

State System News Highlights

[Are Mergers in Pennsylvania Higher Ed's Future?](#)

Monday, March 27, 2017

Students at Cheyney University hear a lot of speculation these days. “We might have to merge, or we might get shut down,” said Sharell Reddin, a junior at the historically black university about 20 miles west of Philadelphia. “We don’t like that idea at all.” Merging would take away Cheyney’s integrity as the oldest historically black college or university in the country, said Reddin, 21, a business management major and president of the university’s Student Government Association. And she believes the rumors of consolidation are hurting Cheyney’s ability to recruit students for the future. That would be a critical blow to a deeply indebted public university whose enrollment has plunged over the last decade and that has been the center of legal battles, scandals and neglect.

By Rick Seltzer, Inside Higher Ed

[Should this state college be saved? A Solomon's choice between finances, community benefit](#)

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Except for the road itself, humanity's mark is hard to see along the main north-south highway that runs through Pennsylvania's Northern Tier. Mountains dominate here. Forest-covered peaks - oak, maple and white pine - stretch to the horizon and rock walls hem in the road that runs around, over and down mountains at ear-pounding elevations. This craggy wilderness, devoid of industrial parks and subdivisions, surrounds U.S. Route 15 for miles and miles. Just when the isolation feels thickest, the mountains give way to civilization when the brick buildings of Mansfield University appear above a tiny crossroads town of the same name in Tioga County.

By Steve Esack, The (Allentown) Morning Call

[Cynthia D. Shapira and Frank T. Brogan: Pa. state system strategic review key to future of universities](#)

Sunday, March 26, 2017

As members of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, Bloomsburg, East Stroudsburg and Kutztown universities are part of the strategic review being undertaken by the State System — a top-to-bottom examination of the operations of all 14 system universities and the Office of the Chancellor. What does that mean to each of these universities, individually and collectively? All three schools are facing significant financial challenges, just as are many other institutions across the nation. The intent of the strategic review is to find ways to address those challenges and to identify new opportunities that will allow the universities to continue to best serve students in every region of the commonwealth through high-quality, affordable educational opportunities for years to come.

By Cynthia D. Shapira and Frank T. Brogan, in The (Allentown) Morning Call

[PASSHE Op-Ed: State System strategic review key to Kutztown University's future](#)

Friday, March 24, 2017

As a member of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, Kutztown 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 System universities and the Office of the Chancellor. What does that mean to an individual university such as Kutztown, which is facing the same challenges that many other institutions within the State System and across the nation are facing? The intent of the strategic review is to help identify new opportunities that will allow us to continue offering the highest value proposition, which is to best serve students in every region of the Commonwealth through high-quality, affordable educational opportunities for years to come.

By Cynthia D. Shapira and Frank T. Brogan, in the Berks-Mont News

[Strategic review key to Cal U.'s future](#)

Sunday, March 26, 2017

As a member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, California 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 of its universities and the chancellor's office. What does that mean to an individual university such as Cal U., which is facing the same challenges that many other institutions within the State System and across the nation are facing? The intent of the strategic review is to help identify new opportunities that will allow us to continue offering the highest value proposition, which is to best serve students in every region of the commonwealth through high-quality, affordable educational opportunities for years to come.

By Cynthia D. Shapira and Frank T. Brogan, in The (Washington, Pa.) Observer-Reporter

['Ship Start' helps make college classes more affordable](#)

Monday, March 27, 2017

Local high school students have for decades taken college classes at nearby Shippensburg University, but beginning this year they will find those classes much more affordable. SU recently announced that tuition for its ShipStart program will be reduced by 64 percent to \$100 a credit.

By Vicky Taylor, The (Chambersburg) Public Opinion

[Mansfield University receives military friendly designation](#)

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mansfield University has been designated a Military Friendly School for 2017 by Victory Media. *The (Williamsport) Sun-Gazette*

[History made at East Stroudsburg University](#)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

History was made Wednesday afternoon at East Stroudsburg University. The university's first doctoral candidate moved one step closer to graduation.

By Eric Deabill, PA homepage

[Kutztown University students get a taste of marketing in real world](#)

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Around lunchtime Saturday, spirits were high though eyelids were drooping. Five hours to go. Papers littered classrooms, and students sat sprawled across chairs and tables, many staring intently at computer screens and slowly working their way through plates of pasta, sandwiches and doughnuts. Most had been awake for nearly 30 hours. The 12th annual Designathon at Kutztown University began at 6 p.m. Friday and continued through 6 p.m. Saturday.

By Lea Skene, The Reading Eagle

[IUP policy shift allows official use of preferred names](#)

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Students, staff, faculty and alumni at Indiana University of Pennsylvania can now petition to have a preferred first name or nickname used in university communications. The new policy, finalized earlier this month, has been adopted as colleges and universities across the nation take steps to recognize the LGBTQ community's call for gender-neutral policies.

By Debra Erdley, The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

[H. Fred Walker installed as Edinboro University president](#)

Thursday, March 23, 2017

The Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Pipes & Drums filled the Cole Auditorium with the sounds of "Scotland the Brave" Thursday afternoon to open the installation of H. Fred Walker as the 18th president of the institution. A few hundred guests, students and faculty attended the ceremony that lasted about 90 minutes. "Rewriting the DNA of this strong university is our opportunity," Walker, 53, said.

By Greg Wohlford, The Erie Times-News

[Millersville University President John Anderson discusses retirement, set for March 2018](#)

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Millersville University President John Anderson compared the constant ups and downs of his job to a roller coaster ride. This time next year, that ride will come to an end. Anderson announced on Thursday his plans to retire March 1, 2018, capping a five-year stint with the university.

By Alex Geli, Lancaster Newspapers

[Millersville University's president announces retirement date](#)

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Millersville University President John Anderson announced on Thursday his intention to retire next year. Anderson has been president at the 7,900-student university located in Lancaster County since April 1, 2013. His retirement date will be March 1, 2018, one month shy of his five-year anniversary of when he started there. He is the school's 14th president.

By Jan Murphy, The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News

[Amid State System struggles, Mansfield University announces possible layoffs](#)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Amid falling enrollment and budgetary woes, Mansfield University says it may consolidate or eliminate certain academic departments and offerings, and the faculty union said management notified it of potential layoffs after the 2017-18 school year. The developments occurred as a strategic review of Pennsylvania's struggling state-owned university system began, with a consultant meeting in Harrisburg Wednesday with the State System of Higher Education to start gathering data and plan field work at the 14 member universities, including Mansfield.

By Bill Schackner, The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

[Mansfield University notifies faculty of possible layoffs next year](#)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Faculty at Mansfield University were put on notice that layoffs could be coming at the end of the 2017-18 academic year. Programmatic changes are being considered to ensure the university's future sustainability that could result in consolidation or possible elimination of academic offerings, President Fran Hendricks informed the campus chapter of the faculty union.

By Jan Murphy, The (Harrisburg) Patriot-News

[EUP assessment underscores 'tough decisions' ahead](#)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

At Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, the heavy lifting is about to begin. The university completed its two-part assessment of university finances, enrollment and academic programming Wednesday with the presentation of second-round findings that support what the assessment already concluded: that a precipitous decline in enrollment, years of deficit spending, poor student retention and a "revolving door" of administrators, especially in enrollment management, are among major problems that must be addressed.

By Valerie Myers, The Erie Times-News

[LHU to drop men's indoor track](#)

Monday, March 27, 2017

Lock Haven University President Dr. Michael Fiorentino said he will maintain the men's outdoor track and field and women's Division I field hockey programs, but the men's indoor track program must go. The much-anticipated announcement was made in a prepared statement released Thursday afternoon.

The Lock Haven Express

[GI Bill a 'cash cow' for some Pennsylvania schools](#)

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Shortly after the Art Institute of Pittsburgh—Online Division hired LaMont Jones as a recruiter in 2009, the school launched a push to recruit military veterans — and the education benefits they receive for their service, he said. Federal records show that from 2011 to 2016, the for-profit school that graduates just 3.6 percent of enrolled veterans reaped \$65 million through the Post-9/11 GI Bill — making it the largest recipient of money from the veterans' program in Western Pennsylvania during that span and second statewide only to Penn State's \$110 million. Schools across Pennsylvania collected \$1.1 billion in GI Bill money during that time.

By Debra Erdley, The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

[GI Bill helping to boost veterans' college ranks](#)

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Today's all-volunteer military is smaller than in prior decades, but it is sending a steady stream of veterans back home looking to upgrade their job prospects. Across the country, the stream has become a surge as hundreds of thousands of students flock to colleges, universities and trade schools, courtesy of the most generous GI Bill since World War II.

By Debra Erdley, The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

[Student loan servicers say they'll waive big collection fees](#)

Friday, March 24, 2017

Student loan servicers say they will disregard a Trump administration advisory permitting them to reinstate collection fees as high as 16 percent on borrowers seeking to bring loans under the Federal Family Education Loan program out of default. Borrowers who sought to bring FFEL debt out of default within 60 days faced such fees until the Obama administration issued a rule banning them in July 2015.

By Debra Erdley, The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Articles from subscription only sites

[CUP designates all-gender restrooms in 11 buildings](#)

Clarion University has designated all-gender restrooms in 11 buildings on the **Clarion** campus and in one building on the Venango campus.... - *Clarion News*