Stability of the region rests with the quality of education system

Northeastern Pennsylvania — and specifically Luzerne County — is fortunate to have many colleges and universities that provide numerous programs that produce thousands of graduates each year. “Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.

By Bill O’Boyle

“Consider this: in 2013, Wilkes-Barre was the largest city in the United States without any college or university to educate its young people,” Newman said. “Today, Greater Wilkes-Barre boasts five different colleges and universities enrolling more than 10,000 students. That didn’t happen by accident, but through hard collective effort.”

Teri Ooms, executive director of The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development, said a 2019 study shows a significant key to the economic growth and stability of any region rests with the quality of education at all levels.
Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson joined Bloomsburg University as provost/senior vice president of academic affairs in June.

By Marcella Kester
For Times Leader

BLOOMSBURG – Bloomsburg University is preparing for a series of changes, additions and enhancements, and helping to lead the way is a new provost.

Following a nationwide search, Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson began her tenure at Bloomsburg University in June. She previously served Southeast Missouri State University, where she led seven departments and more than 3,500 students as the dean of the Colleges of Education, Health and Human Studies.

“When I got to Bloomsburg for my interview I immediately felt at home,” she said. “The passion for students by the faculty, staff and President (Dr. Bashar) Hanna was what I was looking for in the step phase of my career. I knew I was joining an institution with the same values as mine.”

“I knew I was joining an institution with the same values as mine.”

Dr. Rogers-Adkinson works alongside Hanna to meet priorities and goals of Bloomsburg University. While the president focuses on external factors – such as working with the community, alumni and key stakeholders – the provost handles inward duties to ensure the academic mission of the university is fulfilled.

President Hanna and I meet weekly to discuss our priorities and goals,” she said. “We try to make sure we are serving all of our constituents effectively in service to Bloomsburg University.”

Along with a new provost, the institution also welcomed some new majors across the system. It will be an interesting process as the long-term goal is that PASSHE schools could share majors across their campuses through online learning,” she said. On taking her new role, Rogers-Adkinson said she’s currently focused on taking input, listening and understanding before inciting change. As a first generation college student herself, she feels like she can relate to students on campus today and welcome conversation.

“I hope students will feel like they can ask me questions when they see me on campus. I walked their shoes once. Asking for help can seem scary, but everyone at Bloomsburg University wants our students to be successful. We are all here to help,” she said.

Diana Rogers-Adkinson, Bloomsburg University

Name: Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson
Tittle: Bloomsburg University Provost / Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

Quote: “When I got to Bloomsburg for my interview I immediately felt at home. The passion for students by the faculty, staff and President (Dr. Bashar) Hanna was what I was looking for in the step phase of my career. I knew I was joining an institution with the same values as mine.”
Jim Lytle, Clarks Summit University

**PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES: CLARKS SUMMIT UNIVERSITY**

**Name:** Jim Lytle  
**Title:** President of Clarks Summit University  
**Quote:** “I want this school to continue being a school that shapes your life, makes you into someone who loves God and wants others to love God.”

The university president has a goal of increasing the online enrollment from two to six and is counting on the school’s faith-based education to do so.

His predecessors have left their marks through capital improvements and expansion and Lytle, 69, a graduate from the small, private school in North-eastern Pennsylvania, wants to build on that framework. “A president’s supposed to make sure there’s a school next year and in a hundred years,” Lytle says during an interview earlier this month on campus.

“Pushing out the boundaries so we who are serving education do, I’ve come to this job when serving education is becoming normal, not abnormal,” he says. The push under his guidance is to go beyond the approximate 600 students pursuing bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees into the thousands. The post post-graduate degree students account for most of the online studies.

“I’m looking by 2023 to have 3,200 online students. That sounds huge until you look at what the market is, the available market,” Lytle says.

He estimates there are 35 million Americans in that category, but it shrinks when considering the majors and curriculum his school offers.

Every undergraduate has a dual major — taking 30 credits in biblical studies and the remainder to reach their total of 120 credits to earn a degree in their field of study. It’s in line with the school’s aim to produce graduates who are “Christ-centered and Career-Ready.”

The school offers 40 undergraduate majors in business and communications, education, Christian ministry, sports and sciences and human services. It also offers master’s degrees and doctorates from Baptist Bible Seminary.

“When you bring in the faith aspects of it, that changes the flavor of our classes. That changes the color as you go through there. That’s kind of the sacred sauce in there,” Lytle explains.

It is an acquired taste, Lytle acknowledges.

“We do want our grads to be Christ-centered. We want them to know God and love him and serve other people for him, but then also have the skills along with that so that their first boss doesn’t have to say to them, ‘Around here, you solve problems by talking to people.’ And we want them to develop that skill in college,” Lytle says.

He speaks from experience. “I know how it works,” he says.

Lytle, who is married and has four daughters, is a 1977 graduate who went onto the seminary to earn two master’s degrees. He received a Doctor of Ministry from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He taught at the school for 14 years, went to South Africa as a missionary with his wife, Diane, and children. He was named 10th president of the school in 2013. Teaching is still part of his mission and a way to connect with the students. “A small school, you oughta have people who care about you. It’s hard to hide in a small school,” he says.

Lytle’s been teaching “Principles of Bible Study” for 19 years and has redeveloped over that time to let his students know how to approach the Bible.

“So I teach that class because I want to know who the students are. I want to know who the student leaders are, you know. I want to have a part in making them what they can be with that,” he says.

His contribution is just one component of the larger sum made up of the entire school’s faculty and staff.

“We get some exceptional educational and business professionals who work here with me, who’ve got the same vision for students. And so they play into it,” Lytle says. “And you talk to any other presidents here in the valley and they’re going to tell you they succeed because of their cabinet. And that’s just as true here.”

Without them, neither he, the school, nor the students succeed, Lytle points out.

“I want this school to continue being a school that shapes your life, makes you into someone who loves God and wants others to love God,” Lytle says.

“Can that keep some students away? Sure. And we gotta do OK with that. And we gotta say then well you let us over there. On the other hand, it can draw some really cool people in too.”
Marcia G. Welsh, East Stroudsburg University

The 13th president of the university and the first female to serve in that role, Welsh is quick to speak of the university’s commitment to building entrepreneurial programs and opportunities that fuel an innovative learning environment while supporting economic growth and stability in the Pocono Region and beyond.

As an example, Welsh points to the introduction of two undergraduate programs that introduce the last two years: degree in accounting and a graduate program in Health Sciences this year—again, in response to student input and the current job market. Welsh, however, has never limited her duties to the office, but instead works to build relationships with students. For example, during December’s final exam week, Welsh again made her way from dorm to dorm to deliver cookies, to find students both emotionally and physically.

The university is a whole celebrated the holiday season in several ways, including a giant card called by students in the university’s Art and Design program. The 8-by-10-foot card was put out on campus to be signed by students and staff. The university also puts together a five-minute video that celebrates the holidays, reflecting a spirit of diversity.

For several weeks in December, the video has a prominent presentation on the school’s website. Welsh emphasizes that because 40.3 percent of the undergraduate student body is diverse, the university also seeks to employ teaching staff which is diverse.

“Our professors are role models to the students,” she said, “We have to be.”

About 84 percent of students receive financial aid at the university, which offers 58 undergraduate, 21 graduate and 2 doctoral programs. For students athletes, the university offers 22 varsity sports, recently having added women’s wrestling and tambourine/acrobatics.

Top fields of study at the school are exercise science, criminal justice, business management and health professions.

Welsh said enrollment continues to hover at just over 6,000. When other universities are struggling to attract students, ESU continues to maintain a consistent student base.

Some of that, she said, could be attributed to the university’s geography, making it easily accessible to both Philadelphia and New York City, just two blocks from Interstate 81.

“Our location provides great opportunity for students,” she said. “We have to be aware of that.”

The university’s geography, student body is diverse, and it begins the first day they set foot on campus. “Student success continues to be at the heart of all we do at East Stroudsburg University,” said Welsh.

For students athletes, the university is also committed to building entrepreneurial programs and opportunities that fuel an innovative learning environment, inspire ideas and creative growth and stability in the Pocono Region and beyond.

Welsh said the university is the best of the best in terms of financial predictability and stability, which allows the university to maintain a consistent student base.

“Some families come to the area and decide this is where they want to go to school,” she said. Welsh continues to be excited about the university’s Warrior Promise program launched in the Fall of 2018. The program guarantees that undergraduate students will pay the same tuition rate without an increase, for four years.

The program enables undergraduate students to complete as many undergraduate degrees, minors and certificates as they choose within their four-year window. The intent is to provide students and their families with financial predictability and remove concern about annual tuition increases. ESU is the first public university in Pennsylvania to provide this guarantee.

“Some families come to the area and decide this is where they want to go to school,” she said. Welsh continues to be excited about the university’s Warrior Promise program launched in the Fall of 2018. The program guarantees that undergraduate students will pay the same tuition rate without an increase, for four years.

The university’s geography, student body is diverse, and it begins the first day they set foot on campus. “Student success continues to be at the heart of all we do at East Stroudsburg University,” said Welsh.

For students athletes, the university is also committed to building entrepreneurial programs and opportunities that fuel an innovative learning environment, inspire ideas and creative growth and stability in the Pocono Region and beyond.

“ noen are very fortunate to have such great partnerships with businesses in the hotel, restaurant and tourism industries as well as those in the financial and health care fields that enable our students to get quality internship opportunities that prepare them for today’s job market, she said. “Our partnerships with the K-12 system ensure our teacher education candidates are the best-of-the-best.”
In the eight years that Madeline Levy Cruz has served as president of Fortis Institute's Scranton and Forty-Fort campuses, she has held fast to the school's commitment to equipping students for the workforce, providing area businesses with skilled employees.

Cruz, who values education as a great equalizer, is a first generation American and the first person in her family to receive a college education.

"I know firsthand how important it is and the effect it's had on my family and my community," she said. "I love being in an industry that affords students such a tangible outcome."

Cruz, who has an open door policy and enjoys hearing students' stories, said education has the ability to change people's lives.

"Several years ago, we had a student who was attending the school and living in a shelter," she said. "The student struggled throughout his time at Fortis, but was able to graduate."

"Upon graduating, the student was immediately hired and within six months, he had a home and was able to be with his children."

Cruz recently bumped into the student in the community and was happy that his time at Fortis has seemed to change the trajectory of his life.

Cruz said when she came to the school, she was determined to make a difference and to adequately prepare students for the work world and to benefit the community as an institution.

"When I first came on board, I wanted to make sure that our schools partnered with other community organizations and employers to provide the best training possible for our students in their chosen field," she said. "To that end, I made sure that our instructors had plenty of field experience in addition to didactic training."

Additionally, under Cruz's watch, the school grew its network of internship providers and clinical sites to ensure students had real-time field experience before they graduate.

The Institute has 10 programs between two campuses: Practical Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Expanded Functions Dental Assisting, Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy and Lab Assistant, Medical Billing and Coding, Electrical Trades, HVAC, Massage Therapist and CDL-A training.

The Scranton and Forty Fort campuses serve upwards of 300 students.

Times Leader Media Group is proud to support the many prestigious colleges and universities in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. Some of the Times Leader's most stand-out employees - from the newsroom to advertising to circulation and beyond - have succeeded because of the education they received in these schools.

As we begin a New Year, the Times Leader thanks these schools for the efforts they have made to better our communities and our residents.
SCANTON — 2019 was another big year of growth for the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, if you ask Steven J. Scheinman, M.D.

And Scheinman has a better chance of knowing that than anyone, considering he’s been serving as the president and dean of the school almost since its inception.

With multiple campuses around the area — and even as far away as Atlantic City, N.J. — the school’s growth seems poised to continue.

And while there are numerous things to be excited about on the school’s multiple campuses, Scheinman said that perhaps the most interesting is the school’s emphasis on active, hands-on learning instead of lectures.

“‘We want to preserve those elements that we’re very proud of,’ Scheinman said, specifically citing the school’s emphasis on active, hands-on learning instead of lectures. But, he said, there are other things the school is looking to begin to emphasize more, like helping students begin developing their professional identities. Also, as evidenced by the new Geisinger Primary Care Scholars Program, Scheinman said there will be an increased focus on primary care.

Since last year, Scheinman said the launch of the new Atlantic City campus has been everything the school could have hoped for.

“We’re very enthusiastic about our students,” Scheinman said. “We can already say our Atlantic City campus launch was a great success.”

Additionally, Scheinman said there will be a series of new online masters programs being offered online, including healthcare administration and biomedical informatics.

“These programs are being launched in conjunction with the University of Sciences in Philadelphia. Reach Patrick Kernan at 570-991-6386 or on Twitter @PatKernan
Katie Leonard, Johnson College

Originally from New York, Leonard earned a bachelor’s degree from York College of Pennsylvania and worked there in numerous roles, meeting her future husband and deciding to move to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

She started at Johnson College in 2007 as the school’s Coordinator of Grants. She immediately realized that she was in the right place.

“I just fell in love with Johnson College,” Leonard said. “From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

Even though she’s spent more than a decade at Johnson, Leonard admits that higher education wasn’t always the plan, but when she saw an opportunity in the field, she took it.

“I just kept gaining more and more experience,” Leonard said. After serving as executive vice president starting in 2015, Johnson became the college’s eighth president in 2018.

“I realized that I may never have an opportunity like this again,” said Leonard, “so I threw my hat in the ring when the school announced they were doing a search.”

One of the very first advancements made under Leonard’s watchful eye was the expansion of Johnson into a full-time, year-round campus, allowing flexibility for students who have to work in addition to taking classes.

“Work is central in the lives of our students,” Leonard said. “We wanted to create some flexibility that allows for an intercession.”

Leonard also oversaw the creating of Johnson College’s first advising office, where students can talk to advisers about their goals—personally, academically and professionally.

The college will offer classes in Forest City starting in 2020, and also in Luzerne County.

“We filled our first computerized numerical controls course at Don’s Machine Shop in West Pittston,” Leonard said. “We expected six students, and we got 11.”

Leonard also expects to fill the next class at Don’s, starting in 2020.

Future plans for Johnson College include an industry fast-track program, where high school students can take courses for college credit and arrive at Johnson a whole year ahead.

“Employees love it, students love it.”

As president, Leonard has overseen the growth and maturity of countless students under her watch, and according to her, it makes the job even more rewarding.

“To make the connection with students while they’re here … there’s no better feeling,” she said.

SCORANTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.

CRANSTON — Johnson College President Katie Leonard may have only taken office back in January 2018, but she’s already left an indelible mark on the school.

“Just fell in love with Johnson College, From the moment I stepped on this campus, I felt like I was home.”

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

Katie Leonard has served as Johnson College president since 2018.
"We’re trying to make sure we have alignment with our career pathways so students know where they want to go," Brundage said. "We want to make sure that their time here pays off.

After taking over as president in July of 2018, Brundage immediately set to work building on Keystone’s already stellar academic reputation. Her main goal, she says, is to make sure that students have their path to the future mapped out well before they leave campus.

“We really want to make the Keystone experience as transformational as we can for the students,” she said.

Brundage believes that her ties to the area and to the campus helped her win the presidency. “Working as the provost helped me get to know faculty, and the campus’s culture,” Brundage said. “I really had a good sense of the organization.”

This year has been a banner year for Keystone College, both academically and athletically. Keystone brought in its second-largest freshman class in the past 10 years with 350 new students coming to campus under Brundage’s watch in her first full year as president.

On the gridiron, Keystone’s football team had their very first season of competition in the fall. Other advancements came in the form of Keystone’s computer science program, which features an artificial intelligence component to it. Other academic steps have been taken in Keystone’s visual arts and geology programs.

“Where it makes sense, we will continue to grow and improve,” Brundage said.
“When you interview an old person like me, it's hardly ever a short answer,” Ryan joked as he was asked about his path to the presidency at King's. He’s been president since 2011. The funny thing about Ryan, who was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, is that he’s actually a Wilkes University graduate, something he says that he’s only just lowered the IQ of this room and I’m myself, “I just lowered the classroom and thought to myself, ‘I just lowered the IQ of this room and I’m myself.’”

“The last four incoming freshman classes are among the biggest the schools ever seen, according to Ryan. He also wanted to broaden the university’s horizons by implementing new academic programs. “I wanted to broaden out a number of academic programs to align them with what students were asking for,” Ryan said.

One such program was King’s engineering program, which opened in 2011, Ryan's first year as president. “In one decade, we went from no engineering program to a fully-equipped program,” Ryan said. Ryan also wanted to expand the school’s athletic opportunities. King’s is up to 27 different athletic programs now. “We wanted to offer a more robust array of sports,” Ryan said.

In just the last year, Ryan has started a joint nursing program with Luzerne County Community College, where students could spend their first year at King’s, go to LCCC for two years, then return back to King’s to finish up. King’s is also on the verge of launching an e-sports program, as well as “gaming is very popular with young people,” Ryan said. “There’s socializing and bonding that happens when you part of a team.”

All in all, Ryan’s proud of the legacy that he’s built at King’s. “To help a woman or a man figure out what your gifts are, and to use those gifts to serve the common reward is incredibly rewarding,” Ryan said.

Reading and even up north in Toronto before entering the seminary, where he was ordained as a priest in 1990. "It was always in the back of my mind to join the seminary," Ryan said. "So I figured I'd give it a try." He taught his first course, a finance class, in 1984.

“I walked into that classroom and thought to myself, ‘I just lowered the IQ of this room and I’m myself,'” Ryan said. No matter the case, teaching stuck. “It’s not something I planned, it’s just something that serendipitously stuck to, and I liked it,” Ryan said.

He became the dean of the William McGeen School of Business at King’s in 2004, a position he held until his elevation to the presidency in 2011. Ryan prides himself on bringing in classes from all over the world. "One of the things that people don't realize is that 60 percent of our students come from different parts of the world," Ryan said. "People come from all over to go to our school."

The last four incoming freshman classes are among the biggest the schools ever seen, according to Ryan. He also wanted to broaden the university’s horizons by implementing new academic programs. “I wanted to broaden out a number of academic programs to align them with what students were asking for,” Ryan said.

One such program was King’s engineering program, which opened in 2011, Ryan’s first year as president. “In one decade, we went from no engineering program to a fully-equipped program,” Ryan said. Ryan also wanted to expand the school’s athletic opportunities. King’s is up to 27 different athletic programs now. “We wanted to offer a more robust array of sports,” Ryan said.

In just the last year, Ryan has started a joint nursing program with Luzerne County Community College, where students could spend their first year at King’s, go to LCCC for two years, then return back to King’s to finish up. King’s is also on the verge of launching an e-sports program, as well as “gaming is very popular with young people,” Ryan said. “There’s socializing and bonding that happens when you part of a team.”

All in all, Ryan’s proud of the legacy that he’s built at King’s. “To help a woman or a man figure out what your gifts are, and to use those gifts to serve the common reward is incredibly rewarding,” Ryan said.
CRANTON — Lackawanna College President Mark Volk understands the needs of the veterans in his student population.

He respects that many of the college’s students, including veterans, increasingly seek education which is relevant to the world of work and will help their employability. Many, especially the veterans, appreciate an education that is relatable and usable.

“For it’s about experiential learning versus book learning,” he said during a recent interview. “People now want to make a difference.”

For Volk, helping move the college in that direction has been the capstone of a long and distinguished career.

Volk is in the process of transitioning into retirement on a high note. It was announced earlier this year that Volk will be succeeded on July 1, 2020 by Dr. Jill Murray, currently Lackawanna’s executive vice president and chief innovation officer.

Volk, an Easton native, is the son of a World War II veteran who joined the U.S. Marines in 1945. “I kind of grew up with the idea of service to the nation,” he said. “I also knew in my mind that I wanted to be an officer.”

Volk earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Scranton in 1977. He said a chance encounter with a friend on the rifle team led him to ROTC, and then to the military. That friend was Ray Angeli — whose biography points out, and lead to increasingly important roles.

As his official college biography points out, Volk served for two or three years. “But then it all kind of clicked for me,” he recalled. “I loved the community, the mission.”

That mission would take him to diverse corners of the world, and lead to increasingly important roles.

As his official college biography points out, Volk served for two or three years. “But then it all kind of clicked for me,” he recalled. “I loved the community, the mission.”

The transition to academia, again, was one where Angeli played a role, acting as a mentor when Volk was teaching in the 1980s, and eventually drawing him to Lackawanna.

Volk was appointed to the position of Vice President of Planning and Operations in 2004 and then was promoted to Executive Vice President of the College in 2007. He succeeded Angeli in 2012. Under Volk’s tenure, the student body has grown 26%, to about 1,860, he said.

Lackawanna has many programs to benefit veterans, and Volk said that thanks to that and their benefits, many can attend for almost no cost. He also encourages them to be active members of the student community, from classroom to clubs and groups.

“We all serve for different reasons, and at different times, from different cultures, but we all have a common bond,” Volk said. “We all at one point raised our hands and took an oath.”

Mark Volk, Lackawanna College

Office of The President and Executive Vice President

Mark Volk, President of Lackawanna College, is seen at his office. Times Leader file photo

Lackawanna College President Mark Volk is one of the school’s veterans who served 26 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel.

SCANTON — Lackawanna College President Mark Volk understands the needs of the veterans in his student population. That’s because he is a veteran himself.

Volk spent 26 years in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of colonel, before entering the world of academia.

He respects that many of the college’s students, including veterans, increasingly seek education which is relevant to the world of work and will help their employability.

Many, especially the veterans, appreciate an education that is relatable and usable.

“It’s about experiential learning versus book learning,” he said during a recent interview. “People now want to make a difference.”

For Volk, helping move the college in that direction has been the capstone of a long and distinguished career.

Volk is in the process of transitioning into retirement on a high note. It was announced earlier this year that Volk will be succeeded on July 1, 2020 by Dr. Jill Murray, currently Lackawanna’s executive vice president and chief innovation officer.

Volk, an Easton native, is the son of a World War II veteran who joined the U.S. Marines in 1945. “I kind of grew up with the idea of service to the nation,” he said. “I also knew in my mind that I wanted to be an officer.”

Volk earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Scranton in 1977. He said a chance encounter with a friend on the rifle team led him to ROTC, and then to the military. That friend was Ray Angeli — whose biography points out, and lead to increasingly important roles.

As his official college biography points out, Volk served for two or three years. “But then it all kind of clicked for me,” he recalled. “I loved the community, the mission.”

That mission would take him to diverse corners of the world, and lead to increasingly important roles.

As his official college biography points out, Volk served for two or three years. “But then it all kind of clicked for me,” he recalled. “I loved the community, the mission.”

The transition to academia, again, was one where Angeli played a role, acting as a mentor when Volk was teaching in the 1980s, and eventually drawing him to Lackawanna.

Volk was appointed to the position of Vice President of Planning and Operations in 2004 and then was promoted to Executive Vice President of the College in 2007. He succeeded Angeli in 2012. Under Volk’s tenure, the student body has grown 26%, to about 1,860, he said.

Lackawanna has many programs to benefit veterans, and Volk said that thanks to that and their benefits, many can attend for almost no cost. He also encourages them to be active members of the student community, from classroom to clubs and groups.

“We all serve for different reasons, and at different times, from different cultures, but we all have a common bond,” Volk said. “We all at one point raised our hands and took an oath.”

Mark Volk, Lackawanna College

Office of The President and Executive Vice President

Mark Volk, President of Lackawanna College, is seen at his office. Times Leader file photo

Lackawanna College President Mark Volk is one of the school’s veterans who served 26 years in the U.S. Army, retiring as a colonel.
When discussing his station at LCCC, Leary doesn’t say a word about the personal attributes that make him the president he is. Instead, he talks about his students, his team and their goals as a community.

“Particularly, I think what we pride ourselves on is the fact that we have such a diversity of students who come to us from all kinds of academic and economic backgrounds. In many instances, we change family lives we help so many who never experience a college education before,” Leary said. “What we try to focus on is the fact that we have such a diversity of students who come to us from all kinds of academic and economic backgrounds. In many instances, we change family lives we help so many who never experience a college education before.”

He describes standing in front of a student who had spoken to him about her goals for the future but was being held back financially by circumstances out of her control. Leary describes talking to her in his office and seeing her around on campus over the course of the three years she attended LCCC. He said at graduation, when handing this woman her diploma during one of the quiet moments of the ceremony, he heard the voice of a little girl calling out to her mother who had just completed an education she may not have had elsewhere.

“It instilled in me that that was a real-life moment. Captured that that is going to change that family. Her daughter is going to learn to appreciate how important college is, she saw over those three years her mother working on papers and doing all the stuff that needs to be done but ultimately leading to that moment of celebration and success,” Leary said. “What we try to focus on is the fact that we have such a diversity of students who come to us from all kinds of academic and economic backgrounds. In many instances, we change family lives we help so many who never experience a college education before.”

He describes standing in front of a student who had spoken to him about her goals for the future but was being held back financially by circumstances out of her control. Leary describes talking to her in his office and seeing her around on campus over the course of the three years she attended LCCC. He said at graduation, when handing this woman her diploma during one of the quiet moments of the ceremony, he heard the voice of a little girl calling out to her mother who had just completed an education she may not have had elsewhere.

“It instilled in me that that was a real-life moment. Captured that that is going to change that family. Her daughter is going to learn to appreciate how important college is, she saw over those three years her mother working on papers and doing all the stuff that needs to be done but ultimately leading to that moment of celebration and success,” Leary said. “What we try to focus on is the fact that we have such a diversity of students who come to us from all kinds of academic and economic backgrounds. In many instances, we change family lives we help so many who never experience a college education before.”

Leary cites this story as a difference between community college and four-year schools in that LCCC is an open door school with reasonable tuition allowing for all manner of students to walk through and, one day, across the graduation stage.

“There is such a great synergy in the community between the college and the people out there giving their time, their energy and their treasure to help students achieve their dreams. And that’s what we’re most proud of,” Leary said. “You see our five graduates stay right here at home, so we’re inextricably linked to the community.”

Leary himself is no stranger to the private college experience. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Scranton and a master’s from Temple University while working on his master’s. He does not see these schools as competitors to LCCC but rather as partners in education.

“Networking and teaching students how to network has been and continues to be one of the advantages LCCC affords its students. Leary states how important it is that the community college experience be as much an education in life as it is in school. LCCC is expanding its network and increasing the accessibility of their service. Leary mentioned that this past September the college opened its seventh dedicated center in Wilkes-Barre and that two of their centers are expanding. LCCC’s dedicated center in Hazleton is adding space due to student demand and an expansion to the Wilkes-Barre center is being discussed.

“We learned that in Pittston, which we opened last year, from our students that they needed the center in Pittston or they would not be able to get their education.”

“The optimistic, solution-oriented manner in which Leary and his team serve the students of the college is evident in the ability they have shown to face and overcome challenges by engaging in positive business with other institutions of learning and by adapting to the challenges facing the world.”

During this past semester, Leary was given a new contract by LCCC’s board of trustees. It is an investment and vote of confidence that Leary has made it his mission to live up to. “I’m driven by people who I work with who are on a mission and I’m part of it. It is important to me to never sit back and feel we have accomplished what we need to do,” said. “I get excited sitting around a table and hearing the ideas recently in the last couple of years.”

One such idea has been LCCC’s Academic English as a Second Language program, which Leary describes as a way for the many people who have come to the community LCCC serves to learn the language they will need to thrive there. “We’re really proud of the fact that we have established that in Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre. We’re moving it into Scranton, which also has a high demand,” Leary said. “And the second program that really came from our faculty is the certified recovery specialist program. We’re all familiar with, unfortunately, the opioid crisis, and we began a state model program that offers the opportunity for people who are in recovery to become certified recovery specialists. They’ll be going back into agencies and other areas in the community to help those who are in recovery.”

**PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES: LUZERNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Title: President of Luzerne County Community College

Quote: “What we try to focus on is the fact that we have such a diversity of students who come to us from all kinds of academic and economic backgrounds. In many instances, we change family lives we help so many who never experience a college education before.”

Get Ready for Success!

Now enrolling for Spring Semester!

Classes begin January 21, 2020

By Nick Alberto

rabbertson@timesleader.com

Thomas Leary has been president of Luzerne County Community College for 13 years.

Luzerne County Community College President Thomas Leary stands for a portrait in his office on the college campus in Nanticoke.

Times Leader file photo

E11

Title: President of Luzerne County Community College

Name: Thomas P. Leary

Quote: “What we try to focus on is the fact that we have such a diversity of students who come to us from all kinds of academic and economic backgrounds. In many instances, we change family lives we help so many who never experience a college education before.”

Get Ready for Success!

Now enrolling for Spring Semester!

Classes begin January 21, 2020

By Nick Alberto

rabbertson@timesleader.com

Thomas Leary has been president of Luzerne County Community College for 13 years.
By Patrick Kernan
pkernan@timesleader.com

SCRANTON — In last year’s edition of the Presidential Profiles, Sr. Mary Persico said there was no place she’d rather be working than Marywood University. Now, this year, Persico said there are more things to be excited about at Marywood than ever before.

Persico said the Marywood Heights’ approximately 75 residents can expect to have the same level of care as they previously did, but its purchase by the university now opens up new opportunities for Marywood students, as medical and therapy students will be able to do their course-required rotations directly at the home.

And another new initiative at the opposite end of life’s spectrum: early childhood.

The NativityMiguel School of Scranton now calls Marywood University home. A school focused on providing education to low-income students in the area, the NativityMiguel School teaches 60 students between fifth and eighth grades right on Marywood’s campus.

Persico called it a “very specialized program,” which, once again, provides unique opportunities for Marywood students.

“Our Marywood students have an opportunity to do student teaching there,” she said, adding that faculty members at the university have also given exciting presentations to the students there.

Persico said the Marywood community has responded incredibly well to the introduction of the wider community directly onto the campus in these new ways.

“(The students) love the interaction,” she said. “They love being helpful and being able to give back.”

Other programs on campus have similar goals in mind, including the ever-expanding Veterans and Military center, focusing on providing education to veteran students, and an on-campus daycare for children under the age of 5.

She explained that providing unique educational opportunities like these that also have direct community benefits completely falls in line with the university’s mission.

“That’s who we really are,” she said. “This exemplifies our service to the community.”

Marywood University

Name: Sister Mary Persico
Title: President

Marywood University President Sister Mary Persico, IHM.
There is a sidewalk in both the borough and the township that runs all the way from downtown Dallas to the Anderson Athletic center,” Botzman notes. “We extended our parking lot and added some green space down where the Dallas dairy used to be.”

“We now have a space where people can go downtown, do a little bit of shopping at the local businesses and relax and enjoy our community,” he said. “We were really excited about creating a gateway to the university in a way that people would really know we are here.”

The sidewalk also helps connect various buildings on Lake Street that Misericordia has purchased and repurposed, including John J. Passan Hall and three homes used for the Women With Children program — which, not incidentally, will add a fourth house soon. Botzman has championed the program, doubling the size and earning attention from the state, which has launched several pilot programs at other institutions of higher education.

The campus itself is growing thanks to the acquisition of the Payne Printery property between Lake Street and Memorial Highway. Planning is still in the early stages, but Botzman predicted the property will be used at least in part to expand the health sciences program, including more clinical space where students can get hands-on experience in their fields.

Misericordia already has several on-campus clinic services, which Botzman proudly points to as another part of the community outreach.

“We do a lot of things symbolically to make it more of a gateway to who we are and who we’ve been, and who we will be.”

The “will be” is already unfolding with the expansion and renovation of the science center, and expansion of needs-based scholarships. “I like the idea of endowed scholarships,” he said. “We are rewarding the students who are capable and ready to go to school, but who need some support today. And some day it will be our children and grandchildren. It’s what I call inter-generational justice, that we are not only taking care of the residents in the valley and Pennsylvania today but 100 years from now, 150 years from now we will still be doing good.”
Known as Penn College, the Pennsylvania College of Technology is also a special mission affiliate of Pennsylvania State University. Raised in Enola, Gilmour completed her bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene at West Liberty University. She would then come aboard Penn College (then Williamsport Community College) 42 years ago to help open its dental hygiene program as a full-time instructor and curriculum developer.

Gilmour said the college would later go on to earn both her master’s degree and Ph.D. in health education from Penn State, as well as become the president of the college.

Graduates of 100-plus academic programs boast an overall 97.3% placement rate in the workforce, with several majors reaching a full 100% placement rate. Many Penn College graduates can find jobs in fields that range from nursing and plastics to aviation and manufacturing. Their ability to quickly assimilate themselves into a variety of career fields, matched with the significant impact they have on both the workforce and surrounding communities is what led Gilmour to call her graduates “tomorrow makers.”

“Teaching is at the heart of our educational mission,” Gilmour said. “We have a 250-year legacy in hands-on learning.”

Classrooms at Penn College feature state-of-the-art labs and equipment that allow students to gain marketable skills on industry-standard equipment. Penn College continues to collaborate with industry-leading companies who serve in an advisory capacity, she added.

“Our students learn from faculty with real-world experience. The state appropriation funding we have received is a testament to our value in producing graduates who address the critical skills and a greater depth of understanding needed by rotational molding. For Shell, it means investing in the workforce of its organization and its customers.”

Penn College also doubled the size of its welding facility to help meet industry demand, allowing for an additional 60 students to be enrolled per year. Along with purchasing new equipment, Gilmour said the college became forerunner in educational purposes. The investment from Shell exemplifies values that means producing tomorrow makers with stronger skills and a greater depth of understanding needed for rotational molding. For Shell, it means investing in the workforce of its organization and its customers. Penn College also doubled the size of its welding facility to help meet industry demand, allowing for an additional 60 students to be enrolled per year. Along with purchasing new equipment, Gilmour said the college became forerunner in educational purposes. The investment from Shell exemplifies values that mean producing tomorrow makers with stronger skills and a greater depth of understanding needed for rotational molding. For Shell, it means investing in the workforce of its organization and its customers.

Penn College also doubled the size of its welding facility to help meet industry demand, allowing for an additional 60 students to be enrolled per year. Along with purchasing new equipment, Gilmour said the college became forerunner in educational purposes. The investment from Shell exemplifies values that means producing tomorrow makers with stronger skills and a greater depth of understanding needed for rotational molding. For Shell, it means investing in the workforce of its organization and its customers. Penn College also doubled the size of its welding facility to help meet industry demand, allowing for an additional 60 students to be enrolled per year. Along with purchasing new equipment, Gilmour said the college became forerunner in educational purposes. The investment from Shell exemplifies values that means producing tomorrow makers with stronger skills and a greater depth of understanding needed for rotational molding. For Shell, it means investing in the workforce of its organization and its customers.

It takes curiosity. Critical thinking. A can-do spirit. And an educational experience that meets your passion head-on. At Penn College, you’ll meet a community of innovators, Future STEM pioneers who are learning by doing. Breathing new life into old concepts. Testing theories. And breaking barriers. Learn how at pct.edu/stem.
As a high school student growing up just outside Manhattan, Frank Britt, CEO of Penn Foster, wasn’t making the connection between an education and a successful life.

Then, with the help of a neighbor, he realized the importance of investing in himself.

“I started to recognize that developing disciplines, habits of learning, and honest self-discovery could serve as the catalyst for a different future,” he said. That understanding of how education and self-discipline shape a person’s future serves as the compass for Britt’s tenure at Penn Foster.

“Penn Foster is bridging the gap between education and economic opportunity to build the workforce of tomorrow,” he said. “We partner with employers to design and deliver digital and blended learning programs that attract, upskill and retain workers in America’s fastest-growing fields and professions.”

With more than 40,000 graduates each year, Penn Foster helps individuals discover pathways to opportunity through accredited diploma, certificate and degree programs that matter in the world of work. Britt’s own story reflects his willingness to change and grow. Having entered the field of business, he found himself at one of the premier venture capital firms in the country.

“At first I thought I had achieved the American dream, but then I asked myself, ‘Have I?’ “What happens in life when you actually begin to successfully complete your original story?’ he asked himself. ‘Is there a need to do a sequel? Do you launch the new and improved version of the same narrative, or do you pivot to live a different and ideally better story?”

So Britt decided to change the course of his life, to be open to change.

“I landed as the leader of an institution focused on helping to transform the lives of the often left-behind and at-risk young adults looking for an on-ramp to a career trajectory,” he said. “My new focus was to help others find the means to make the jump themselves.”

Britt is more than pleased with his decision.

“It is working; we are helping individuals to change their futures and redefine their personal story, and I, too, am undergoing a personal transformation as a result.”

Penn Foster is headquartered in Scranton with offices in Boston, Scottsdale, Norcross, Montreal and New York. It is on track to graduate 70,000 students in 2019. It has over 2,400 employer-partners.

Name: Frank Britt
Title: Chief Executive Officer, Penn Foster
Quote: “Penn Foster is bridging the gap between education and economic opportunity to build the workforce of tomorrow. We partner with employers to design and deliver digital and blended learning programs that attract, upskill and retain workers in America’s fastest-growing fields and professions.”
PRESIDENTIAL PROFILES: PENN STATE SCRANTON

Marwan Wafa, Penn State Scranton Chancellor

Penn State Scranton Chancellor Marwan Wafa. Times Leader staff.

He wants to make it the place to be for prospective college students in Northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond. “Working with our faculty, staff, and key stakeholders, we aspire to be the destination choice for students who want to earn a globally recognized degree right here at, or near, home,” Wafa said. “We also believe in the importance of an engaged university that works closely with our local communities to make our region a destination for those who want to work and raise a family in a welcoming environment.”

Wafa’s own trip to PSU Scranton was a long one. He grew up in Kuwait and earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Kuwait University in 1980. “After two years of practice, I decided to earn a master’s degree to more effectively manage and lead projects,” he said.

That took him to Clemson University in South Carolina where he earned a M.S. in management and a Ph.D. in Industrial Management. “I discovered my passion for higher education while at Clemson, which was a turning point in my career,” he said.

Wafa started his academic career at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Ind., as an assistant professor. After 14 years of service there, which included different leadership and academic roles, he moved to the University of Wisconsin Parkside as the dean of the School of Business and Technology.

Several more moves landed him at EPUIC in Columbus, Ind. “During that career journey and over 20 years of progressive leadership roles, I was fortunate to be selected for my current role of chancellor of Penn State Scranton,” he added.

In his role at PSU Scranton, his responsibility is to make sure his campus “fulfills its mission of a Land Grant University.”

That mission includes ensuring student have access and affordability, while aligning our degree program offerings with regional and global market needs.”

“Tuition at the school remains one of the lowest in the region, in part thanks to successful efforts in raising scholarship funding,” Wafa said. “Each campus has its own strategic plan, which supports the overall strategic goals and values of Penn State University,” he said. “It is my responsibility that PSU Scranton fulfills its role in serving Pennsylvania residents.”

Under Wafa’s watch, PSU Scranton, which already offers the first two years of pre-engineering, is working on bringing a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering to the campus in the fall of 2023. In preparation for the program, the Granger Building in Dunmore was purchased and will be redesigned to serve the program with a “state-of-the-art facility.”

“Penn State University’s engineering programs are highly recognized globally and graduates are well sought after by employers,” Wafa said. “Making such a program available locally is an important initiative to serve area companies. A significant service that we offer is that 92% of Penn State Scranton’s students are local, which means they stay in our region which is key to maintaining a stable, highly educated and prepared workforce.”

“Working with our community and raising a family in the region a destination for those who want to work and raise a family in a welcoming environment,” Wafa’s own trip to PSU Scranton was a long one. He grew up in Kuwait and earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Kuwait University in 1980. “After two years of practice, I decided to earn a master’s degree to more effectively manage and lead projects,” he said.

That took him to Clemson University in South Carolina where he earned a M.S. in management and a Ph.D. in Industrial Management. “I discovered my passion for higher education while at Clemson, which was a turning point in my career,” he said.

Wafa started his academic career at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Ind., as an assistant professor. After 14 years of service there, which included different leadership and academic roles, he moved to the University of Wisconsin Parkside as the dean of the School of Business and Technology.

Several more moves landed him at EPUIC in Columbus, Ind. “During that career journey and over 20 years of progressive leadership roles, I was fortunate to be selected for my current role of chancellor of Penn State Scranton,” he added.

In his role at PSU Scranton, his responsibility is to make sure his campus “fulfills its mission of a Land Grant University.”

That mission includes ensuring student have access and affordability, while aligning our degree program offerings with regional and global market needs.”

“Tuition at the school remains one of the lowest in the region, in part thanks to successful efforts in raising scholarship funding,” Wafa said. “Each campus has its own strategic plan, which supports the overall strategic goals and values of Penn State University,” he said. “It is my responsibility that PSU Scranton fulfills its role in serving Pennsylvania residents.”

Under Wafa’s watch, PSU Scranton, which already offers the first two years of pre-engineering, is working on bringing a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering to the campus in the fall of 2023. In preparation for the program, the Granger Building in Dunmore was purchased and will be redesigned to serve the program with a “state-of-the-art facility.”

“Penn State University’s engineering programs are highly recognized globally and graduates are well sought after by employers,” Wafa said. “Making such a program available locally is an important initiative to serve area companies. A significant service that we offer is that 92% of Penn State Scranton’s students are local, which means they stay in our region which is key to maintaining a stable, highly educated and prepared workforce.”

For more information on Penn State Scranton, check out its website at scranton.psu.edu.

Small Campus - BIG Degrees - Close to home!

Penn State Scranton

The first two years of over 275 Penn State degrees!

Visit scranton.psu.edu or call 570.963.2500 for more information.
"I believed learning is a lifelong venture, from birth through our adult lives," he said. "We work to provide the educational resources to serve the lifelong learning needs of our community." Jones is committed to getting to know students, equipping them academically and as part of the local, national and global community.

"My passion is helping our students become responsible citizens, possess a strong sense of responsibility, think of what is best for their communities, act with civility, and treat others with respect," he said. "As an administrator and educator, these are qualities I strive to pass on to students."

Jones believes that students should go beyond just academic or career success. "I engage with students in ways that help develop them into Penn State graduates who are persons of character, possess a strong sense of responsibility, think of what is best for their communities, act with civility, and treat others with respect."
And under Pilarz’s watch, there are some big things happening at the university.

Pilarz, who previously served as the university’s 24th president between 2003 and 2011, previously told a Times Leader reporter about the university’s commitment to education and the region. This year, Pilarz highlighted a few programs at the school which show that effort off.

One such program is the Slattery Center for the Humanities, an initiative Pilarz called “dear to (his) heart.”

Established in May 2019, the Gail and Francis Slattery Center is named for the chair of the university’s board of trustees, James M. Slattery. According to Pilarz, the center plays an integral role in the school’s educational system.

“The Center will advance the University’s liberal arts tradition and enhance the core role it plays in the formation of our students to truly become ‘men and women for others,’” Pilarz said.

This fall, the center launched a Humanities in Action Lecture Series, kicking things off with a talk from Denis McDonough, the former Chief of Staff to President Barack Obama.

“More lectures, program development, fellowships and community outreach programs with special emphasis on students are planned for 2020,” Pilarz said.

Additionally, Pilarz said the University of Scranton is excited to begin offering two new majors: business analytics, which began in the fall, and mechanical engineering, which will begin next fall.

“Enthusiasm from prospective students and their parents is always a welcome sign for a university,” he said.

Another recent program, called THRIVE, is focused on supporting first-generation students, which seeks to improve student readiness, helping students cope with the various challenges of university life.

“We have and are continuing to put in place a number of programs to enhance the transformative experience our students receive at Scranton and keep the education we provide affordable to families,” Pilarz said.

As we begin a New Year, the Times Leader thanks these schools for the efforts they have made to better our communities and our residents.
Paul Adams, Wilkes University President

WILKES-BARRE — In the one year-plus that Paul Adams has served as the interim President of Wilkes University, he said his main objective during the transition has been to “keep the train running.”

And Adams, 64, has done just that. While Wilkes conducted its search for its seventh president — Dr. Greg Cant was recently announced as Patrick Leahy’s successor — the university was left in the capable hands of Adams, who was quick to credit his colleagues, staff and students for their dedicated endeavors in throughout their lives and careers.

“Wilkes has had a lot of success on the academic side and we have improved the campus, adding to the character of the university,” Adams said. “And we continue to build on our financial strength as we continue to implement our strategic plan.”

Gateway to the Future: The Wilkes University Strategic Plan began in 2008 and runs through 2020. Adams said the plan is “firmly rooted” in the university’s mission, vision and values.

“This plan guides our prioritization, informs the development of our budget and includes an agreed-upon set of performance indicators with which we gauge our progress toward resources.”

Before being named interim president, Adams served as Vice President of Student Affairs, a title he held since 2002, overseeing all aspects of student life including athletics, health and wellness, residence life and judicial affairs. He also oversaw student development, which includes career development and internships, student activities, campus interfaith, community service, crisis interven- tion and orientation.

Adams received his Bachelor of Arts in Education from Wilkes, and earned his Ph.D. in Student Leadership and Development from the University of Pennsylvania. He is also a graduate of Harvard University’s Institute for Management of Life-long Education. In 2011, Dr. Adams was named a Distinguished Gradu-
We are Penn State.
And you are going to love it here.

Visit us!

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, February 1
9:30 a.m.

- Learn about the admissions process
- Meet informally with faculty and staff
- Tour campus with current students
- Learn about scholarship and financial aid opportunities

Did you know:
- you can start any of Penn State’s 275+ majors?
- all students are automatically considered for scholarships?
- Penn State Hazleton students come from 20 states & 10 countries?
- there are nearly 700,000 Penn State alumni around the world?

Join us for open house and learn much more!

PennState Hazleton

Sign up today:
Visit hazleton.psu.edu
Call 570-450-3142
Email hn-admissions@psu.edu