

State System News Highlights

[Just a typical spring day at the State Capitol](#)

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

It's a typical spring day at the Pennsylvania State Capitol with the legislature in session, state budget deadline looming and advocacy groups out in full force, April 18, 2017, in Harrisburg.

The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News

[How a Small School in Pennsylvania Became the Hub of Wildlife Forensics](#)

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

When 22-year-old Rutgers University student Darsh Patel was mauled to death by a bear while hiking, Nicole Chinnici was the one to perform the necropsy on the bear in question and unequivocally link it to Patel's death based on the bear's stomach and oral contents. This is the type of forensic analysis Chinnici performs in her laboratory—the Northeast Wildlife DNA Laboratory at East Stroudsburg University (Pennsylvania)—under the tutelage of Distinguished Professor of Biology Dr. Jane Huffman. Wildlife forensics applies scientifically analyzed evidence to public discourses on legal issues involving wild animals. Huffman founded the wildlife DNA laboratory at ESU decades ago. She remembers when it was still in a tiny house on campus with lab equipment housed in a bedroom, the basement and even a closet. The thriving laboratory moved into ESU's \$12 million, 51,000-square-foot Innovation Center in 2012.

By Michelle Taylor, Forensics Magazine

[Bloom U. seeks to 'Anchor' teens in foster care](#)

Monday, April 17, 2017

Stability and hope are core tenets of the Anchor Program at Bloomsburg University, which hopes to help Valley foster children build independent living skills and introduce them to higher education. The Anchor Program will serve 40 teens ages 15 to 18 from Columbia, Luzerne, Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties.

By Eric Scicchitano, The (Sunbury) Daily Item

[WCU forum gives entrepreneurs the chance to pitch](#)

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Is the next Steve Jobs ready to be revealed? On Wednesday, the Dr. Edwin Cottrell Entrepreneurial Leadership Center at West Chester University and the Keiretsu Forum Mid-Atlantic hope to find out.

By Brian McCullough, The (West Chester) Daily Local News

[Pennsylvania's physician general to deliver May commencement address at Edinboro University](#)

Thursday, April 13, 2017

Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania's physician general, will deliver the commencement address at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania's undergraduate ceremony on May 13. The highest-ranking transgender official in Pennsylvania, Levine also serves as professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine.

The Meadville Tribune

[WCU celebrates school's 15th president with new food pantry](#)

Friday, April 14, 2017

Twenty West Chester University students spread out across campus to collect donated food as part of the school's celebration of Dr. Christopher M. Fiorentino's upcoming inauguration as the school's 15th president on April 21 at Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall. The three-week food

drive is part of the university's new Resource Pantry, which will donate items to the Chester County Food Bank and West Chester University students in need.

By Pete Bannan, The (West Chester) Daily Local News

State universities must embrace change

Saturday, April 15, 2017

As a member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, Millersville University of Pennsylvania is part of the strategic review being undertaken by the State System — a top-to-bottom examination of the operations of all 14 universities and the Office of the Chancellor. What does that mean to an individual university such as Millersville, which is facing the same challenges that many other institutions within the State System and across the nation are facing?

By Cynthia Shapira and Frank T. Brogan, in Lancaster Newspapers

Strategic review of state-owned universities must deliver answers for Pennsylvania's flagging higher ed system

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

In an op-ed published last week in LNP and on LancasterOnline, the chair of the board of governors and the chancellor for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education wrote that the system was undergoing a top-to-bottom examination of the operations of its 14 universities, as well as of the Office of the Chancellor. Those universities are Millersville, West Chester, Bloomsburg, Cheyney, Indiana, California, Mansfield, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Kutztown, Slippery Rock, Shippensburg, Lock Haven and Clarion. "The status quo is unsustainable," wrote Chancellor Frank T. Brogan and board chair Cynthia D. Shapira. We hope the long-overdue strategic review paints a crystal-clear picture of what the state system needs to do to remedy its problems.

Lancaster Newspapers (editorial)

Pa. Senate orders a second study of the State System of Higher Education's finances and structure

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

The state Senate on Tuesday ordered up a parallel study of how Pennsylvania's system of 14 public universities is organized and operates to one that the system is undertaking on its own. Faced with enrollment declines and financial challenges, lawmakers and officials from the State System of Higher Education worry about the sustainability of the system and its universities going forward.

By Jan Murphy, The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News

Cheaper competition makes it tough for Pa. state system schools

Saturday, April 15, 2017

As if recruiters at Edinboro University needed another challenge as they work to fill seats. Head roughly 25 miles north from campus, and you'll hit Lake Erie, fine for recreation but a dead zone for finding student prospects in a region with a shrinking college-age population. Travel about the same distance west and you're in Ohio, where Youngstown State University entices Pennsylvanians across state lines with prices roughly equal to, if not below, what they would pay to enroll in a state-owned school in their home state. Now another neighbor, New York, has gone beyond that, uttering two words -- free tuition -- that could hardly be less popular with Pennsylvania recruiters trying to attract out-of-state students of their own.

By Bill Schackner, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The state owns the education crisis

Sunday, April 16, 2017

The chancellor of Pennsylvania's state-owned universities recently admitted that the system is in crisis. The diagnosis? A threatening combination of enrollment losses, state appropriations at the same dollar amount as they were nearly 20 years ago and collective bargaining agreements that bring annual cost increases despite stagnant or declining revenues at nearly every university. This should be unacceptable for all Pennsylvanians and the thousands of non-residents who are paying to attend these schools. But the onus shouldn't fall on the individual universities — it should be owned (and corrected) by the state.

By Scott Irlbacher (in The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

Consumer Watchdog: Stay smart and avoid scholarship scams

Saturday, April 15, 2017

For students preparing for higher education, there's nothing more stressful than figuring out how to pay that tuition bill. In addition to loans and grants, seeking scholarships can be a competitive and time-consuming process. There are thousands of scholarships available for students from all walks of life pursuing every field of study. Scholarships can be funded by corporations, nonprofits and private donors seeking to help their communities through educational assistance. But beware.

By Sarah Hite Hando, The (Wilkes-Barre) Times Leader

'Free tuition': Illusion, not solution

Saturday, April 15, 2017

Attractive as it is for students and parents, "free" in-state tuition won't solve higher education's ever-higher costs at New York's public universities and community colleges — or at Pennsylvania's cash-strapped state-owned universities.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (editorial)

Articles from subscription only sites

Kutztown University, American Honors ink deal

Community college students in the American Honors program will have a pathway into Kutztown University under an agreement signed Wednesday at the college. The three-year agreement allows American Honors students to transfer to... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)

Ron Southwick: Strategic review of higher education must ask right questions

Kutztown, PA System review The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is reviewing its entire operations. The board overseeing the system has said all options are on the table, including merging and closing campuses. Here's what's happening:... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)

Pennsylvania education secretary talks about sex-assault laws while at Kutztown University

Gov. Tom Wolf and state legislators are working on new measures to deal with sexual assault on college campuses that soon could be introduced to the Legislature, a top state official said Monday. State Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera said the changes would remove... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)

Kutztown University students put the 'A' in STEAM

Exeter Township, PA Art education students from Kutztown University gave sixth-graders at Reiffon School a fun day of learning. The undergraduates turned STEM to STEAM by putting art into science,... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)