

As we approach the height of summer heat, the campus remains quiet, although we experience periods of youthful energy and enthusiasm as we continue to host incoming students for their one-day orientation sessions.

Unfortunately, we started the new fiscal year without an approved Commonwealth budget signed by the Governor. While we await final action in the legislature as they seek to overcome several challenging items, we remain cautiously optimistic about positive gains for PASSHE and Millersville Universi

NEW MINOR AND CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE FOR PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS

Millersville University's [Department of Philosophy](#) has added an Ethics & Society minor and certificate program. The minor requires 18 credits,

Financial aid videos are not new, but most are very general and created through a third party. The Office of Financial Aid wanted to focus on a more customized approach to what Millersville University students need to know about financial aid and the requirements and tasks they may need to complete. This is why they teamed up with the Communications and Marketing Department to create 11 videos explaining financial aid in a simple and accessible way.

These videos highlight aspects of financial aid concepts and processes, understanding your financial aid offer letter, applying for scholarships, step-by-step instructions, and more! During an event in February, several students recorded testimonials about their experience with financial aid at MU.

Emiyaril Alvarez, director of Financial Aid at MU, explains the importance of the videos. "Our goal is to inform, educate and empower current and future Marauders with the knowledge of financial aid programs, their financial responsibility, and to encourage them to play an active role in the investment toward their future. These videos are helping us to transform the student aid experience, allowing us to take intricate concepts and share helpful financial aid information and resources in a more user-friendly format."

From deciding on video topics to starring in the videos, the financial aid staff and student workers have been involved in different aspects of the process. Alvarez determines the video's priority based on the financial aid cycle; Assistant Director Julia Howey creates the scripts and vision for each video and works with Victoria Pappas, digital media specialist for UCM and a 2021 graduate, who helps bring the videos to life.

The [financial aid videos](https://millersville.edu/fa-videos) are available on the Millersville website (millersville.edu/fa-videos), are posted on social media ([@finaid_mu](https://twitter.com/finaid_mu)) and are available on the [Financial Aid playlist](#) on Millersville's YouTube channel. These videos, other social media posts and events by the MU financial aid office have gained attention on a national level. The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators has acknowledged, praised, and shared the content on their social media platforms. NASFAA is an organization of more than 29,000 financial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools nationwide.

"It has been rewarding to see these projects come to fruition, and we look forward to continuing this important work," says Alvarez.

MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS HELPED BY GRANT SO FAR

In 2021, Millersville University applied for and received a \$1.3 million TRIO Talent Search grant from the Department of Education. The grant was received earlier this year, and over

continue and complete postsecondary education. The program also encourages persons who have yet to complete education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education.

Ten high schools in south-central and south-eastern Pennsylvania will benefit from the grant as these areas endure high poverty rates and need stronger academic support. Those 10 schools are Lancaster, Columbia, York William Penn, Harrisburg, Lebanon, Reading, Pottstown, Norristown, Allentown Allen and Allentown Dieruff.

The program, which is overseen by [Student Access and Support Services](#), hopes to reach at least 600 students per year. There is also a weeklong camp that took place this month that covered early college readiness and career. The students who participated will be rising seniors next year.

For more information on federal TRIO programs, [visit Trio Talent](#).

NEIGHBORING COLLEGE TO LEASE SPACE ON MU CAMPUS

Less than six miles from Millersville University, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology has been a neighboring institution since 1905. However, due to an increase in

HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES FOR 25 YEARS

Since its founding, the mission of Aaron's Acres has been to help children and young adults with disabilities discover new things in the world in a safe environment. Millersville University has been an affiliate on this journey since the beginning. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the bond between MU and Aaron's Acres is still going strong.

Founded in 1998, this non-profit organization serves children and young adults ages 5-21 with disabilities and provides year-round recreational programs. The committee that first formed the organization included Dr. Barbara Beakley, professor emeritus at Millersville University, who at the time was the chairperson of the special education department. Beakley, Risa Paskoff (the executive director) and a small group of parents were instrumental in getting the program off the ground. This year, the organization is marking its 25th anniversary.

Initially, the program was just over the summer. Beakley saw the program's value and allowed her graduate students to work at the camp and earn course credits. The camp program has since evolved into a school

Thanks to grant funding, two Millersville University athletic venues will soon see various improvements and renovations. The total funds amount to over \$2 million and will go toward construction projects at Pucillo Gymnasium and Cooper Park. Both projects are slated to be completed in 2024.

The improvements to Pucillo are made possible through a \$2 million grant from the [Pennsylvania Department of Education](#). The money will go toward a new HVAC for the facility.

Dan Griest, project manager for Capital Construction, Contracting and Design, explains that it's important to maintain the HVAC in Pucillo, especially as it is the largest indoor venue on campus.

"The humidity control impacts the hardwood flooring in the Gymnasium, as well as indoor air quality for our athletes and spectators," Griest says. "Code-compliant ventilation improvements are also being provided for our classroom, wellness office, training and locker areas."

New field lighting for Cooper Park will be added, assisted by a \$425,000 grant from the [Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development](#). The baseball field will be supplied with this new lighting in accordance with the guidelines provided by the NCAA for best lighting practices for regional and national broadcasts. These improvements include dimming capabilities and the limitation of light spillover into the neighborhoods surrounding the campus.

"The impacts of these projects for our community will b