



Academic Affairs is a community of educators that supports the university's mission by enrolling, teaching, retaining, graduating, and inspiring diverse, lifelong learners prepared to contribute to the common good.

Issue No. 8

May 26, 2023

This monthly newsletter features stories about events and programs within the Division of Academic Affairs. It is intended to inform, engage, and recognize members of our esteemed Community of Educators, all the faculty and staff who are committed to student success.

If you have an event coming up, please upload it to the university's [Campus Calendar](#). Click "SUBMIT AN EVENT" button. For more information about how to submit an event, see the story below in "Resource Corner." To share information about your upcoming event, click [here](#) for submission to the Ram Report.

*This issue will be our last for the academic year.
We hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer! We'll be back in **August!***

**Submit Provost's Post Stories
Here**

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Dear Colleagues,

The end of the spring semester is always a busy time. On Mother's Day weekend, WCU hosted 15 commencement ceremonies. President Fiorentino and I presided over most of them — sometimes two (or more) in the same day. Despite the long days, I felt energized each time I stepped on that stage, seeing the excitement and sense of accomplishment on the faces of the students, their friends, and families. It reminds all of us why we do what we do.

Commencement is the end of one chapter and the beginning of another for many of our graduates. I'm pleased to share WCU had more recruiters than ever before on campus this year, a testament to the quality of our students and the preparation they received from this amazing community of educators.

The end of the academic year is also a moment for reflection and in this issue of the Provost's Post, we celebrate our collective achievements. Over the past few months, our faculty and staff have continued to demonstrate their commitment to academic excellence and WCU's mission

through their innovative teaching methodologies, impactful research contributions, and mentorship of our students. I am proud of the diverse range of scholarly activities taking place across our departments and encourage everyone to take advantage of the resources available to support your academic pursuits. This month, we shined a spotlight on several research projects aimed at fostering diversity, equity and inclusion at the Spotlight on Faculty Research. Be sure to check out the videos of some of those projects included below.

While we celebrate past accomplishments, we also look ahead to the future. This fall we will announce a new strategic plan for the university, one that is anchored in the values of equity, diversity, inclusion and, most importantly, student success. In preparation, this semester the Provost's Executive Council reviewed and discussed the **Boyer 2030 Commission Report** which revisits the original Boyer Report of 1998 that was considered a "manifesto" for undergraduate education at research universities. The Boyer 2030 report is organized around the belief that excellence and equity are inextricably connected and asserts the notion that there is no such thing as excellence without equity.

As we approach the summer break, I encourage you to take some time to relax, rejuvenate, and engage in activities that inspire you. Whether you plan to embark on research projects, attend conferences, or engage in professional development opportunities, the summer months offer a valuable chance to pursue personal and intellectual growth.

I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer. Looking forward to some downtime myself to rest and recharge the batteries in preparation for another exciting year. Thank you for all you do for our students and for this institution.

Sincerely,

Jeff Osgood

BEING STUDENT READY

Progress on Banner/RamPortal Implementation

You've likely heard about the Student System Modernization process WCU began last year. There are more than 70 of staff and faculty from across 15 departments working on this project in addition to their regular responsibilities over the last 60 weeks. We express our appreciation for all of those valuable contributions!

This update will give you a sense of what the team has been working on, how to get your questions addressed, and where to find more information. Our goal with this process is to create more flexibility, a modernization of business systems, increase efficiencies, and prioritize student success. The framework we're following with this work are in **Guiding Principles**. Below you will see a summary of the most recent updates.

- **Contest Name Winner:** As you may have heard, the naming contest concluded in the selection of "**RamPortal**" as the new SIS name. Students submitted over 570 entries and there were more than 4,200 votes for our finalists. We will begin using the name when referencing the new system that will be rolled out over the next year.
- **Monthly Town Halls:** Thank you to those who participated in the Coffee Talks! We appreciate your engagement and questions. We've decided to make this a series of town halls every second Wednesday of the month, beginning June 14.
- **Road Shows:** One important way for us to talk with as much of the campus community as possible is through our road shows. Please invite us to your regular

meetings so we can provide additional updates, perspective on how your unit will be affected, and answer your unit's questions.

- **Webpage resources**

- **BannerBot Lessons:** Snapshots of changes coming with the implementation. These are linked to how those decisions were made.
- **Go Lives:** Perspective on the rollout process.
- **Terminology:** Definitions for all of the important terms we're using during the process.

We appreciate your patience and feedback throughout the last year. As we proceed, please feel free to reach out with questions, concerns, and suggestions to SIS@wcupa.edu.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Employers Recruiting WCU Students in Record Numbers

More employers than ever before have been recruiting West Chester University students. “The Twardowski Career Development Center engages employers in a

number of ways,” shared Jennifer Rossi Long, career expert and director of WCU's **Twardowski Career Development Center** (TCDC). “This past academic year, a total of 474 employers recruited on campus through events like career fairs, networking events, information tabling, and on-campus or virtual interviews facilitated by the TCDC. This represents a 46% increase in employers recruiting WCU students over the highest number in the previous five years, as well as the highest number of all time.”

According to the **National Association of Colleges' and Employers'** Job Outlook report for the Class of 2023, employers are planning to hire 3.9% more graduates from the Class of 2023 than they did from the Class of 2022. Based on WCU's recent career outcomes survey on the Class of 2022's job successes, WCU career service leaders are optimistic that the Class of 2023, which graduates May 11 through May 14, will be just as successful.

“Recent results gathered from a survey conducted with members of WCU's Class of 2022 indicate that 93% of those surveyed were employed or pursuing further education within six-months of graduation,” said Rossi Long. “Specifically, 82% of WCU graduates were employed within six-months of graduation, 11% went on to pursue higher education, and 7% were either seeking employment, continuing education or were not seeking employment or education. We are surveying the Class of 2023 now and anticipate seeing equally impressive outcomes for our newest graduates.”



[Learn More](#)

WCU Hosts 15 Commencement Ceremonies for 3,300 Students



WCU hosted 15 commencement ceremonies this year, welcoming more than 3,300 students and their guests over Mother's Day weekend. In addition, several special ceremonies recognized specific graduating populations with the awarding of special stoles or cords prior to the commencement ceremonies. This is the 31st year for WCU to host a Kente celebration, which affirms and celebrates the cultural identity of students who identify as Alaskan Native, Asian and Asian American, Black and African American, Caribbean American, Desi American, Latina/o/x, Native American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Multiracial. The WCU Honors College hosted a service to award graduating students their cords. Combined with the numbers of graduates from the University's fall commencement last December, WCU has graduated a total of 4,657 students (both undergraduate and graduate) for the academic year 2022-2023: 3,466 undergraduates and 1,191 graduates.

ACCESS

Boyer Commission Report Outlines Best Practices in Advancing Equity in Higher Education

As part of the university's strategic planning process and Moon Shot for Equity mission, members of WCU's Provost Executive Council spent this semester reviewing and discussing the Boyer 2030 Commission Report and its recommendations for improving equity and excellence in undergraduate education.

The Boyer Commission is a diverse group of accomplished higher education leaders convened by the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities (UERU) to revisit and update the landmark 1998 Boyer Report, a manifesto calling for the "reinvention" of undergraduate education at U.S. research universities. Much change has occurred since 1998, from climate change to Black Lives Matter, and this new report outlines eleven recommendations, or "provocations," organized around what they call "the equity/excellence imperative." The report's recommendations cover approaches for:

- Increasing college access and affordability;
- Leveraging digital technology;
- Facilitating clearer degree pathways;
- Broadening participation in high-impact educational experiences;
- Adopting holistic advising;
- Nurturing mental health and well-being;
- Rewarding faculty for teaching excellence;
- Establishing a supportive campus culture where freedom of speech is protected; and



- Preparing students for success in life, work, and participation in democratic society.

For more information about the Boyer 2030 Commission Report click the button below.

[Boyer 2030 Commission Report](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Move Out, Give Back: Off-Campus Students Donate Furniture to Community Warehouse Project

For the first time, WCU organized a furniture collection for students living off-campus benefitting the Chester County non-profit **Community Warehouse Project** (CWP) as well as the environment.

Jacinda Maus, a senior media and culture major interning in WCU's **Office of Off Campus and Commuter Services**, developed the pilot program Move Out, Give Back as part of her internship. Students living off-campus registered to have their donations of gently used furniture and small household appliances included in the pick-up event that took place Saturday, May 13. Items will be picked up by CWP, which distributes furniture free to pre-screened families and individuals who are financially unable to afford their own new or used furniture.

Maus reports that 62 student households are participating with around 300 items that, thanks to this project, will not wind up in a landfill. "This program is so important because not only does it give off-campus students a chance to declutter and get rid of furniture that is no longer needed but it helps those who are in need of furniture," she says. "This pilot program has been a success and I'm so proud of the outcome!"

"We've served more than 400 families this past year," notes CWP Executive Director Glenda Brion. "Our numbers are looking like we'll be above that for this coming year. A lot of these folks are veterans coming out of the VA hospital in Coatesville. We also serve a lot of single moms who just can't make ends meet."

OCCS personnel plan on extending this opportunity to on-campus residents for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information on Move Out, Give Back, email Maus at JM928403@wcupa.edu.

[Learn More about CWP](#)

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

**RAM Chef Cooking Program
Expands to Serve Greater
Number of Young Adults with**

Intellectual Disabilities

Powered by a mighty nutrition professor who came up with a delicious way to help young adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) in the community gain cooking independence and self-confidence, the Ram Chef Program provides culinary instruction, nutrition education and food safety skills to eager young adults with IDD during the academic year in a new state-of-the-art culinary kitchen at West Chester University. Ram Chefs are paired with WCU nutrition coaches for personal instruction. Professor of Nutrition Jeanie Subach, a registered dietitian and board-certified sports specialist dietician, came up with the idea in 2019 and began the program with just three students. Today, the popular Ram Chef Program boasts 18 young adults with IDD from the community who work with 26 volunteers every Wednesday evening during the academic year in the University's nutrition lab located in The Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons (SECC).



“The program’s mission is to train young adults with IDD in the culinary arena with a goal of cooking independence and employment. The mission is being satisfied with seven Ram Chefs securing jobs in the food industry right on campus — with Aramark Dining Services,” said Subach.

Throughout the academic year, the Ram Chefs prepare snacks for the WCU Athletic Fueling Station. The Ram Chefs will also prepare sport fuel and meals for WCU Campabilities 2023. In addition to cooking, the participants maintain an eight-bed Ram Chef garden from May through November.

The Ram Chef Program has received more than \$40,000 in grant funding from the Justamere Foundation and the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. These grants fund the food and equipment portion of the program. The Ram Chef Program is free to participants, is supported with University resources and is run by WCU faculty and student volunteers.

During WCU Employee Appreciation on Tuesday, May 16, seven of the Ram Chefs made and served “Philly-themed mocktails” for all University employees.

[Click for 6ABC Feature on Ram Chefs](#)

**SCHOLARSHIP & PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



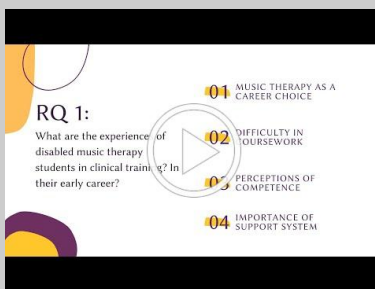
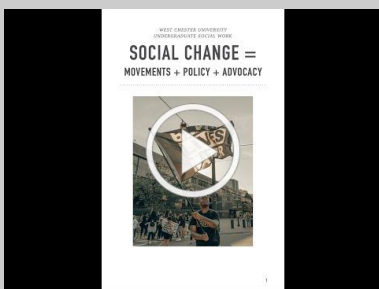
WCU Shines Spotlight on Faculty Research

On May 4, the university recognized 20 research projects focused on advancing equity, inclusion, belonging, and student success at the Spotlight on Faculty Research. West Chester University's Spotlight on Faculty Research is an opportunity to bring community awareness to the

excellence of faculty research at WCU. This year marks the first of a three-year commitment to highlight faculty research that impacts Moot Shot for Equity, a university initiative that aims to close the equity gaps that exist in student success and retention among student demographic groups. The 2023 awardees were selected for the ways in which their research impacts student access, belonging, equity, diversity, inclusion, and success at WCU and in our surrounding community. Check out some of the projects below.



From left to right: Lindsey Keenan (Athlete Mental Health); Brandon Mitchell (S-STEM); Laquana Cooke (iCamp)



From left to right: Brie Radis, Ebonnie Vazquez & Wysor Nguema (Etextbooks); Angela Guerriero (Music Therapy); Dawn Patterson & Colleen Commisso (Ram Initiative)

FEATURED STUDENT

WCU Student Receives

Ali-Zaidi Award



West Chester University senior Jocelyn Brown has been awarded the 2023 Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence. The award was presented by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Board of Governors at their regular meeting in Harrisburg on April 20.

“I am very honored to be the recipient of the 2023 Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence,” said Brown. “It is the ultimate proof that I worked extremely hard in college to get where I am today, especially as a first-generation college student. I am excited to represent WCU to the rest of the PASSHE system.”

Hailing from Mercer, PA, Brown is a political science major specializing in international relations with minors in global studies, civil and professional leadership, and philosophy. She is a part of the Honors College and maintained a 4.0 GPA and has held many student leadership positions. Her academic prowess is evident by her countless awards, including the John C. and Mary Louise Shea Prize in International Relations, the Student Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Award, the 1871 Award, and many more.

Brown has also participated in the University’s study abroad programs. In the summer of 2022, she traveled to Germany for two weeks, exploring the successes and failures of democracy in German and American politics. That same summer, she spent a month in Ireland studying and comparing how Irish media differs from American media.

In the summer of 2021, she completed a research project for WCU’s Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) titled “Goats Die, Butterflies Fly: Portrayals of Dominican Dictator Rafael Trujillo (1891-1961) in Historical Fiction and Non-fiction.” Participants work 37.5 hours/week for five weeks and receive a \$3,000 stipend to complete their research. Brown’s findings were published in the college journal *Ramifications* and she presented her work at the University’s Latina/x/o Communities Conference and the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies.

Brown has held multiple internship positions at places like the Norwegian Nobel Institute, Interfaith Philadelphia, and the University’s Center for Women and Gender Equity. She has completed more than 200 hours of community service including reading to Spanish-speaking children; mentoring freshmen in the Honors College; participating in community cleanups, bake sales, and decoration-making for the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Barclay Friends Retirement Home; and writing grants for North Star of Chester County to expand their resource pantry.

She is also involved in three honors fraternities. She’s the president of Pi Sigma Alpha (national political science honors fraternity), an inductee into Omicron Delta Kappa (national honors fraternity), and an inductee into Alpha Alpha Alpha (national first-generation college student honors fraternity). In addition, Brown is the president of Model United Nations, Interfaith Action Committee co-founder, and student body representative for the Council of Undergraduate Research. She is also the secretary for *Stitched Together*, a new fiber arts club for students. Brown is waiting to hear back from post-grad options and plans to relocate to Europe after graduation.

Created in 2000, the Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence is conferred upon a graduating senior from one of the State System universities. The award was founded by Dr. Syed R. Ali-Zaidi, a charter member of the Board of Governors. Funding was made possible through gifts from Dr. Ali-Zaidi, Highmark Inc., and the State System Foundation, Inc.

RESOURCE CORNER



How to Submit Your Event to Online Campus Calendar

The WCU Calendar is populated by events submitted in **25Live**, WCU's room reservation and calendaring program. Faculty/Staff may submit events to the calendar by selecting "WCU Featured Events Calendar" in the "Resources" section of the 25Live Event Form.

[WCU Event Calendar](#)

[How to submit your event to WCU Calendar](#)

FAST Schedule & Offerings



Check out what IS&T has on tap for the summer! The Faculty and Staff Training (FAST) unit supports WCU faculty and staff in becoming proficient in various applications, in addition to providing best practices in trending platforms (e.g., OneDrive, D2L, RamCloud). Courses are designed to accommodate all levels of learning and allow users to build on acquired skills. Click below for the full schedule or take **self-paced options**.

[Click for Schedule](#)

ODLI On Air Podcast

ODLI on Air is a podcast on digital

learning & innovation at WCU that expands teaching and learning perspectives by connecting theory and practice through conversations with expert WCU faculty. Check out episodes on a variety of topics including sustainable study abroad, using H5P interactions, inclusive learning, and e-portfolios.



Listen to ODLI On Air

Banner/RamPortal Town Hall Series

Join us for our monthly town hall to hear the latest on the RamPortal Implementation!

These hour-long sessions will provide the following:


- > Updates on the RamPortal Implementation
- > FAQ discussion
- > Training

Plenty of time for your questions!

Look out for more info from SIS@wcupa.edu

When?
June 14
July 12
Aug 16
Sept 13
Oct 11
Nov 8

Where?
11a - MIT 202
Also via Zoom



More Information

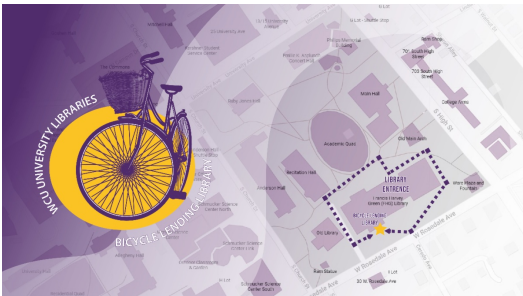
Banner/RamPortal Town Hall Series

The Student System Modernization Team will host a Town Hall Series on Banner/RamPortal. These sessions are designed to provide information regarding the project.

Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of every month, starting June 14.

Zoom option available.

Please join us and bring your questions!



WCU's Bike Lending Library

Can't find a parking space? Need to get to class faster? With the opening of the Bicycle Lending Library (BLL), you're in luck!

The BLL offers 28 Trek bicycles available in sizes XXS-XL. WCU students and employees can borrow a bicycle for two-week increments or full semesters. Riders should submit an **online**

request for a bicycle and wait to be contacted by the library staff. From here, the lending process will begin. After scheduling a pick-up time, riders will present their WCU ID and receive their bicycle, as well as a helmet and a combination lock.

[More Info on
BLL](#)



Want to learn more about Navigate?

Visit our **webpage**. You'll find an overview, information about **Progress Reports**, and our **training site**.

[Navigate
Homepage](#)

You can also check out the **FAST training site** and search "navigate" to find all of the Navigate-specific offerings. Here's a **quick guide** to the offerings.

FREE LinkedIn Learning Content Available to WCU Faculty, Staff and Students

LinkedIn Learning with Lynda.com content is an industry leader in online training, with a digital library of over 180,000 videos, covering a wide range of technical, business, software, and creative topics. West Chester University faculty, staff and currently enrolled students have unlimited access.

[Access LinkedIn Learning](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday, June 6 at 10 – 11:30am (Zoom):** Join us for a flexible format workshop to discuss the principles of Universal Design for Learning to design equitable and inclusive classrooms. Our goal is to allow faculty to tailor the experience to their own knowledge, experience, and goals. Are you new to UDL? Do you want to improve your courses in one of the three UDL areas? We'll have staff and faculty

from ODLI, TLAC, and other units across campus on hand to work with you on what matters most to you. Click [here](#) to register.

- **Online Faculty Development Program (OFD):** The course is a 2 or 3 week, asynchronous program offered five times per year introducing faculty to best practices for online and blended teaching. Successful completion of the program earn faculty the CAPC Distance Education Statement. Facilitated by an instructional designer and a seasoned WCU online faculty member, participants engage with ten modules that cover topics from Developing Meaningful Learning Activities to Applying Copyright and Fair Use Standards. Two sessions will be offered, **Early Summer 2023: June 5 - June 16** and **Late Summer 2023: July 31 - August 11**. Click [here](#) to register.
- On **July 26 at 3:00 PM ET**, Dr. Kevin Aptowicz, a professor in the Department of Physics, will co-host a webinar entitled " Amplifying Student Voices and Creating Spaces for Differences" as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and their Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM) Equity Achievement (SEA) Change Project. The webinar is being hosted by the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). Dr. Aptowicz will be joined by Murphy Pyankov, a current physics major. For more information, contact kaptowicz@wcupa.edu.

SAVE THE DATES

**SUMMER 2023
NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS**

ORIENTATION

First-Year Orientations: 8 AM - 4 PM

Week One: June 22 & June 23

Week Two: June 27, June 28, June 29 & June 30

Week Three: July 11, July 12, July 13 & July 14*

*The open enrollment session on Friday, July 14 will be open to all majors. Academic advising on this day will not be by college but instead, a general overview will be provided by University College. Registration will open early July.

First-Year Orientation Dates by Academic College

Arts & Humanities, Education & Social Work, Health Sciences, Wells School of Music
June 22, June 30 & July 13

Business & Public Management
June 23, June 28 & July 11

Sciences & Mathematics
June 27, June 29 & July 12

University College
June 23, June 27, June 28, June 29, July 11 & July 12

Summer Academic Success Program*
June 23, June 27, June 28 & June 29

Open Enrollment Session for All Majors
July 14

* Fall ASP students will attend an orientation session for their academic college.

Transfer Orientations: 8 AM - 3 PM

August 15, 16 & 17

Transfer orientation sessions are open to students from all majors

Virtual Orientation: 9 AM - Noon

August 18

Virtual orientation is open to both first-year and transfer students who were unable to attend in person.

WELCOME WEEK 2023

August 22-27

All new Golden Rams are invited to take a Road Trip to Ram Country at Welcome Week, 2023!

Welcome Week takes place during move in and includes a series of required programs as well as many fun and entertaining events to welcome new students to WCU and acclimate them to campus!

more info

Detailed information about our summer programs can be found on the New Student Programs website: wcupa.edu/orientation. Questions can be directed to orientation@wcupa.edu.

Here's a summary of our new student programs for summer 2023. More detailed information about our summer programs can be found on the **New Student Programs website**.

Questions can be directed to orientation@wcupa.edu.

Are you curious about the latest technology changes and how they relate to advising? Look no further! We are excited to invite you to the inaugural Advising Summer Workshop

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for the Summer Advising Workshop!
Get hands-on training to be prepared for the fall semester!

*Sponsored by the Committee for Advising Excellence (CAE)

August 21, 2023
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Network!



Navigate!



myWCU/Banner!



Register now for the Summer Advising Workshop!
More details to follow!

<https://tinyurl.com/3avbwbe6>

hosted by the Committee for Advising Excellence (CAE). This workshop is designed to provide you with valuable hands-on training on the cutting-edge Navigate technology, updates on myWCU/Banner, and introduce you to a range of useful tools for advisors. Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to elevate your advising capabilities and expand your professional network.

Mark your calendars and save the date for CAE's First Advising Summer Workshop. We look forward to seeing you there!

Scan the QR code to register now or use [this link!](#)

Courtney Lloyd & Susan Gans

Co-Chairs, Committee for Advising Excellence
CAE@wcupa.edu

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