



This month I write to you with a sense of both excitement and responsibility as we navigate the complexities of opening campus for the start of the 2020/21 academic year. As we plan for the return of faculty, staff and students to campus, know that the health and safety of our community is of the highest importance. Notably, Millersville was once again recently ranked

extraordinary circumstances that we face at this time, I ask that we should all embody our award-winning commitment to community safety in the days ahead.

I have always been impressed by the resilience, resourcefulness and resolve of our community of Marauders. Many thanks to our faculty and staff who are guiding our University through these times in big and small ways. You have responded to an ever-evolving landscape of challenges with a spirit of exploration, professionalism and compassion.

Earlier today the [Board of Governors announced plans](#) to begin a review that would evaluate the potential for integrating six of our fellow State System universities. The move would increase fiscal health systemwide so that we can continue to provide affordable high-quality education throughout Pennsylvania. While this news can understandably stir concerns within our community, I want to assure you that Millersville University is academically and fiscally strong, but also well positioned to excel in the years ahead by leveraging the collaborative, adaptive and innovative spirit we are demonstrating now.

This week the [Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference \(PSAC\) Board of Directors announced plans to suspend all conference athletic events](#) through the fall semester with the intent to shift fall sports competition to the spring semester if conditions are safe. I am saddened for our athletes and coaches, having seen first-hand your excitement and prowess on the field and court and knowing your passion for the game. Please know that concerns over your health and safety were at the core of this decision in the hopes of positioning all of you to compete again in the future - and I will be there to watch.

In the weeks ahead, each of us will have to play our part to help our community respond to the next stages of this pandemic. We have established a fall opening planning team comprised of individuals from across the institution who are working tirelessly to prepare for

the new academic year. Their work informs the

## NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

I am pleased to announce that after a year of hard work by a cross section of our University community, we have a new strategic plan, which will guide Millersville University through 2025. Our Council of Trustees endorsed the new plan at their June 2020 meeting, and it officially went into effect on July 1, 2020.

Along with our EPPIIC Values, the University has put forth a new mission and vision, as well as four strategic directions that will guide the next five years.

**Vision** - We will inspire learners to change the world.

**Mission** - We are a community dedicated to high quality education at an exceptional value.

### Strategic Directions

- ◁ Ensure access, affordability and completion
- ◁ Transform student experiences and foster innovation
- ◁ Invest strategically in people and place
- ◁ Communicate our value

While a lot has been done, there is still much to do. Measurable goals and objectives have been created for each strategic direction and vice presidents will develop implementation tactics to bring them to fruition. Drs. Victor DeSantis, Jennifer Wood and Kyle Verbosh will lead our efforts in the coming months to establish key performance indicators and baseline data so we can track our progress toward these goals. These data points will be announced later this year.

The challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic were considered in the creation of this strategic plan, and I am confident that it will set us on a solid path forward as a University. The level of collaboration and hard work that was exerted in the design of this plan was impressive, and I want to thank everyone who was involved – particularly the late Dr. Lisa Shibley who made a large contribution to the success of this plan.

## NEW COT MEMBERS

Our Council of Trustees (COT) is the 11-member governing body for Millersville University and it serves as a valuable supporting force for our university. I am pleased to announce that our two newest members are Dr.





## ONLINE BOOKSTORE

For the coming semester, we have made changes to our student bookstore to provide more options and cut costs for students. All orders will be placed completely online, and students can either pick up their books at the Student Memorial Center (SMC) or have them shipped directly to their preferred address.

These changes come at the heels of a new partnership between Student Services Inc., and Akademos, a company that gives students access to a convenient online bookstore and course materials platform. Through the new textbook website, students can search for course materials needed by listing their class number, department or professor.

This new platform will also allow students to see a personalized list of the textbooks required for each course and it gives them the ability to order materials for an entire term. A wide selection of new, used, rental and digital formats will be offered, as well as access to the Akademos Marketplace, which has over 100 million used textbooks at an average discount of 60%. Additionally, students will be able to use financial aid on all purchases, along with free shipping options. This is yet another way we are lowering barriers for our students during this challenging time.

If you have questions or need additional information, visit the [website](#), email [textbooks@ssi.millersville.edu](mailto:textbooks@ssi.millersville.edu) or call (717) 871-7610.

## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic interrupting different facets of our lives, many Marauders are still spending the summer completing internships to get hands-on experience in their respective fields. I am excited for all these students as they learn more about their future professions and careers and to have the ability to demonstrate skills they have learned in the classroom.

Senior Skylar Robidoux is spending her summer completing a remote internship with

