

6:11
Fri, 2018

4:00 pm

1:00

Thank you, Provost Prabhu, for your gracious introduction.

Good afternoon Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents and friends. It is my distinct pleasure and honor to deliver my first state of the university address as the 15th president of this great institution.

I want to start by thanking all of you in this auditorium and those joining us online. I am grateful to my predecessor, Dr. John Anderson for his generosity of time and assistance during my transition to this role. It is a privilege to acknowledge and thank Dr. Francine McNairy and Dr. Joseph Caputo for the foundation that they laid and upon which I will build.

To our faculty emeriti, thank you. We are indebted to you for the role you have played in the lives of our students and alumni. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition. I invite you to continue your longstanding relationship with Millersville and look forward to knowing you.

To our current faculty, I thank you for educating and challenging our students. Your collective accomplishments are too numerous to mention, but I hope that you had an opportunity to review some of the highlights as they scrolled on the screen. This past week was exciting as we began this academic year. You and your students are off to a tremendous start, and we are just beginning our journey together.

To our dedicated staff, I appreciate your continued commitment to the role you play in

times more energy than it has used. Inspired by this performance, I ~~am~~
~~pleased~~ ~~to~~ ~~announce~~ ~~the~~ ~~creation~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~fund~~ that will
provide grants to faculty and students who wish to contribute ~~to~~ to local and
global communities. The funds used to establish this program come from utility rebates,
which we will use to power the human energy of our students; inspiring them to create a
~~program~~ aligned with the U.N. sustainable development goals.

As you can tell, Millersville University has a strong founda006 Tw15(e95 i ae Td)nd.0tesp[(aTw 6.4Tc

You also brought the world to our doorstep. I recently had the opportunity to attend a session at the Capacious Affect International Conference organized by Dr. Greg Seigworth. We welcomed m

I have a challenge for you, faculty. Will you develop additional programs of distinction...and build curricula that enhance students' skills...so that they will be prepared to fill the gap between what the world needs today and what it will demand tomorrow? We need to prepare students for jobs that don't even exist today. We need to educate students to invent the future, and I believe we can do it!

Alm Now let's talk about our alumni. Many of you may be familiar with the story of Roy Clair.

A member of the Class of '67, Roy and his brother Gene founded Clair Brothers Audio when they supplied sound equipment for Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The band was so impressed that they invited the Clairs to accompany them on the road. This led to a client list of artists including Elton John, Rolling Stones, and U2.

The Clair Brothers have since designed and built numerous sound systems, including the first stage monitor. They also engineered and manufactured the first hanging sound system. Their innovations are now standard equipment for live events around the world.

Through the University's partnership with Clair Global, our Music Business Technology students have hands-on opportunities to study live audio with industry professionals at Clair's Lititz headquarters.

And let's not forget all the teachers that Millersville University has produced over the years. Each day they touch the next generation of students who will contribute to our future.

I look forward to hearing from many more of our alumni who have been inventing the future following their graduation from Millersville University.

Alumni, you have made your alma mater proud. I know there are greater things to come from you, and I appreciate what you do for our students. I applaud you; this assembly applauds you; and you should applaud yourselves!

As the saying goes, "It takes a village..." So alumni, I now have a challenge for you.

We need you to become mentors and role models for today's students. You have witnessed the changes in business, technology, and the economy.

We need you to mentor our students about ways in which they can prepare for prodigious changes in the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world of the future.

We also need you to become their role models for setting aspirational goals. And, quite frankly, we need you to be role models for giving back to this community. I am inspired by the story of one of our 2015 graduates. He believed that his partnership with his

Ctp And now to our community representatives. We are grateful for those of you who have partnered with us to provide first-hand experiences for our students in real-world settings where they can exercise their knowledge and skills. Millersville and Lancaster offer a wide variety of opportunities and experiences for our students. I have already mentioned several of these organizations and there are numerous others.

In addition, the local community and Central Pennsylvania have challenged us to develop new programs to meet their workforce needs. For example, Willow Valley Communities have partnered with us for employee training and professional

These examples became reality because some people saw something that others did not. They transitioned from thinking, "That is not possible," to imagining the possible. And that's why we named the campaign, "Imagine the Possible."

Our commitment to you through this campaign is to make a world-class Millersville University education affordable; so that you will see what others do not; so that you will be prepared to fill jobs that do not yet exist; so that you will be the ones to invent the future...to imagine the possible.

Our goal is to raise \$32 million in private support by 2020 to assist with three priority areas: *Scholarships, Studen*

future of our University. My office and our Advancement office will coordinate

We still have challenges to face – closing the graduation gap for our underrepresented students; providing necessary services and support for our students to graduate in a timely fashion with minimum debt, and ensuring our financial security, to name a few.

It will take hard work, but we are no strangers to hard work. It will take thoughtful creativity, but we are no strangers to this concept either.

Now I issue this challenge -- to those assembled here and those joining us online; to our faculty, staff and administrators; to our alumni; to our community partners; and to our students:

- **U**, let us resolve to make this institution the model of how comprehensive universities can contribute towards addressing critical societal challenges.
- **U**, let us resolve to educate students who will be recognized for inventing the future so that others will seek partnerships with Millersville University.
- **U**, let us resolve to become the exceptional higher education model of student success; faculty excellence; staff hospitality; community partnerships; alumni support; and board engagement.
- And, **U**, let us resolve to establish our university - **MLU** - as a premier institution of higher education; the **b** public liberal arts university; first in PASSHE, then in Pennsylvania, then on the East Coast and finally in the nation.
- **U**, we will pursue this goal strategically, systematically and unapologetically. The best University in the nation...**RE V L E!**

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you in a few moments at the Garden Supper at Tanger House!