



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: *THE POWER OF THREE*



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

Mission Statement

Our hard-working and determined students are at the heart of everything we do. Commonwealth University leverages the power of Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield to provide affordable, high-quality education emphasizing high-impact practices, personal and career connections, and inclusivity supporting all learners to succeed in our region and beyond.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE POWER OF THREE

Transformation. Across higher education, that word carries a host of meanings and significance. Our purpose as educators is to serve as transformative forces in the lives of our students. We're driven to act as catalysts for growth and positive change, igniting a spark of creativity, innovation, and purpose in their lives. We aim to bring out their strengths while challenging their world view. We support them while pushing them past their comfort zones, fostering a spirit of inquiry and curiosity that will carry them into careers and lives of great purpose and impact.

Our highest aspiration is to change lives—to make a difference. That's the power of education.

The past two years have been transformative for three historic institutions—Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield—who have come together as Commonwealth University. For centuries, these institutions have evolved—transformed—to serve the needs of their students and communities. From normal schools, to state teacher's colleges, to state colleges, to universities. We have reinvented ourselves time and time again, never losing sight of our mission—our students.

Student success is at the heart of what we do, and why our mission to prepare students for their future careers results in 99% of our graduates employed or in graduate programs. With more access to academic programs, professional experiences and internships, Commonwealth University students have far more opportunities than any one location could offer independently.

During Mansfield University's Fall Convocation, Associate Professor of English Brad Lint researched the origins of the word Commonwealth, which taken to its root, combining "common" meaning community, and "wealth" meaning well-being, and jointly "public well-being: the general good, welfare, or prosperity of a community."

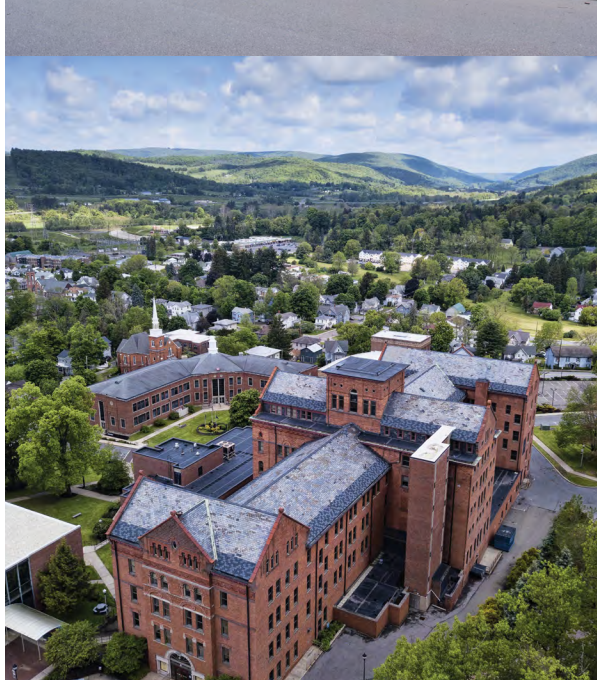
We have come together for a purpose greater than our single institutions—to realize the vision of a University intent on serving students first. Our inaugural President's Report details the ways our divisions are implementing best practices and innovative initiatives to deliver a student-centered education bringing together the best practices, ideas, and traditions from our three institutions to create an experience rich with opportunities and rooted in affordability.

We're driven to ensure that earning a degree continues to act as a transformative force in the lives of our students—propelling them on to lives of meaning and success.

We embrace, wholeheartedly, our mission and the vision we have for building Commonwealth University into an educational powerhouse—evolving and building on the legacies of three historic institutions. **That's the power of three.**



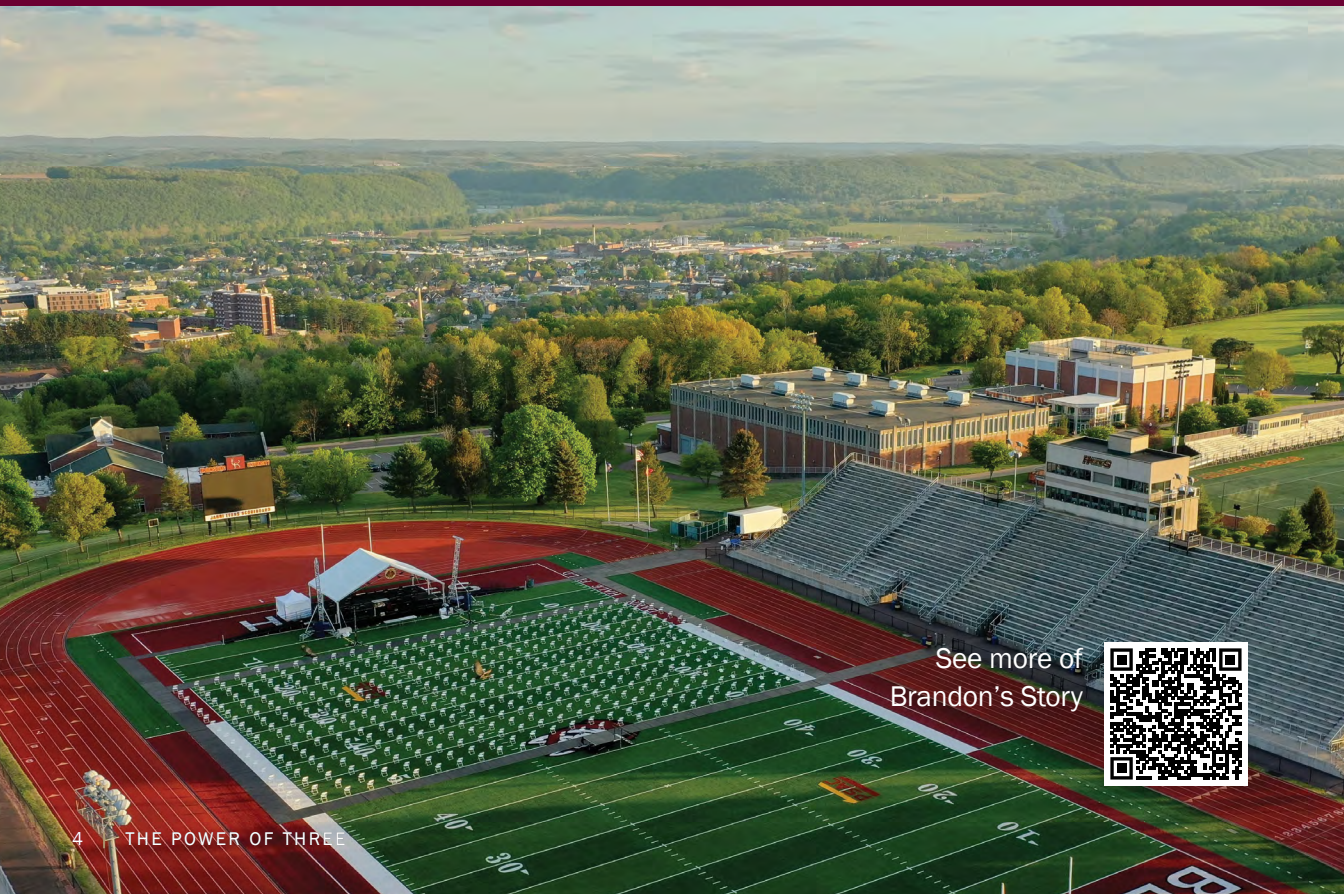
Dr. Bashar W. Hanna
President



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY:

Boldly Focused on Student Success

Student Success stands at the forefront of Commonwealth University's mission. Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield students will have more opportunities than ever before to change their lives by embracing the transformative power of education. Building on the legacies of three historic institutions, Commonwealth University empowers students to discover their passions, hone their skills, and embrace the promise of a successful future.



See more of
Brandon's Story





POWERED BY PROFESSIONAL U:

Bloomsburg University Student and Football Player Interns with Department of Corrections

Brandon Gill '21, a standout football player for the BU Huskies, always had a love for computers. At Bloomsburg University, he was able to focus that interest through the nationally recognized program in Digital Forensics.

Through a connection with BU Head Football Coach Frank Sheptock '86, Brandon met BU alumnus and trustee John Wetzel '98, former secretary of corrections for the Commonwealth of PA. Their combined interest in football served as the catalyst for an internship opportunity as an Intel Analyst with the Department of Corrections, focusing on digital forensics and cyber security. Brandon's internship was made possible

through Bloomsburg's commitment to Professional U and the support of a Professional Experience Grant.

"I'm passionate about helping students. Especially getting bright young minds into corrections. It's really critical that students like Brandon get these experiences," said now retired Secretary Wetzel.

As a young professional and new alumnus, Brandon looks forward to giving back to Commonwealth University students. "I want to be somebody that students and alumni can reach out to. When somebody needs a job, or that next step in life, I want to help change that person's life just like Secretary Wetzel changed mine," Brandon said.



HAVEN FAMILY:

First Generation Student Finds Success and Community at Lock Haven University

“I look to the future knowing that no matter what I go through, I’ll never be alone if I have my Lock Haven community.”

“My parents never went to college. I never had the person to look up to that went to college and earned a degree.” **Megan Wein** is a first-generation student at Lock Haven University. For her, having a supportive community has meant everything. “I would say to any student who feels like they are facing adversity and can’t pursue a four-year degree, that you can do it. Lock Haven will always have your back,” Megan said.

When Megan found out she was pregnant her sophomore year at Lock Haven she kept the secret for months. With the support of her Lock Haven family—friends, professors, and teammates—Megan stayed in school and thrived. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and remained active on Lock Haven’s Cheerleading squad. “My professors and their support, the sense of family at Lock Haven, is something that I’ll cherish forever,” she said.

As a Health Science Major, Megan played a critical role in the campuses’ COVID-19 response, serving as a contact tracer and contributing to academic studies on community-based mitigation strategies that she presented at the 2022 PA Community and Public Health Conference. Megan was one of a handful of undergraduate students to present at the largest public health conference in the state.



“There are so many **opportunities** at Mansfield if you’re willing to take them.”

See more of
Sara’s Story



EMBRACING OPPORTUNITY:

Mansfield University Transfer Student Makes the Most of Campus Offerings

Sara Hart '22 always thought she wanted to attend a private university. “I always thought private colleges were more prestigious. And I thought that to be rewarded for doing so much and so well in high school, I needed to attend a private college.” At the close of her first semester, Sara knew the private institution wasn’t for her. “It felt like everyone was the same and it was harder to stand out,” Sara said.

Standing out came easy for Sara once she transferred to Mansfield University. An exemplary student from Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, Sara quickly got involved with multiple clubs and organizations. She also served as Mansfield’s student trustee, which she says enriched her university experience by 100%. In 2022, Sara served on a team that finished second in a national banking competition, the Community Bank Case Study Competition. Her work was later published in the CSBS Journal of Community Bank Case Studies.

As a business administration major with a minor in professional writing, Sara loved the small class sizes and close personal attention from faculty. She said, “The professors really care for how you’re doing in their classes. Everyone here is for the students.” Sara completed a virtual internship with the media company Bloomberg prior to her senior year. She was drawn to the company for its values and commitment to diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, and thought.

“When I think about my future, I think about how many doors I have open to me,” she said.

A UNIFIED APPLICATION:

Putting the Power of Three to Work

In July 2022, Commonwealth University launched a unified admissions application, allowing prospective students to apply simultaneously to the campus(es) of their choice.

Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield, together as Commonwealth University, are boldly investing in the people and communities of Pennsylvania. We are building an affordable, student-centered, academic powerhouse where the leading programs of our legacy institutions not only remain, but grow even stronger.

Dual Enrollment/Early College High School Agreements

Dual or concurrent enrollment agreements give students a strong foundation to move into their chosen area of study, saving time and minimizing the cost to attain a degree. New in 2022, CommonwealthU has partnered with the following public school districts and private school partners (homeschooled students within these school districts also qualify):

BLOOMSBURG PARTNERS:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Benton Area | Milton Area |
| Berwick Area | Montgomery Area |
| Bloomsburg Area | Mt. Carmel Area |
| Central Columbia | Muncy |
| Crestwood | North Pocono |
| Danville Area | North Schuylkill |
| East Juniata | Northwest Area |
| East Lycoming | Penns Valley |
| Greenwood | Selinsgrove Area |
| Hazleton Area | Shamokin Area |
| Jersey Shore Area | Shikellamy |
| Juniata County | S. Columbia Area |
| Keystone Central | Stroudsburg Area |
| Lake-Lehman | Sullivan County |
| Lewisburg Area | Tri Valley |
| Line Mountain | Wallenpaupack Area |
| Loyalsock Twp. | Warrior Run |
| Midd-West | West Shore |
| Mifflinburg Area | Western Wayne |
| Millville Area | Williamsport Area |

LOCK HAVEN PARTNERS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bald Eagle Area | Dubois Catholic School | Penns Valley |
| Bellefonte Area | Eastern York | Philipsburg Osceola |
| Central Columbia | Harmony Area | St. John Neumann Regional Academy |
| Clearfield Area | Jersey Shore Area | Sugar Valley Rural Charter School |
| Clearfield Alliance Christian | Keystone Central | West Branch Area |
| Curwensville | Loyalsock Township | Williamsport Area |
| Dubois Area | Milton Area | |
| | Moshannon Valley | |

MANSFIELD PARTNERS:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Abington Heights | Galeton Area | Port Allegany |
| Athens Area | Grier School | Red Lion Area |
| Austin Area | Insight PA Cyber Charter | Saint Marys Area |
| Bangor Area | Jersey Shore Area | Sayre Area |
| Benton Area | Keystone Central | Smethport Area |
| Cameron County | Lakeland Area | Solanco |
| Canton Area | Littlestown Area | S.Williamsport Area |
| Central York | Loyalsock Township | Southern Tioga |
| Christian School Assoc. of Greater Harrisburg | Mid Valley | Sullivan County |
| Conewago Valley | Millville Area | Towanda Area |
| Corning-Painted Post Area | New Covenant Academy | Troy Area |
| Coudersport Area | North East | Waverly Central |
| Dallastown Area | Northeast Bradford | Wellsboro Area |
| Dover Area | Northeastern | West York Area |
| East Lycoming | Northern Potter | Williamsport Area |
| Eastern Lancaster Co. | Northern Tioga | Wyalusing Area |
| Eastern York | Oswayo Valley | York City |
| | Penns Valley | |



Read more about
HS Partnerships

The Enrollment Management Division serves Commonwealth University students through their entire educational journey, from prospect to graduate. The dedicated teams across our campuses work collaboratively to promote student success by providing help throughout the recruitment, admissions, financial aid, and early college processes.

– DR. STEPHEN LEE,
Vice President for Enrollment Management



Community College Partnerships Create Pathways for Success

Upon the official integration of Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield universities, leaders swiftly developed key partnerships with community colleges throughout the region. The newly established agreements embody CommonwealthU's mission to provide life-changing education access to Pennsylvania's future leaders—ensuring they can pursue their academic and professional goals unencumbered by concerns about affordability.

The creation of Guaranteed Transfer Admissions Agreements with multiple community colleges across the state guarantee graduates of the partner community college full junior-level standing at Commonwealth University. The agreements offer 4 tiers of guaranteed scholarship awards based on the students' academic performance at community college. The renewable scholarship is awarded for up to \$5,000 per year.

Community College Partnerships

- Harrisburg Area Community College
- Lehigh Carbon Community College
- Luzerne County Community College
- Northern Pennsylvania Regional College
- Reading Area Community College
- 5 additional agreements pending

Community Scholars Programs Lend Access and Affordability to Region's Students

Agreements guaranteeing admission and up to \$28,000 in merit-based scholarships, as well as on-campus housing at any location, were recently signed with 50 school districts from Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

The agreements guarantee admission for qualified graduates who enroll in a bachelor's degree program and who meet the following criteria:

- | Apply for admission to any location within Commonwealth University no later than December 15 of the student's senior year.
- | Graduate from their respective school districts.
- | Those graduates would be eligible for four tiers of academic merit scholarships according to the following academic preparedness of the student applicant:

TIER 1 | 95% or above or 3.8 to 4.0 cumulative GPA – \$28,000; \$7,000 annually

TIER 2 | 90-94% or above or 3.5 to 3.79 cumulative GPA – \$24,000; \$6,000 annually

TIER 3 | 85-89% or above or 3.0 to 3.49 cumulative GPA - \$16,000; \$4,000 annually

TIER 4 | 80-84% or above or 2.5 to 2.99 cumulative GPA - \$12,000; \$3,000 annually

- | The scholarship is renewable for up to four (4) academic years, or eight (8) consecutive fall and spring academic semesters.



“These agreements signify the power of partnership to make a significant impact in the lives of our region's students. We are fortunate to have academically talented and driven high school students in our region who will thrive as Huskies, Bald Eagles, and Mounties. We look forward to welcoming them to our campuses.”

– DR. BASHAR W. HANNA,
President

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY AT WORK:

Lock Haven Physician Assistant Program Pioneers Real-Time Virtual Learning

Lock Haven University's Physician Assistant program was the first of its kind in Pennsylvania's State System when it began in 1996. Since then, it has continued to grow and build a reputation for supplying underserved populations with healthcare providers.

The program utilizes state-of-the-art academic technology for instruction across its three locations in Lock Haven, Clearfield, and Harrisburg. Students from each campus view lectures remotely using video technology that utilizes a physical diagnosis lab and a cadaver lab. While the majority of the instruction is hands-on at each of the campus locations, the student-centered approach to case-based learning utilizing video technology allows students to interact and gain more information from others outside of the typical classroom experience.



The real-time-virtual-interface also mirrors current trends in health care delivery across the country where tele-health is becoming increasingly prevalent, particularly in rural areas where many of Lock Haven's PA program graduates eventually set up practice.

VIRTUAL REALITY PREPARES POLICE OFFICERS AT MANSFIELD

Since 1977, Mansfield University has offered an Act 120 Municipal Police Academy, one of only 16 across Pennsylvania certified by the Municipal Police Officer's Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

The Academy was the first in the state to incorporate virtual reality technology into the recruit training process. VR enhances four key areas:

- | Communication skills
- | Decision making skills
- | Equipment related skills
- | Physical related skills

In addition to this first-of-its-kind training modality, Mansfield Public Safety Training Institute (MUPSTI) utilizes additional modules, which have enhanced mandated material with credentialing and micro-credentialing. "This is not being done elsewhere, it's unique to Mansfield," said Scott Henry, Director.





Bloomsburg University Center for Digital Forensics and Cyber Security

Bloomsburg University's Center for Digital Forensics and Cyber Security has been designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education through 2027. Bloomsburg offers the only digital forensics and cybersecurity bachelor's degree in the State System.

The program is jointly sponsored by the National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security and holds the prestigious CAE Designation, signifying the program meets stringent criteria for curriculum, faculty, and research.



Demand for cyber security analysts continues to grow. The industry will need individuals ready to create innovative solutions to prevent hacking and cyber-crime.

Recent Internships:

- | Department of Homeland Security
- | Federal Bureau of Investigation
- | JPMorgan Chase
- | Lockheed Martin
- | National Security Agency
- | T-Mobile
- | U.S. Army
- | U.S. Bank
- | Verizon
- | VMWare

Building the Brand

The integration of Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield universities is a bold investment in the communities and people of Pennsylvania. Our mission is to expand high-quality, affordable academic opportunities to support the needs of all learners.

Powerful ideas start here, carried by dynamic stories and voices, resulting in empowered students. Together, we provide financially responsible degree options that maximize experiential learning, career preparation, and efficient time to degree completion.

We're Honoring our History by preserving the founding principles of each campus and continuing our vibrant on-campus student experience, serving as pillars of our communities, supporting students and our neighbors alike.

We're Investing in Today by answering the greatest challenges facing higher education: accessibility, cost, quality, and relevance through the combined strength of our storied institutions.

We're Building a Powerful Tomorrow by boldly changing the trajectory of public higher education to position ourselves for growth, increased access, and to meet economic and workforce development needs in our region, across Pennsylvania and beyond.

THAT'S THE POWER OF THREE.

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True to our charge, we are leveraging our institutional identities as we work to build a positive future for Commonwealth University. Since our founding dates, nearly two centuries ago, we have proudly embraced our home communities and our commitment to them remains strong as we build upon our institutions' storied legacies.

– JENNIFER UMBERGER,
Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

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POWERFUL IDEAS START HERE:

The University Experience

Harnessing the power of the combined resources of Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield universities, we provide students a first-of-its-kind academic experience. Traditional, in-person instruction continues at all campuses. Students also have access to new, technology-enabled classrooms, which create real-time collaborative learning and expand academic options, from bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs to associate's degrees, certificates, and even high school dual enrollment. More than 80% of our students are enrolled in foundational, in-demand programs like:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Applied Computer Science | Health Sciences w/ |
| Biology | Pre-Professional Pathways |
| Business Administration | Media and Journalism |
| Criminal Justice | Nursing |
| Early Childhood Education | Psychology |
| Exercise Science | Social Work |
| | Special Education |



Commonwealth University Colleges

College of Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities

Dr. James Brown, Dean

College of Education and Human Studies

Dr. Ann Larson, Dean

Zeigler College of Business

Dr. Todd Shawver, Dean

College of Health Professions

Dr. Leo-Felix Jurado, Dean

College of Science and Technology

Dr. Latha Ramakrishnan, Dean

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Integration has afforded us many opportunities. Perhaps most exciting for future students is that we will soon have the most updated totality of our curriculum of any higher education institution in the country.

– DR. DIANA ROGERS-ADKINSON,
Provost and Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs

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Innovative opportunities continue with in-demand options such as digital forensics and cybersecurity, music technology, professional sales and marketing, and sport management.

Students also have access to new academic opportunities, only available at CommonwealthU through our unique and innovative array that leverages opportunities across our campuses.

| Artist, Musician, or Scientist-in-Residence

Aligned with faculty expertise, students will explore new techniques and develop new skills with special access to state-of-the-art studio and lab settings.

| Criminal Justice

Students may enroll in the Police Academy through the Criminal Justice program and spend six months in the PA Municipal Police Academy as part of their degree program, or add an EMT-national certification.

| Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Science Field Camp

Expanded offerings to explore the unique natural landscapes across our campus locations.

| Nursing and Physician Assistant Programs

Increased clinical settings or clinical rotation opportunities at healthcare facilities within the region.

Bloomsburg Nurse Anesthesia Graduates Achieve Perfection

Bloomsburg University's 2022 nurse anesthesia class achieved perfection in its national certification exam (NCE), measuring the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for entry-level nurse anesthesia practitioners. This is the second time Bloomsburg students have achieved a 100% first-time pass rate.

13
Bloomsburg
students

100%
Overall
Pass Rate

100%
Employment
Rate

The national first-time pass rate is 85.2%



Mansfield University Cell and Molecular Biology Student Receives NASA Grant to Fund Cancer Research

When Lauren Griffith transferred to Mansfield University midway through her first year, she had no idea what opportunities would await her. Now Griffith, a Cell and Molecular Biology major, is one of the 2022 recipients of the NASA Pennsylvania Space Grant, and plans to use the funds to continue her research on pancreatic cancer.

With Mansfield faculty member Dr. Kristen Long, associate professor of biology, as a mentor Griffith's research focuses on exploring how curcumin, an experimental treatment for solid tumors, impacts the inflammatory bacteria that are present in the gut.

After graduation, Griffith plans to pursue her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology.

Read more about
Lauren's story





Living and Learning in Community

At Bloomsburg University, Learning Communities foster an inclusive environment where students with similar majors, interests, and goals are afforded rich and varied learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

Example Learning Communities:

- | American Sign Language
- | Creative Arts
- | Digital Sciences
- | Environmental
- | Frederick Douglass
- | Social Justice
- | Health Sciences
- | Honors
- | Military and Veterans

Benefits of Learning Communities

- | Students acclimate to campus
- | Meet and interact with other students with similar interests/goals
- | Attend various educational and/or social workshops and programs
- | Form strong relationships with faculty
- | Network and develop professional connections valuable after graduation
- | Make connections that will aid in career development
- | Be assigned a mentor to help you transition to the college setting
- | Receive tips on succeeding academically

CARE TEAMS:

Supporting Students Through Every Journey

In accordance with our mission, the team across Commonwealth University focuses on supporting students through every part of their college experience. The CU Care Team meets weekly to address reports of students who may be experiencing non-academic challenges. Securing assistance for students who are in crisis, or exhibiting problematic behaviors helps us quickly connect students with the right resources to address issues, find support, and keep their goals on track.

A pilot program to introduce Learning Communities at both Lock Haven and Mansfield is planned for Fall 2023.

LOCK HAVEN'S STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER:

A One-Stop-Shop to Empower Success

In Fall 2021 Lock Haven University launched a Student Success Center—a one-stop-shop for students to address concerns, find support, and connect with staff and peer mentors. Centrally located on campus, the Center houses multiple student-facing offices and features a concierge desk to greet students. The Success Center aims to assist students in four major areas: academic success, social adjustment, financial literacy, and career exploration.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION: Reaching the Community

Community outreach for promotion of DEI perspectives within each campus region has begun. New relationships with Southern Tioga School District at Mansfield and Keystone Central School District at Lock Haven were established during the 2021-22 academic year. These relationships have resulted in initial DEI trainings taking place within each district for teachers, staff, administrators, and students during the 21-22 year. More collaborative trainings and events are planned for the 22-23 academic year.

75+

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
educational events
across all three
campus locations

100+

attendees from all
3 campuses participated
in Ally/SafeZone training and
DEI and Disability awareness

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Studies have shown that students who connect in classes and through academic interactions are more likely

to stay engaged and enrolled and their GPA is generally higher.

– DR. MARTY WYGMANS,
Vice President for Student Success
and Campus Life

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We recognize our responsibility to continuously support a living, learning, and working environment that values the diverse contributions from all members of our campus community. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion enriches our campus community and is instrumental to our institutional success.

– ALBERT JONES,
Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer

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In Fall 2022, the **Dr. Robert and Dolores Lynch Multicultural Resource Center** was established on Lock Haven's campus. The Center, named for an emeritus faculty member and dedicated member of the Lock Haven community, will serve as a sign of positive change at LHU while demonstrating the unity progressing across the campus for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

Uncommon Experiences Lead to *Unbelievable* Opportunities

The University is fulfilling its unique charge to grow career aligned pathways while developing industry-standard credentialing programs that will serve Pennsylvanians now and long into the future.

Credentialing and certificate programs will provide more opportunities for traditional students and learners of all ages to earn marketable credentials. Non-credit programs serve as gateways to degrees, while inviting non-traditional students to stop in and stop out in a natural working and learning progression that fits their goals, lifestyle, and priorities.

Providing more opportunities for students' educational progression not only builds

confidence and pride, but can also help students graduate faster, with less debt.

"Working with employers to develop high-quality, innovative, and inclusive training, leading to industry-recognized credentials, is at the core of workforce development training," said Hope Lineman, executive director of workforce development for Commonwealth University. "We are delivering on our mission in new and creative ways to ensure that Pennsylvania residents, including traditional, non-traditional, and working adults, have access to cutting-edge training and programs through partnerships with community colleges and employers. The State System redesign brings a renewed focus to continue driving economic development and social mobility."





Lock Haven Grant Provides Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators

Lock Haven University began the academic term with a fourth year of funding from the Early Childhood Education Professional Development Organization at PASSHE to support professional development for early childhood educators.

The grant offers tuition, technology, translation, and other flexible learning supports to qualifying students who work a minimum of 25 hours per week in a state-licensed early child care program.

“ We are thrilled to be part of this important initiative. The recognized credential of a CDA and pathways to associate and bachelor’s degrees are key steppingstones for early childhood teachers on their paths to career advancement. Early childhood teachers with these credentials know how to nurture young children’s emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development.

– DR. ANN ELISABETH LARSON,
Dean of the College of Education
and Human Studies



[Read more](#)

Mansfield University Public Safety Training Institute Enters Training Agreement with Fish and Boat Commission

Mansfield University and The Mansfield University Public Safety Training Institute (MUPSTI) have entered into a training agreement with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). MUPSTI is conducting Law Enforcement training for 19 PFBC Waterways Conservation Officer (WCO) trainees. The trainees will receive approximately six months of Law Enforcement training as required by the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Training Act, Act 120. The training is being conducted at the Mansfield campus and will allow the future WCOs to function as Law Enforcement Officers in Pennsylvania.



[Read more](#)



23 Bloomsburg
NCAA Varsity Sports

21 Lock Haven
NCAA Varsity Sports

13 Mansfield
NCAA Varsity Sports

Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield continue to offer student activities, clubs, events, and campus life that make for an unforgettable college experience. A full complement of NCAA athletic programs at each campus leads the spirit of Huskies, Bald Eagles, and Mountaineers.



536

Combined number
of scholar athletes*
(Bloom: 297, LH: 169, M:70)



14,000

Volunteer hours logged
by student-athletes



43

States Represented



15

Nations Represented

*Scholar athletes must have maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 upon completion of the 2021-22 academic year.

Commonwealth Campuses Raise Funds through Giving Days

On April 8, alumni and supporters from Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield universities showed up for students in a big way through the All In Days of Giving.

The events raised record levels of support for scholarships and programs benefiting students across all of CommonwealthU’s campuses.

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield | All In Days of Giving Totals*

\$432,459.27
Amount Raised

\$63,692.94
Unrestricted Funding

1,729
Donors

**Cumulative raised across three campuses.*



Mansfield University Receives \$25,000 Donation From PSECU

Mansfield University recently received a \$25,000 donation from Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU) to support student scholarships, campus programs, and financial literacy education. PSECU supports the University campus by providing sponsorships to various organizations, including athletics, scholarships for student learners, and offers WalletWorks Financial Literacy Education programs and events.

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In Advancement we aspire to align donor passions—what they want to support most—with university strategic priorities core to our mission, preparing

students for success. When we find this balance, philanthropic gifts often result in incredible opportunities for student such as scholarships, professional experience grants, and the creation of Centers of Professional Practice supporting experiential learning.

– ERIK EVANS,
Vice President for Advancement,

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Powered by *Professional U*

Commonwealth University is uniquely situated to leverage key stakeholders and provide students with exceptional experiences. Building relationships between alumni and employer partners while connecting career opportunities with philanthropic supports sets us apart nationally and offers students first class, holistic career preparation.

Professional U is an engaged career community of faculty, staff, alumni, and employer partners who support and prepare students for careers and life. Teams from Advancement, Academic Affairs, and Student Success work together to ensure our students have access to experiences and resources that support them academically and financially, while preparing them for the future.

As the hallmark of Commonwealth University's career and continuing education preparation, we are committed

to providing students unparalleled access to experiential learning opportunities, undergraduate research, internships, clinical and field experiences, and study abroad options. Through Professional U, students develop their interests and skills, build a resume, polish interview skills, and graduate with the confidence to succeed in their career.

With a 93% and above job placement rate at all three institutions, it's proof that employer partners value our students and the experience they bring to the job on day one. We're in this together, and that includes the collective power of an alumni network of more than 143,000 members strong across the country and around the world, ready to welcome students.



LHU Alumni Association Board Member Offers Scholarship, Mentorship to Enhance Student Success and Inclusivity

LaToya Smith '98 knows that both a scholarship and having a mentor can go a long way in helping a student graduate from college. That's why she helped establish the Shades of LHU Legacy Scholarship, which awards up to \$1,000 annually to a black Commonwealth University-Lock Haven student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Smith also works with former Alumni Association President, **Ed Wright '71**; Lock Haven's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, **Kenneth Hall '94**; and Commonwealth University's Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, **Albert Jones '99**, to provide mentorship to students of color.



Supporting Hands-On Learning

Teams across the Advancement Division and within our University's supporting foundations are working to enhance and grow support for professional experiences that will prepare our students for their future. From mentorship to investments in facilities critical to developing professional skills, to scholarship funding and grants that make professional experiences possible, our donors and supporters serve an integral role in our students' success. We are grateful for their vision, commitment, and generosity.

GROWING THE FUTURE OF NURSING AT BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY

The 1994 Charles B. Degenstein Foundation made a transformational gift in the form of a \$500,000 matching grant to support the creation of the Degenstein Nursing Simulation Center at Bloomsburg University. The facility will emulate a hospital setting and provide CU with the opportunity to recruit and develop more qualified nurses to serve our region. This Simulation Center will meet the needs of students training to be professional nurses by improving their access to high-performance clinical practice environments to meet the intense and specialty clinical practice needs of advanced Nurse Practitioners.



Read more
about the
Confer Media
Center

CONFER MEDIA CENTER GIFT SHOWS POSSIBILITIES INHERENT IN INTEGRATION

More opportunities lead to more prepared students. That's the mindset powering Professional U, and it demonstrates what's possible across the Commonwealth University campuses through the support of generous donors and supporters. Kerby Confer, a Williamsport, PA native and owner of Forever Broadcasting/Founder of the Froggy brand stations, began his support of Bloomsburg University in 2013 when he established BU as the perennial host of the Confer Radio Talent

Institute, which he has described as "a talent incubator." Confer's support has continued to grow. His most recent gift at Bloomsburg, \$5.3 million to create a state-of-the-art media center for students aspiring to achieve success in the fields of radio, video, podcasts, live streaming, and other forms of broadcasting and media. The new facility at Bloomsburg will be named the Kerby Confer Media Center.



Fostering Sustainability

Colleges and universities across the nation have felt the impact of a seismic demographic shift in recent years. The record-high enrollments seen early in the decade have given way to a slow decline made more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic. Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield universities have not been immune to these changes and challenges.

Our focus remains steadfast on supporting students through the financial and demographic challenges we face and implementing best practices across divisions in order to rise and meet the challenges. Our students deserve nothing less.



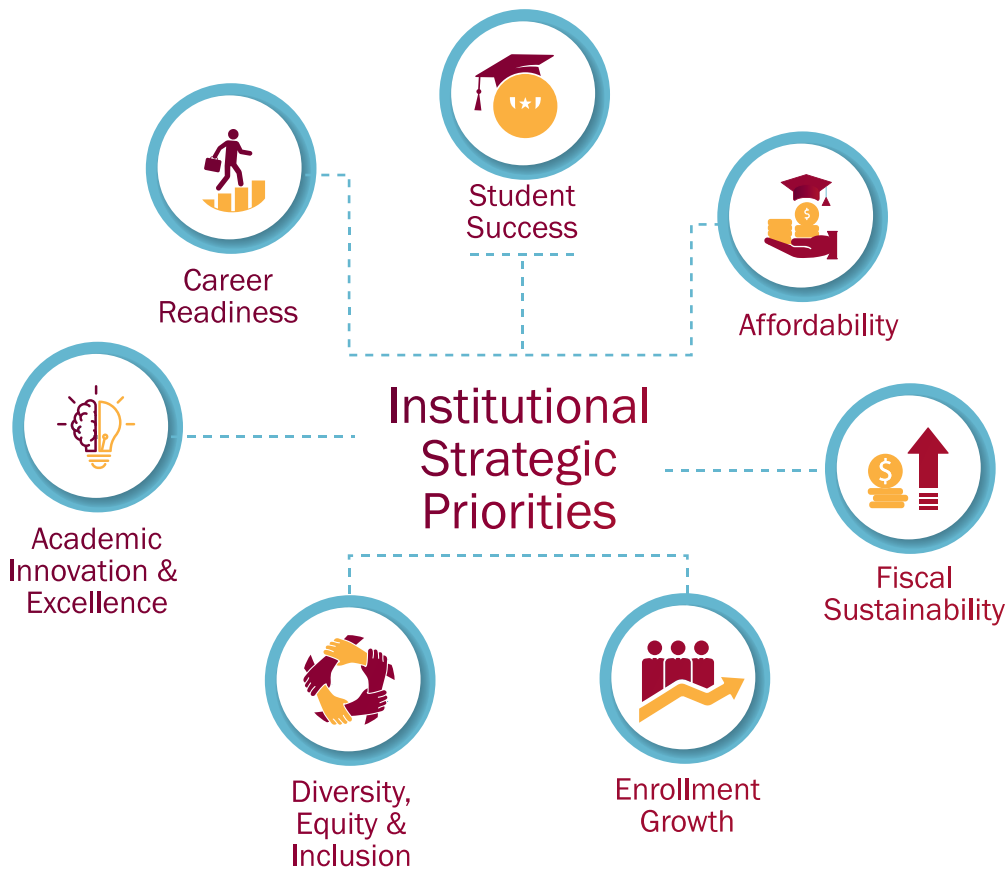
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE:

State Makes Historic Investment in System Universities

This is a historic time for public higher education in Pennsylvania. The past few months have seen both a first-of-its-kind integration of public institutions and record investment by the legislature in our state-owned universities. In April, the State System Board of Governor's voted to freeze tuition for a fourth year, ensuring our students are able to affordably pursue their education.

Pennsylvania's 2022-23 state budget invested \$552.5 million in PASSHE, a \$75 million increase from the previous year. This is the largest single-year increase PASSHE

has received from the state and will benefit students by allowing the State System to hold tuition flat for the fourth consecutive year, despite inflation. The budget also provided \$125 million in one-time American Rescue Plan Act funding to support System Redesign. In total, the state budget invested \$677.5 million in the state-owned university system and its students. The unprecedented 16% increase in the State System's appropriation signifies the state's support of the power and promise of public higher education in Pennsylvania.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

A fully integrated strategic budgeting process has been established to guide CommonwealthU's fiscal activities. The University budgeting process occurs within the context of the State System's planning and budgeting guidelines and directives, comprising the Comprehensive Planning Process. The CPP is a high level, multi-year planning process that integrates academic program planning, University goals and the strategies to achieve them, and the financial and budget projections to support programs, goals, and sustainability.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human resources has endeavored to implement processes that will create alignment and consistency in hiring practices, as well as search and screen procedures. The office is also partnering with the State System to review and develop consistent onboarding practices for new employees.

Disc™ Assessment will soon be available for employees in all divisions, following the certification of Associate Vice President for Human Resources, Tena Maurer. The assessment will prove beneficial to teams across the institution as CommonwealthU establishes its institutional culture.

Looking Ahead

“ As we continue the work of uniting three storied institutions under the banner of Commonwealth University in support of student success, we look to the future eager to begin creation of a strategic plan that will guide us forward. The engagement of our communities will prove integral to informing this process in ways that will ignite the impact possible through CommonwealthU by bringing the Power of Three to life. ”

– Dr. BASHAR W. HANNA
President



COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

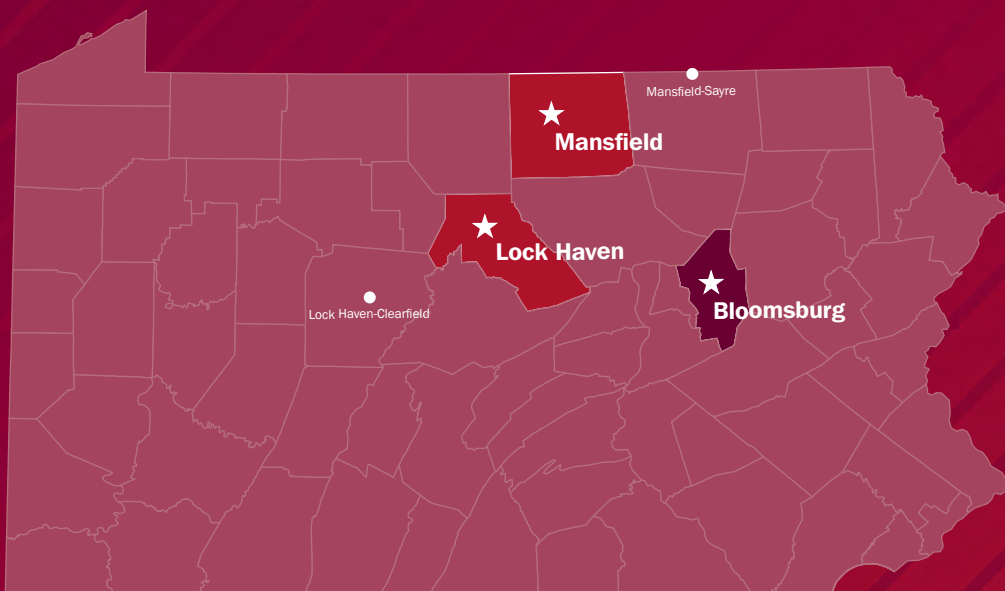
Vision Statement

Commonwealth University will be a premier regional public institution that supports and prepares all students for success in the global workforce by providing an accessible and transformative educational experience.

Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

THE POWER OF THREE



commonwealthu.edu