

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2022 State of the 'Ville address.

I'm pleased to see so many of you here today.

I want to thank everyone in this auditorium and those who are joining us online. Members of the PASSHE Board of Governors, current and former Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, friends, and community leaders, thank you for being with us.

I want to extend a special welcome to our new faculty members and staff, particularly our new Cabinet members, vice president for student affairs Mary Beth Williams, chief diversity and inclusion officer, Carlos Wiley, and interim vice president for finance and administration, Debbie Newsom.

Other senior administrators who joined us in July include Dr. Lara Willox, dean of the college of education and human services, Dr. Marc Harris, dean of the college of science and technology, and Dr. Carol Runge, assistant vice president of institutional assessment and planning. Kindly join me in welcoming all our new colleagues.

As we look forward to the promise of this new year, I'd like to take a moment to honor the life and legacy of several colleagues we lost last year. In March, we were devastated by the tragic passing of our Interim CDO and AVP for Student Affairs, Mr. Renardo Hall. Renardo was at the top of his game and diligently supporting

we held a retirement party for him after a 40-year career in higher education. We also lost one of our staff members in Facilities this past year, Mr. Nick Celia.

Kindly join me in a moment of silence for our colleagues and others we lost over the past year. (PAUSE FOR MOMENT OF SILENCE).

Thank you.

Against the backdrop of the volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity in the past few years, one constant that continues to drive our university is you, the people, the members of our community who help to educate our students. ~~From Ed. Wa. Sec. 2~~

x A newly organized bachelor's degree in Journalism

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Another method we used to decrease the financial burden of our students was to provide scholarships

conference and I would like to congratulate them for the high quality of their

For last year alone, we raised elevenpoint sixmillion dollars, which was

As an institution that is committed to inclusion, our facilities should reflect this core value. Last year, we completed the Unity Plots and the Divine Nine and Cultural Greek Council Memorial Walkway. This edifice, which was made possible by the generous support of about 200 alumni and friends, contributes towards our efforts to make our campus welcoming to all. It is important to note that except for Cheney University, we are the only campus in PASSHE with a Unity Plot.

As part of our effort to provide the best environment for our employees, our technology must align with and support the needs of our community. Last year, we

- x Redesigned the campus network to promote security and segmentation.
- x Launched the new myVille portal, which provides a one-stop shop for student and employees.
- x Formed an IT Advisory Council to solicit feedback and advice from our constituents.

Continuous improvement is our goal as we work to position ourselves for a vibrant future.

The final pillar of our strategic plan is to share our story. But before I share examples of what we accomplished under this pillar, I want to express a special thank you to

Now let's talk about how we communicate our value by intentionally telling the world what we are doing.

One of the ways we do so is reflected in our rankings. Examples of these rankings are:

- x Study.com ranked four of our programs in the top 50. These are
 - o Bachelor's degree in communications
 - o Bachelor's degree in early childhood education
 - o Bachelor's degree in music production
 - o And the online master's degree in emergency management.

Still talking about telling our story, last fall, more than two thousand alumni and friends attended our Homecoming celebration, which helped to connect our students, alumni, employees, and friends.

- x Also the Millersville Parade returned to George Street.
- x And the Block Party was a huge success.

Closer to home, one of our greatest assets to tell our story is the Ware Center. In addition to celebrating a week-long series of 10th Anniversary special events last year, we hosted sixty-seven performances and exhibits.

Also, the Ware Center hosted two major conferences.

- x The first was The PLACES 2040 conference, which brought together community leaders and planners from across south-central Pennsylvania.
- x The second event was the two-day annual UN Sustainable Development Goals Conference. On the first day, Professors Oliver Dreon and Timothy Mahoney organized a summit on how to address the teacher shortage crisis and on the second day, the School of Social Work discussed how to tackle the shortage of behavioral and mental health professionals.

In our modern age of social media, we can all be story-tellers about the wonderful environment we have at the 'Ville. Here's a short Tik Tok clip by students in a botany class that went viral. (PAUSE FOR VIDEO)

Thanks to Dr. Chris Hardy and his students for this inspiring story of learning excellence.

As we emerged from the pandemic, we transitioned back to campus and continued implementing our strategic plan with our EPPICC values as our compass. Based on the examples I have shared so far, it is safe to say that our activities in the past year revealed the strength of our community and the resilience of our people.

So now, it is

Before we start this new tradition, I want to express my sincerest appreciation to the EPPIIC Value Awards Committee, particularly our Provost Gail Gasparich and Wendy Bowersox from Human Resources. And I am excited to announce that we will extend this initiative with a new monthly employee recognition program. Additional details will be released soon.

Now, everyone who was nominated deserves our gratitude for being an exemplar of one or more of our core values. Let's give all our nominees a round of applause.

Moving to our first award – Exploration.

Our inaugural winner of the Exploration award is a team of colleagues from Information Technology who developed a new technology, the myVille portal, that has quickly become the “go to” site for faculty, students, and staff. The Exploration award goes to the IT Web Team, Mike Dulay, Kim Broskie, and Will Gausmann. Congratulations and kindly join me on stage!

Our second award is for Professionalism

During the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, this award winner provided compassionate health care to campus and inspirational leadership to her team. The professionalism award goes to Ms. Lauren Blevins. Congratulations Lauren!

Our next award is for Public Mission

Our public mission calls us to respond to the critical needs of our region and beyond. The public mission award goes to a colleague who responded to community concerns by facilitating collaboration between the campus and the Community Action Partnership to advocate for the expansion of the MU Headstart STEM Center. Congratulations to Dr. Beth Powers!

Integrity is our next core value to be recognized.

A dedicated faculty member who was integral in the development of our strategic plan and who provides her students with exceptional support to enhance their professional lives, the

- x Third, we are working with a consulting firm (Ruffalo Noel Levitz) to analyze the impact of the per credit tuition model on enrollments.

We will keep a laser sharp focus on addressing our enrollment decline. Most importantly, it will take the collective effort of every employee working together to make it happen. Ultimately, I have confidence that we will make progress this year.

Several projects that we initiated during the 2019-20 academic year were impacted by the pandemic. While some of these projects were completed, others had to be reactivated last year. For this academic year, our **SECOND** area of emphasis would be to refocus our attention on these projects and modify them to address post-pandemic realities. Examples of our efforts will be to:

- x Complete the implementation of new academic programs that were approved by the Chancellor's office.
- x Increase the number of students with access to co-curricular activities such as the mentorship program and global education experiences.
- x Institutionalize diversity and inclusion efforts and enhance collaboration across divisions to ensure a welcoming campus.
- x Accelerate the renovation of Lombardo Hall and initiate a project to improve Pucillo Gym.

FINALLYwe will complete the “Imagine the possible” campaign and increase alumni and donor engagement. As a result of our donors’ generosity, we exceeded the ninety-million-dollar goal a year ahead of target date. Despite our successes so far, we have not hit our mark for the fourth campaign goal of revitalizing campus through capital projects, and we still need to generatnation BDC