

Media Advisory

When: Noon, February 22, 2018

Where: On the steps of the Rotunda, Main Capitol, Harrisburg

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Students from across Pennsylvania to lead ‘Prepared4PA’ event at the Capitol *Hundreds expected to participate in advocacy kick-off event*

Harrisburg – Hundreds of students, faculty, alumni and other supporters from the 14 universities within Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education will visit the Capitol Thursday to formally launch the State System’s annual advocacy campaign—months earlier in the process than in previous years. The System is seeking increased investment as the universities continue to prepare students to be Pennsylvania’s next generation of leaders in business, education, health, the arts and beyond. A separate event is scheduled for noon in the Main Rotunda.

State System Interim Chancellor Karen M. Whitney will appear before the state Senate Appropriations Committee immediately prior to the rally to discuss the System’s 2018-19 appropriations request. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in Hearing Room #1 in the North Office Building of the Capital Complex. Joining Dr. Whitney at the hearing will be Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania President Laurie A. Carter and Indiana University of Pennsylvania Student Government Association President Brian Swatt, who also serves on the State System’s Board of Governors.

Whitney, Carter and Swatt will speak at the rally along with Molly Gallagher, the student government leader at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania who also is a member of the Board of Governors; Michele Papakie, chair of the Journalism and Public Relations Department at IUP and a lieutenant colonel in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard; and Matt Steck, a partner in the public affairs firm, Greenlee Partners of Harrisburg. Papakie is a graduate of both IUP and California University of Pennsylvania and Steck is a graduate of Shippensburg University. Carter earned her undergraduate degree from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Speakers at the rally will talk about how their experience at a State System university helped prepare them for a lifetime of personal and career success. Follow the campaign in social media at **#Prepared4PA**.

Your coverage is invited. For more information, please contact Kenn Marshall.