

Outstanding Quality of Faculty and Coaches Continues to Shine, as PASSHE Universities Receive National Recognition

The high-quality education provided by APSCUF faculty and coaches continues to be showcased nationally, as PASSHE universities have been scoring well in a number of national surveys -- most recently in a trio of listings published by *The Princeton Review*.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) is included in the 2010 edition of *The Princeton Review's* "Best 371 Colleges," an annual guidebook of the nation's top four-year colleges and universities. It is the ninth year in a row IUP has been featured in the publication.

California, Kutztown and Slippery Rock universities of Pennsylvania are included along with IUP in the *Review's* listing of "Best Northeastern Colleges." Both California and Slippery Rock made the regional listing last year, as well.

IUP's Eberly College of Business and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania's John L. Grove College of Business both are included in the current edition of the *Review's* "Best 296 Business Schools."

"APSCUF faculty and coaches are proud of our inclusion in these rankings. It is our primary mission

to provide quality education at an affordable price to a diverse student population and these rankings show what a good job our members have done through their commitment and dedication at delivering it," State APSCUF President Steve Hicks said.

A number of PASSHE universities have been recognized recently by other national publications for their academic excellence, service to students and educational value. West Chester University of Pennsylvania was rated among the best values in public higher education by Kiplinger's *Personal Finance* magazine. West Chester ranked 53rd among the 100 colleges and universities listed.

Millersville, Shippensburg, West Chester and Bloomsburg univer-

sities of Pennsylvania all ranked in the upper tier among master's level universities in the northern region of the United States in the most recent rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*. Millersville and Shippensburg tied for 58th in the rankings, while West Chester ranked 69th and Bloomsburg, 81st.

Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven and Millersville universities are included on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, selected by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Being selected for the Honor Roll is one of the highest forms of recognition by the federal government for a commitment to service and civic engagement on campus and around the country.

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Rep. Adolph Announces Legislative Action to Override Governor's Veto and Release Money for State Grant Programs

Lawmakers gather at Delaware County Community College to urge governor to stop using students as leverage during budget negotiations

Drawing attention to the governor's recent blue-lining of higher education funding in the state budget and its impact on students, state Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Springfield), chairman of the board of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), Thursday held a press conference with fellow area lawmakers and the president from Delaware County Community College (DCCC).

During the press conference, Adolph announced legislative action he is taking to override the governor's veto of funding for the Pennsylvania State Grant Program, which is administered by PHEAA.

The House recently sent to Gov. Ed Rendell Senate Bill 850, a general appropriations bill, of which he signed portions into law, in order to keep core government functions operational until an entire state budget agreement can be reached.

"While the governor chose to use Senate Bill 850 as a vehicle to pay state workers, fund the governor's office, and pay for the education of prison inmates, he vetoed or 'blue-lined' items which included funding for PHEAA's State Grant Program, community colleges and State System of Higher Education institutions," said Adolph.

"Funding for higher education must be viewed as a budget priority – not a bargaining chip," said House Republican Appropriations Committee Chairman Mario J. Civera, Jr. (R-Upper Darby).

"During these difficult economic times, students are dependent on state grants to aid in financing their education, and they look to the state system schools and community colleges to provide opportunities for future success. The fact that these good people have been pulled into the middle of this budget im-

passe is unacceptable, and it could have been avoided."

In a recent *Patriot-News* article, when Rendell was asked the question: Now that the [state] workers will get paid, do you think there will be less pressure on all sides to get this budget done? The governor responded: "No. The reason I line-item vetoed everything is to make sure there is still pressure. For example the county governments are screaming bloody murder because all of their lines are out. The universities, the PHEAA grants ... none of the PHEAA grants can go out. Students are going back to school and won't know what their full aid package is. The providers, like the pre-K accounts [sic] and the Head Starts, they're going to run out of money by the end of August, so there's still plenty of pressure to get this done."



APSCUF Members Only Site

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Become involved in your union! Share your ideas with colleagues from across the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

APSCUF - it pays to belong!

PASSHE Universities Receive National Recognition

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Slippery Rock University is included in the 2009 edition of *Beyond the Books, Guide to Service-Learning at Colleges & Universities*, which profiles the nation's top institutions for service learning. Four institutions – SRU, Princeton, New Mexico and Appalachian State – are featured in a chapter on schools that teach students to use academic skills and knowledge for community projects in education, homelessness, inequality and the environment.

Cal U. has been designated an “eArmyU school” as a preferred provider of online education for soldiers. The university offers degrees through *GoArmyEd*, the military's educational portal, to soldiers stationed around the world. Cal U. also was named one of America's Top Military Friendly Colleges and Universities by *Military Advanced Education*, a magazine for service members who are continuing their studies.

The majority of academic programs offered by the 14 PASSHE universities are accredited by professional organizations, a strong in-

dicator of academic quality across the State System.

Seventy-nine percent of PASSHE programs eligible for accreditation are now accredited, up from only about 53 percent in 2004. Two PASSHE universities – Clarion and IUP – have had more than 90 percent of their eligible programs accredited. Seven of the universities have received accreditation for more than 80 percent of their eligible programs compared to

only two institutions achieving this mark in 2004.

The business programs at five PASSHE universities (Bloomsburg, Clarion, Indiana, Shippensburg and West Chester) are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), one of the most prestigious and difficult to achieve accreditations in academe. Two other PASSHE universities (East Stroudsburg and Slippery Rock) are in the process of seeking AACSB accreditation.



APSCUF Endorses Judicial Candidates for November General Election

Jack Panella - Supreme Court
Anne Lazarus - Superior Court
Kevin McCarthy - Superior Court
Linda Judson - Commonwealth Court

All Quiet in Harrisburg as State Budget Stalemate Continues



It's been very quiet in Harrisburg, as the entire week went by without any apparent attempt by lawmakers to move forward on the state budget.

Early in the week Governor Ed Rendell called on legislative leaders to resume talks, even if that meant temporarily replacing conference committee member Dwight Evans.

Evans was out of state and unavailable due to a death in the family. The conference committee last met two weeks ago but made no progress on a spending plan.

While no apparent attempts were made to negotiate, there was still plenty said about the budget this week, with Republicans and Democrats blaming each other for the budget impasse.

There was some discussion this week about a potential revenue producing idea that could factor into

budget negotiations: legalization of table gaming at Pennsylvania's casinos. House Majority Leader Todd Eachus, D-Luzerne, and other House Democrats say table games could be one source of "non-tax revenue" to help balance the state budget. But Senate Republicans have been clear that they believe changes to the gambling law need to come first.

And while lawmakers appear no closer to resolving the state budget impasse, at least most state government workers will soon see a resumption of their paychecks.

Unfortunately, not every state worker will be seeing paychecks going forward. Rendell announced Monday that 255 state employees would receive pink slips this week notifying them of their permanent

furlough effective at the end of this month.

Rendell said the number of layoffs necessary is "less than expected," crediting significant retirements and the state's job freeze.

The 255 eliminations, which are based on the funding available to agencies in the governor's \$29 billion February budget, will save the state about \$7.1 million, according to data from the governor's office.

The administration is calling the position eliminations "furloughs" because employees could be called back if more funds become available.

Unlike a rolling furlough, these cuts are permanent, according to the governor's staff.

(Note: Information for this story provided by Capitolwire.)

Discounts on Wireless Telephone Service Available to APSCUF Members



Discount deals have been made with Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile

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