

Wubah inaugural a celebration

Wubah: *Millersville University president takes helm*

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Ceremony pays tribute to new school president's African roots

ALEX GELI

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There ain't no party like a Wubah party.

That's what the Millersville University Gospel Choir chanted Thursday afternoon as it rung in a celebration of the university's new president, Daniel Wubah.

Wubah, who became the university's 15th president

on July 1, 2018, was officially welcomed to campus during a twohour inauguration ceremony heavy in African themes, from vibrant garb to the percussionfilled music.

"Today marks the formal opening of a new era," Wubah, a Ghana native who serves as tribal king in Breman Asikuma in the west African nation's central region, said after he was sworn in.

Among the hundreds of attendees were delegates that traveled across the Atlantic Ocean from Ghana.

Students in attendance wore black T-shirts with Wubah's name and the number 15 emblazoned on the back.



Michael Warfel, Council of Trustees chairman, left, and Cynthia Shapira, PASSHE Board of Governors chair, right, watch as Daniel Wubah, Millersville University president, holds a ceremonial mace during his inauguration Thursday.

**SUZETTE WENGER | STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER**

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During his speech, Wubah emotionally described his upbringing in Ghana. His mother raised him and his siblings single-handedly after his father died in a car accident when Wubah was 7 years old, he said.

“I doubt she had it in mind that her second-born son,” he said, pausing to collect himself, “would end up as president of a university in the United States.”

University outlook

Millersville has a lot going for it, he said, citing Tuesday’s Made in Millersville conference, where students showcased their art and research projects; the college’s student-focused capital campaign, Imagine the Possible; and new partnerships with local institutions like Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

But there’s room to grow, he said, particularly in three categories: affordability, use of technology and inclusiveness.

Wubah said he’d like to focus more on philanthropy and corporate partnerships to make up for funding increases the state can’t provide and to supply more students with financial aid.

“Higher education is one of the few industries where competition drives up cost,” he said. “It’s time to stop this arms race and consider the benefits of shared cooperation.”

The university must collaborate to “move the needle and create a more inclusive community,” he

Wubah is a leader worthy of helping the university accomplish that, said retired James Madison University President Linwood Rose in the ceremony’s keynote address.

“We expect our leaders to be honest, forward-looking, inspiring and confident,” said Rose, who is a friend and mentor of Wubah. “I can assure you that Dr. Wubah was either born with or has acquired these qualities.”

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• 1. Eight-year-old Akua Sterling, center, listens Thursday to her grandfather, Daniel Wubah, during his inauguration as president of Millersville University.

• 2. Wubah smiles as he ends his inauguration speech by thanking his wife and family.

• 3. People from Ghana enter Wubah’s inauguration Thursday.

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added. Fourteen percent of Fortune 500 companies are owned by immigrants or their children, he said.

Millersville's end goal, he concluded, is "excellence without elitism."