeling is unlike anything else.

“There is a tightness in your chest when you’re going to a call you know is going to be bad, and you realize that you’re the team coming to save the day. It’s a feeling of excitement and nervousness all wrapped into one because you can’t mess up,” said Gregg. “Most of us spend hundreds of hours training and take special classes to get certified to do what we do, but you still have to remember you have to be careful and remember what you were taught.”
“I always have that slight fear of uncertainty whenever I am jumping on the apparatus and running out the door,” said Joseph Seborowski, a graduate student in emergency management. “But, that fear is easily pushed aside to completely focus on the problem at hand and do the tasks in a safe and effective manner.”

When you ask them why they joined, each student elicits a different response. For some, it is all in the family.

“As with the majority of firefighters in society today, my father and grandfather have been involved for a long time, so I am a third generation firefighter,” said Seborowski. “I wanted to continue to run with a fire department when I attended Millersville University.”

For others, it was a major decision in choosing Millersville University as their school.

“When picking colleges, a close fire department was a requirement of mine,” said Samuel Aquino, a freshman majoring in applied engineering and technology management. “When selecting dorms, I picked the one closest to Blue Rock,”

Despite all their individual reasons, there is one overarching motivation that is a driving force behind each student joining Blue Rock.

“Most of us do it because we want to help people and give back to our community,” said Gregg, “It is also nice being able to be a part of something bigger then yourself. You’re a part of a team; a family that has a mission. You receive training and you learn how to do things most other people have never thought of doing. I love learning and helping people. I think that is my intrinsic motivator to continue on.”

“Personally, I get an adrenaline rush responding to calls that not many other activities come close to,” said Nick Oakes, a senior at Millersville majoring in occupational safety and environmental health. “I feel as though I really belong to this organization and I get a feeling of satisfaction knowing that I am helping my community.”

While many volunteers travel to the front lines during a call, some stay back to ensure operations runs smoothly and to promote fire safety and education to the public.

“As an education major, it is a really inspiring way to use my knowledge and passion,” said Jillian Herrschaft, a senior majoring in early childhood education who plans public events for Blue Rock. “I was around firefighters a lot and realized how amazing and inspiring what they do is. I decided I wanted to use my own skills to help the ones who help others every day.”

During down times, many of the students can still be found at the fire hall studying, training or simply enjoying time with their Blue Rock family.
“I was really drawn to the fire service because of my interest in giving back to the community and the brotherhood that I saw my friends back home were a part of,” said Oakes. “I was going to wait until my second semester when I came to Millersville before joining with Blue Rock, but every time I heard the siren go off, I couldn’t stand waiting anymore.”

Oh, the weather outside is frightful...or not.

Eric Horst, director of MU Weather Information Center, says the mild weather we’ve seen throughout November is expected to continue until mid-December. He predicts that for Lancaster County, the final month of 2015 will likely “be more wet than white.”

“Overall, I expect a relatively stormy winter across the country with a large variability in temperatures here,” he said. “Consequently, we may roughly get equal amounts of snow and rain.”

According to Horst, while the month of January is expected to contain a few cold, snowy days, other days could reach temperatures as high as 50 degrees. Horst mentions a near-record-strong El Niño as a factor in the conditions of this year’s weather.

“I expect unusually high variability this winter, but with a bias towards mild rather than cold, on average,” Horst said. “As we’ve already seen, this strong El Niño is enhancing the storm track off the Pacific, and so we’re likely to see greater-than-normal storminess across the country this winter.”

Horst predicts total snowfall across Lancaster County could still accumulate between 18 and 30 inches, with the greatest chance of it falling between late February and early March. Seasonal average snowfall for the Lancaster area is 26 inches.

For weather updates all year round, visit the Weather Information Center.
President Anderson Invited to White House

How Millersville Can Participate in Today’s (11/19/15) White House Act on Climate Pledge

2:45 p.m. – Join MU’s Sustainability Manager, Chris Steuer, in the SMC Atrium for a discussion about Millersville University’s commitment to climate change.

3:00 p.m. – Join the Facebook-live session from the White House with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and the Chicago Field Museum’s Chief Curiosity Correspondent. These sessions will be livestreamed in the SMC Atrium and available on Channel 96.1.

Submit questions for the 3:00 p.m. session using #ActOnClimate and tweeting @WhiteHouseCEQ @GinaEPA @Ehmee

Show @WhiteHouse your #ActOnClimate support by posting a picture from campus of you wearing your school gear

Stay tuned to #ActOnClimate and @WhiteHouseCEQ for updates from throughout the day. Thanks for helping spread the word!

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 19, 2015

Fact Sheet: Ahead of the Conference on Climate Change, More than 200 Colleges and Universities Sign the American Campus Act on Climate Pledge to Demonstrate Support for Strong International Climate Action

With less than two weeks until the President attends the Conference on Climate Change, the Administration is committed to building momentum and ensuring a variety of stakeholders are at the table to act on climate. As part of that effort, the White House today announced that more than 200 university and college campuses signed the American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge to demonstrate their support for strong climate action by world leaders in Paris next month. These schools include historically black colleges and universities, religious institutions, women’s colleges,
technical schools, community colleges, all schools in the Ivy League, and a variety of public and private universities located across more than 40 states.

The institutions signing today’s pledge are also already taking significant action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase campus sustainability and resilience, and incorporate environmental action into academic curriculum. More than 100 of the schools that signed the pledge have also set goals to become carbon neutral within the next few decades. In addition, Defend Our Future launched a new climate change campus campaign to empower more than 1 million young Americans to take decisive action on climate change. Along with the launch of the campaign, a bikeshare company based in Santa Monica, California called Cyclehop, has committed to expanding access to smart-bikes on college campuses across the country.

As part of today’s announcement, university presidents, students, and NGOs are participating in a White House Summit with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy and the White House Council on Environmental Quality’s Managing Director Christy Goldfuss to highlight the important work being done to act on climate at universities, voice support for a strong agreement in Paris, and discuss future steps that leaders in higher education can take toward a low-carbon, sustainable future. McCarthy will also participate in a Facebook live event with YouTuber Emily Graslie, the Chief Curiosity Correspondent of The Field Museum in Chicago, and host of the educational YouTube channel The Brain Scoop, to answer questions from students at over 140 campus watch parties across the nation.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt worldwide and President Obama recognizes the importance of collaboration and working across sectors to address the impacts of climate change. More than 150 countries representing around 90% of all global emissions have offered climate pledges and last month, 81 companies from across the American economy signed the American Businesses Act on Climate Pledge to demonstrate their commitment to climate action and show their support for a strong international climate agreement. Today’s actions are a great step forward in highlighting American leadership on climate action and ensuring a successful global agreement on climate change next month.

**American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge**

Today, 218 campuses representing over 3.3 million students across the country are committing to take action on climate by signing American Campuses on Climate Pledge:

“As institutions of higher education, we applaud the progress already made to promote clean energy and climate action as we seek a comprehensive, ambitious agreement at the upcoming United Nations Climate Negotiations in Paris. We recognize the urgent need to act now to avoid irreversible costs to our global community’s economic prosperity and public health and are optimistic that world leaders will reach an agreement to secure a transition to a low carbon future. Today our school pledges to accelerate the transition to low-carbon energy while enhancing sustainable and resilient practices across our campus.”
Campuses joining the pledge include:

1. Agnes Scott College
2. American University
3. Antioch University of New England
4. Appalachian State University
5. Auburn University
6. Augsburg College
7. Ball State University
8. Bard College
9. Bay de Noc Community College
10. Bentley University
11. Berea College
12. Bergen Community College
13. Boston Architectural College
14. Boston University
15. Bowdoin College
16. Bowie State University
17. Brandeis University
18. Bristol Community College
20. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
21. California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
22. California State University Maritime Academy
23. California State University San Marcos
24. California State University, Bakersfield
25. California State University, Channel Islands
26. California State University, Chico
27. California State University, Dominguez Hills
28. California State University, East Bay
29. California State University, Fresno
30. California State University, Fullerton
31. California State University, Long Beach
32. California State University, Los Angeles
33. California State University, Monterey Bay
34. California State University, Northridge
35. California State University, Sacramento
36. California State University, San Bernardino
37. California State University, Stanislaus
38. Carnegie Mellon University
39. Cedar Valley College
40. Central Community College
41. Chesapeake College
42. Claflin University
43. Clark Atlanta University
44. Clarkson University
45. Cleveland State University
46. Colgate University
47. College of Lake County
48. Colorado State University
49. Columbia University
50. Coppin State University
51. Cornell University
52. Cuyahoga Community College
53. Dartmouth College
54. Denison University
55. DePaul University
56. Desert Research Institute
57. Dickinson College
58. Duke University
59. Eastern Connecticut University
60. Emory & Henry College
61. Estrella Mountain Community College
62. Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT)
63. Florida A&M University
64. Florida Climate Institute (FCI)
65. Florida International University
66. Frostburg State University
67. Furman University
68. Gateway Technical College
69. George Mason University
70. George Washington University
71. Georgetown University
72. Goshen College
73. Goucher College
74. Governors State University
75. Hampshire College
76. Harvard University
77. Harvey Mudd College
78. Haskell Indian Nations University
79. Haverford College
80. Howard University
81. Humboldt State University (CSU)
82. Iowa State University
83. John Carroll University
84. Johns Hopkins University
85. Kaua’i Community College
86. Kent State University
87. Lane Community College
88. Lasell College
89. Lewis and Clark College
90. Macalester College
91. Maricopa County Community College District
92. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
93. Middlebury University
94. Michigan State University
95. Millersville University
96. Missouri University of Science and Technology
97. Montgomery County Community College
98. Morehouse College
99. New York University
100. Northeast Lakeview College (Alamo)
101. NorthWest Arkansas Community College
102. Northwest Vista College (Alamo)
103. Northwestern University
104. North Lake College
105. Norwalk Community College
106. Oberlin College
107. Onondaga Community College
108. Pacific University
109. Palo Alto College (Alamo)
110. Paradise Valley Community College
111. Paul Smith’s College
112. Pitzer College
113. Pomona College
114. Portland State University
115. Princeton University
116. Quinebaug Valley Community College
117. Radford University
118. Ramapo College of New Jersey
119. Randolph College
120. Raritan Valley Community College
121. Rochester Institute of Technology
122. Rutgers University
123. Salisbury University
124. San Antonio College (Alamo)
125. San Diego State University (CSU)
126. San Francisco State University (CSU)
127. San Jose State University (CSU)
128. Santa Clara University
129. School of International Training
130. School of the Art Institute of Chicago
131. Scottsdale Community College
132. Shaw University
133. Smith College
134. Sonoma State University (CSU)
135. Southern Connecticut State University
136. Spelman College
137. St. Phillip’s College (Alamo)
138. Stanford University
139. Stonehill College
140. SUNY Albany
141. SUNY Binghamton
142. SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
143. SUNY Cortland
144. SUNY Empire State College
145. SUNY Oswego
146. SUNY Polytechnic Institute
147. SUNY Sullivan
148. SUNY University at Buffalo
149. SUNY Upstate Medical
150. Swarthmore College
151. Syracuse University
152. Temple University
153. The New School
154. The Ohio State University
155. Towson University
156. Tufts University
157. Tulane University
158. Unity College
159. Universities at Shady Grove
160. University of Alaska – Southeast
161. University of Arizona
162. University of Baltimore
163. University of California, Berkeley
164. University of California, Davis
165. University of California, Irvine
166. University of California, Los Angeles
167. University of California, Merced
168. University of California, Riverside
169. University of California, San Diego
170. University of California, San Francisco
171. University of California, Santa Barbara
172. University of California, Santa Cruz
173. University of Colorado
174. University of Connecticut
175. University of Delaware
176. University of Hawaii – Kauai Community College
177. University of Hawaii – Hawai‘i Community College
178. University of Hawaii – Hilo
179. University of Hawaii – Honolulu Community College
180. University of Hawaii – Kapi‘olani Community College
181. University of Hawaii – Leeward Community College
182. University of Hawaii – Manoa
On Thursday, November 19, Millersville University President John Anderson will join other administrative and student leaders from higher education institutions across the country at the White House to pledge Millersville University’s support for action on climate change. You have the opportunity to show your support for Millersville University’s participation in the White House Act on Climate Pledge by joining a livestream broadcast of the event in the Student Memorial Center’s Atrium, between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., on November 19th. The exact time of the livestream will be communicated closer to the event.
Come learn about the steps Millersville is taking to address climate change and be part of a broader national community of colleges and universities, government officials, celebrities, non-government organizations, and business leaders that are ready to act on climate change. The White House Act on Climate Pledge will reinforce Millersville University’s commitment to achieving carbon neutrality as targeted in Our Bold Path and stand as a further demonstration of the University community’s support for a sustainable future.

Moving forward we ask that you continue to get involved in advancing sustainability on campus beginning with participating in upcoming briefings in December to discuss Millersville University’s forthcoming Climate Action Plan. These briefings will provide an opportunity for the Climate Action Plan Subcommittee to further introduce the Climate Action Plan’s goals and strategies and for you to provide input and ask questions about the University’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Meeting dates and times will be announced soon.

Nationally, the U.S. continues to take steps to act on climate change in the lead up to climate change negotiations happening at the Conference of Parties this December in Paris. Locally, we must do our part—the White House Act on Climate Pledge charts the path for Millersville University to help create a low-carbon, sustainable future, but the steps are yours to take.

Think it, Make it

The latest in printing technology has come to the Millersville University (MU) Digital Learning Studio in the McNairy Library and Learning Forum. A 3-dimensional (3-D) printing service is now available to students, faculty and staff of the University.

“The growth of 3-D printing parallels the emerging, entrepreneurial-maker culture that also includes do-it-yourself electronic, robotics, art and design,” said Greg Szczyrbak, MU Learning Technologies Librarian. “This service provides one element in supporting an innovative, creative, making and problem-solving culture on campus.”

Users of the service will use 3-D design software to create a model, which is then opened in slicing software that slices the model horizontally into thin layers. Once the model is sliced, it is sent to the 3-D printer, where biodegradable plastic is deposited layer-by-layer. MU senior Skylar Zarzecki, student employee in the library, explains the process of the printer as being similar to a hot glue gun that melts glue and extrudes it through the nozzle. Once the first layer is complete, the nozzle raises and starts the second layer. The process can take anywhere from a few minutes to many hours, depending on the size and complexity of the item.
3-D printing has been used to reproduce fossils, create physical representations of data, visualize mathematical concepts and engage artists’ endeavors. The service provides a new medium for critical thinking and innovation in the classroom.

“The ability to think and visualize in the 3-D realm is an amazing and pretty rare trait to find in people,” said MU junior Mike Aniska, student employee in the library. “Improving upon this ability can help expand one’s mind through the cognitive and creative thinking it involves.”

Szczyrbak was first inspired to offer a 3-D printing service after seeing a presentation about the technology from a Lock Haven University librarian. The service is a collaboration between the Digital Learning Studio, art and graphic design department, and the applied engineering, science and technology department.

The Digital Learning Studio is open Sunday through Thursday from 3 – 9 p.m. During the fall semester trial period, free but limited printing is being offered. Fees will be implemented in future semesters to recoup the cost of printing materials. Students using the 3-D printer for academic purposes are given priority.

Faculty members who are interested in incorporating 3-D printing into a course assignment may contact Greg Szczyrbak to arrange demonstration and training. For more information, please visit http://guides.library.millersville.edu/3d.

**Occupational Safety Program is a Best Value**

College Values Online has given Millersville University the No. 6 spot on the list of 20 Best Value in Occupational Safety Degree Programs.

Millersville University’s Occupational Safety & Environmental Health (OSEH) program is one of only three schools in the nation that is recognized by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) Applied Science Commission under the Environmental Health & Safety criteria,” explained Jack Ogutu, Occupational Safety & Environmental Health Program Coordinator. “Graduates of the program are eligible for the Graduate Safety Practitioner (GSP) from the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP).”

Our MU students are highly sought out by employers after graduation,” said Ogutu.
“Approximately 90 percent of our graduates have found employment in the environmental health and safety profession and some have proceeded to graduate school to pursue degrees in occupational safety, engineering and related fields.”

Rankings for the 20 Best Value in Occupational Safety Degree Programs are determined by cost of tuition; percentage of students using financial aid; 20-year return on investment (ROI); and number of available minors, concentrations and/or emphases within the occupational safety degree program. MU received a score of 11 out of a possible 12 points, earning the No. 6 spot.

Indiana University (No. 16) and Slippery Rock University (No. 20) were the only other PASSHE schools included in the 20 Best Value in Occupational Safety Degree Programs.

The mission of College Values Online is to provide assistance in selecting the best college for each individual situation by offering rankings of schools and various degree programs, in addition to information on numerous career options from a value perspective.

More information is available on Millersville’s Occupational Safety and Environmental Health program. To view the list of 20 Best Value Occupational Safety Degree Programs, please visit http://www.collegevaluesonline.com/rankings/occupational-safety-degree-programs/.

Need to Know: Holiday Housing Information

Residence halls will close for Thanksgiving break on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 9 a.m. Residents wishing to reside on campus during the break period must contact their Graduate Assistant or Residence Hall Director. Residence Halls will reopen on Sunday, Nov. 29 at noon.

At the end of the fall semester, residence halls will close for underclassmen on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and for graduating students and commencement participants at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13.

For those attending the winter session, residence halls will close for winter break on Wednesday, Dec. 23 at noon. Residence halls will reopen for housing for winter session on Saturday, Jan. 2 at 9 a.m.

Residence halls will open for the spring semester for all students beginning Sunday, Jan 17. Check-in will take place from noon to 11:30 p.m.
New Music Class is in the Tune of Diversity

A new music course that will be offered this spring is getting in-key with diversity.

The course titled “Love Songs Through the Ages – Sex Positive Themes in Vocal Music” was developed by Dr. Allen Howell, associate professor of music. The class aims to address diversity through a discussion of sex positivity, or the idea that all healthy and consensual sex is a positive thing, and how this idea relates to feminism and topics within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community.

After joining Millersville in 2014, Howell was challenged to create a course that would increase the general education offerings of the music department. He aimed to develop a class that would appeal to students who may not necessarily identify as musicians.

“I approached the directive to create a new course with the idea that, instead of thinking up something that fits the traditional offerings of music departments, it would be more satisfying to start with the motives of the original universities and answer the question: ‘What do humans most need?’” he said.

When developing the course and choosing its topic, Howell hoped to expand and challenge the beliefs students may have when it comes to sexual behavior and sexual positivity.

“Many new feminist heroes are emerging who bring to the table an agenda of sex positivity, and I wanted to tap into that energy stream and hopefully give students the chance to think outside of the traditional box,” he said.

“I know that we will encounter lots of inspiring music and that we will interact with that music and with the ideas of the students and of others whom we together decide are relevant,” Howell said. “We will express ourselves verbally and in writing and will sharpen our thinking in the process. No two versions of this course will ever be alike and that does not bother me.”

Music 207 will be offered for the first time in the spring 2016 semester and will satisfy the humanities and fine arts level of the liberal arts core and the diversity requirement of the
Faculty/Staff Activities

Dr. Sharmin Maswood, biology, and her student, Joel Hassell, recently presented their research titled, “Do estrogen and progesterone act synergistically to accentuate the cognitive effects of a serotonergic antagonist in female rats?” at the annual conference of the Society of Neuroscience in Chicago from October 17-19. This conference is the largest gathering of Neuroscientists from all over the world.

Dr. James Pannafino, interactive and graphic design, gave several presentations this fall:

Girl Develop IT Philadelphia, Pa. chapter, “Transitioning to Web and Interaction Base Design.” Girl Develop It is a nonprofit organization that exists to provide affordable and judgment-free opportunities for women interested in learning web and software development.

UPNEXT FEST Harrisburg Pa., “Interaction Design for Startups.” UPNEXT FEST was an eight week event celebrating Central PA Tech companies and start-ups. This event was organized by the Technology Council of Central Pennsylvania.


HOW Interactive Design Conference Boston MA, “Motion Design: Principles and Process.” This was a single track professional design conference. HOW Interactive Design conference series brings forth some of the biggest names in the web and interactive design industry.

Barcamp HACC Harrisburg, Pa., Six of Pannafino’s students presented in two different sessions at the Barcamp (unconference on web design and technology). The students presented projects in web design, user experience and motion design to professionals in the central Pa. area.

Jayme Trogus, director of the Center for Health Education and Promotions, led a group of six peer educators to the BACCHUS/NASPA General Assembly in Reston, Virginia on Nov. 12-14. They won two national awards including, Best Network Affiliate and Best Prevention Program for their marijuana education programs.
Who Makes Millersville Special

This edition of “Who Makes Millersville Special” features Dr. Kimberly Mahaffy, associate professor of sociology and director of Latino Studies.

Q: Where are you originally from?
I was born in Buffalo, N.Y., but I was raised in western Pennsylvania.

Q: What is your educational background?
I have a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Gordon College in Massachusetts. After teaching high school for two years in New Hampshire, I switched occupations and began working with welfare recipients in Massachusetts. Through the experience, it prompted me to get a master’s degree in human resource counseling from Northeastern University. At the end of my master’s degree, I realized that I had been helping people improve their lives, but had not worked to change the system that contributes to poverty and inequality. I wanted to be part of systemic change, so I enrolled in a sociology master’s program at the University of New Hampshire while I continued working. After completing my second master’s degree, I was admitted to University of New Hampshire’s Ph.D. program in sociology and four years later, I earned my doctorate in sociology.

Q: How did you become interested in Latino Studies?
My interest comes from personal experiences and academic exposure. My personal experiences acquainted me with different Latino groups: Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Mexicans, Nicaraguans, Argentinians and Panamanians. In my sociology program, one faculty member introduced us to works by Chicana feminists, because she had been taught by them. Without specialists in Latina/o studies at the graduate level, it is difficult to develop expertise, thus I was self-taught.

Q: How many years have you been at Millersville?
I have been here 15 years.

Q: Do you have a favorite class to teach at Millersville? Why?
My favorite class is always the one where students are engaged and applying the material to their daily lives. Some semesters, it is my Introduction to Latina/o Studies course and other semesters, it is the Social Research Methods course.

Q: Do you have any research projects you are working on? If so, what do they focus on?
I have several projects. I have a long-term project on U.S. intervention in Panama and Puerto Rico. I am interested in explaining why the U.S. relinquished the Panama Canal, but has maintained a
territorial relationship with Puerto Rico. I am also studying the impact of the Latino Student Leadership Institute on students at Millersville.

**Q: Have you traveled outside the U.S.? If so, what was your favorite country to visit?**
I have traveled to Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Panama. It is hard to say which is my favorite, because Panama is the country of origin for my mother and grandmother. I appreciated traveling there as an adult, so I could better understand the stories that they told when I was growing up. I have been to Mexico repeatedly and lived in Mexico City for a summer in the 1980s. The Mexican people have always been very hospitable and I am touched by their kindness and generosity.

**Q: How do you want students to remember you?**
I have worked very hard to be an advocate for them and give them the best education possible.

**Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?**
It has been working with Latina/o students and first-generation college students.

**Q: What do you think your students would be most surprised to know about you?**
I completed my hunter’s safety course at age 12.

**Q: What are your hobbies outside of work?**
I am a beginning weaver. I have a loom and I enjoy working on projects. I also enjoy reading [what faculty member doesn’t?!] and I like to travel.

**Q: What type of music do you listen to?**
When I was teaching the Dominican Music and Culture class, I was listening to a lot of merengue tipico and bachata. Sometimes, I listen to Christian music and other times it is “Spanish” music. It depends on which CD is in my car!

**Q: If you could meet anyone, living or deceased, who would it be and why?**
I’d like to meet all of my great grandparents and ask why they moved to the places they did. Maybe their answer is simple, “there was a job,” but, I would like to know.

**Q: What is your greatest accomplishment?**
It is getting my Ph.D. I never expected to do that and I don’t think anyone else expected it from me either. I’m proud to say I did it and now, it’s my responsibility to pave the way for others.

**Q: Is there anything else you want to add?**
I think it is important to be open to what life has to offer. I am a compulsive planner, but some of the best things that have happened to me were not planned!