

PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2023 ISSUE

WELCOME THE FOUNDATION'S NEW PRESIDENT

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Foundation has named Shelley Scherer as its new president

Meet Shelley →



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MEET SHELLEY SCHERER

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Foundation has named Shelley Scherer as its new president and CEO, effective May 1, 2023.

Scherer was associate executive director for The Pittsburgh Promise, a post-secondary access and scholarship organization serving graduates of Pittsburgh's public schools. Scherer led staff operations in that role, including fundraising, marketing, scholarship administration, and student outreach.

Scherer also launched innovations to strengthen The Promise's college and corporate partnerships, improve student outcomes, and generate multimillion-dollar gifts to benefit The Pittsburgh Promise Scholarship fund.



“We are confident that Shelley’s holistic approach to education, workforce development, and philanthropy will guide the Foundation to the next level and help ensure student success and support university excellence.”

*Lynn Miller,
PASSHE Foundation Board Chair*

“Throughout her career in the private and nonprofit sectors, Scherer has built strategic collaborations and philanthropic support that will help to advance the Foundation’s mission to raise funds and build partnerships to increase student affordability,” said Lynn Miller.

Shelley holds a B.A. in Economics, a concentration in Science, Technology, and Public Policy from Carleton College, and an M.P.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Her graduate research focused on nonprofit leadership, philanthropy, and public-private partnerships.

Scherer is an active community volunteer and nonprofit board member. She serves as the Board Chair of Outreach International, an international non-governmental organization (NGO) that works in communities around the world to eradicate poverty.

Shelley and her family live in Pittsburgh.



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

While I have only been in my role at the PASSHE Foundation for a few months, I have advocated for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education for years. From my prior work at The Pittsburgh Promise, I know PASSHE universities provide Pennsylvania's students with a high-quality education at the lowest possible cost. For those reasons – to support students and university excellence – I am fully committed to advancing the mission of the PASSHE Foundation, to ensure our students attain a degree and achieve economic mobility. Our employers have the workforce talent they need to thrive and grow.

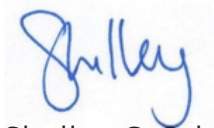
I am delighted to be a part of this important work, to build on the PASSHE Foundation's momentum, started by my predecessor, Cynthia Pritchard, and sustained by Lynn Miller, Board Chair, who served as Interim CEO during our leadership transition and supported the Foundation's exceptional staff – Robert Nelson, Jade Smith, and Sue Walker. I am profoundly grateful for their efforts and the warm welcome I have received from the PASSHE community, the Foundation staff and board, and our generous donors.

During the 2023-23 academic year, the PASSHE Foundation awarded \$829,177 in scholarships to 567 students. We are in the process of awarding scholarships for 2023-24 from a very strong applicant pool of over 3,000 PASSHE students. Through our workforce development initiative #Prepared4PA, we will award another round of grants to support new employer-driven program innovations at our campuses in October.

Yes, there is much to celebrate (another tuition freeze!) and much work ahead to ensure our 85,000+ students thrive through and beyond their PASSHE experience and education.

Thank you for your steadfast support of the PASSHE Foundation. I look forward to continuing to work with you to fuel the power and promise of PASSHE.

Onward!



Shelley C. Scherer, Ph.D.
President & CEO
PASSHE Foundation



IF TUITION HAD KEPT PACE WITH INFLATION SINCE 2018, IT WOULD BE 21% HIGHER

The state budget passed by the House and Senate would provide an increase of \$33 million, or 6%, to PASSHE universities. With that level of investment, in the last two years, the state has increased funding by \$108 million, or nearly 23%, with PASSHE receiving \$585.6 million in 2023-24, up from \$477.5 million in 2021-22.

PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION FREEZES TUITION AGAIN

Contact: Kevin Hensil, khensil@passhe.edu

On July 19th the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) voted unanimously to freeze tuition for an unprecedented fifth consecutive year and applauded the General Assembly and Governor Josh Shapiro for their strong support of State System students.

With the decision, tuition for in-state undergraduate students – nearly 90% of whom are Pennsylvania residents – will be flat for six consecutive years.



"PASSHE IS PROUD OF OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE, WHICH HELPS PENNSYLVANIA'S STUDENTS GET THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR THE MOST IN-DEMAND JOBS AT THE LOWEST COST."

CHANCELLOR DAN GREENSTEIN



"FREEZING TUITION FOR A FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR HAS BEEN A MAJOR PRIORITY FOR THE STATE SYSTEM UNIVERSITIES TO BEST SERVE OUR 85,000 STUDENTS - MANY OF WHOM ARE FROM LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES"

CYNTHIA SHAPIRA, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In addition to keeping in-state undergraduate tuition at \$7,716 for a sixth year, PASSHE students will receive \$125 million in university-funded financial aid to help them afford their education. The tuition freeze and aid are possible due to increased state funding and PASSHE universities saving \$300 million through a commitment to cost efficiencies.

State System universities are a major contributor to Pennsylvania's workforce and align academic programs to the needs of local communities and employers. In fact, PASSHE universities have increased the number of students graduating into high-demand careers – healthcare, STEM, education and business – since 2010, despite there being fewer total students.



2023-2024

PASSHE SCHOLARS



Lilyana Campbell
West Chester University

***"THE SCHOLARSHIP
WILL GO RIGHT
TOWARDS HELPING ME
FINISH MY BACHELOR'S
DEGREE AND
HOPEFULLY OBTAIN MY
MBA ONE DAY, SO
THANK YOU,
HIGHMARK!"***

Lilyana Campbell

The PASSHE Foundation has awarded its scholars for the 2023-2024 academic year. Here, we learn the stories of four remarkable scholarship recipients whose educational aspirations have been greatly empowered by the generosity of our supporters.

Lily, a Junior at West Chester University from York, Pennsylvania, is passionately committed to her academic journey. With a focus on Business Marketing and a minor in Digital Marketing, Lily expresses deep gratitude to Highmark Healthcare for awarding her a scholarship and acknowledging her relentless efforts in the classroom. As someone who significantly invests in her education, Lily recognizes the immense value of the scholarship, which will play a pivotal role in completing her bachelor's degree.

Elena from Slippery Rock University was selected as the first Lynn Miller Leadership Scholarship recipient. She views this scholarship as an honor and is genuinely thankful for the opportunity to continue her academic journey with reduced financial stress. The award aims to significantly impact student affordability, with \$1,500 awarded each semester.

Kajanna, a recipient of the Edith Date Eve Endowed Scholarship, is a first-generation college student from Jamaica attending Kutztown University. He expresses gratitude for the belief strangers have shown in him by awarding the scholarship. Kajanna, who is in his final year of college pursuing a major in finance, emphasizes the significance of this support in his educational journey.



Giselle Ethengain, a M&T Bank Endowed Scholarship recipient, expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the generosity extended to her. Currently, a West Chester University senior, Giselle aims to complete her studies and graduate as a nurse by the conclusion of the upcoming semester.

Giselle's message is one of deep appreciation as she acknowledges the meaningful impact these scholarships have had on her educational journey.

"I'm really thankful that strangers have believed in me and I was given a scholarship."

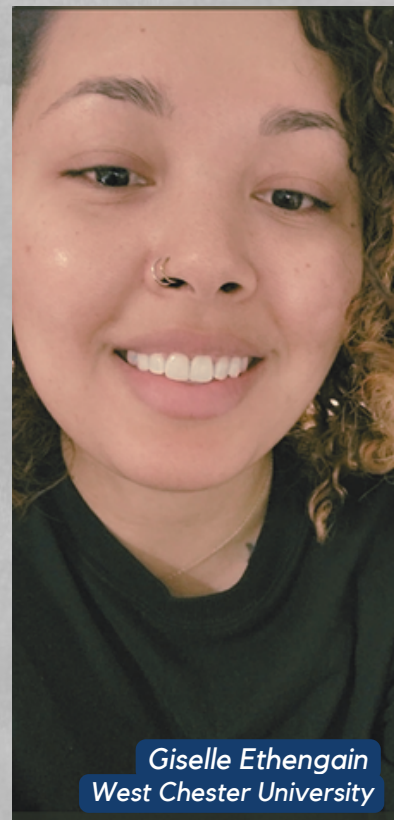
Kajanna Hylton



Alena Horton
Slippery Rock University



Kajanna Hylton
Kutztown University



Giselle Ethengain
West Chester University



2023 DEI Summit

The POWER of COMMUNITY:

Uniting to Amplify Voices and Foster Well-Being

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we invite you to join us for our third annual DEI Summit, **"The Power of Community: Uniting to Amplify Voices and Foster Well-Being"**. After two years of virtual gatherings, we are delighted to provide an in-person option for the first time.

Our 2023 DEI Summit provides a unique opportunity to convene members of the entire PASSHE community – faculty, staff, and students – along with our partners and stakeholders within a shared physical space to engage in these vital conversations.

In this way, the 2023 Summit provides an exceptional platform for dialogue, reflection, listening, learning, and community building, centered on the theme of facilitating collective action to unite different voices and foster well-being for all.

Over 1,000 participants registered for last year's Summit with more than 40 interactive sessions. This year's hybrid conference will expand our ability to strengthen success and opportunities to achieve our mission-driven goals.



You can help facilitate these important conversations through a Summit sponsorship. If interested, please contact PASSHE Foundation President Shelley Scherer at SScherer@thePAfoundation.org

PASSHE DEI SUMMIT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



HEATHER MCGHEE

Heather designs and promotes solutions to inequality in America. Over her career in public policy, Heather has crafted legislation, testified before Congress and helped shape presidential campaign platforms.

Her book **The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together** spent 10 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and was longlisted for the National Book Award and Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction.

DR. JONATHAN METZL

A renowned psychiatrist and professor, Dr. Jonathan Metzl is a widely sought-after speaker on topics ranging from race, racism, and mental health to “structural competency” and medical education, health in the U.S. South, and the politics of racial resentment in America.

In his genre-shifting book **Dying of Whiteness**, which won the 2020 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and many other honors, he changed how we understand what it means to be white in an age where the politics of racial resentment are higher than ever before.



DR. CONCHITA HERNANDEZ LEGORRETA

Dr. Conchita Hernandez Legorreta was born in Mexico and grew up in California. She advocates for the rights of blind children and their parents in the public school setting in the United States and abroad through a lens of intersectionality, focusing on social justice.

Conchita is a Biden Presidential Appointee to the National Board for Education Sciences and conducts workshops on best practices for educators and professionals in the field of disability and advocacy in the United States and internationally.



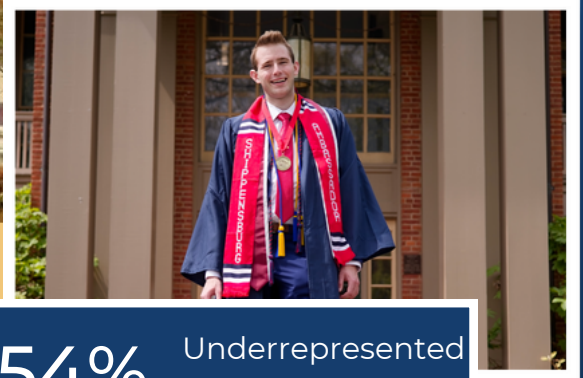
**KEEP
FUND**
Help in Hard Times

About KEEP

The **Keystone Extraordinary Emergency Program** (KEEP) assists students experiencing a financial crisis that may disrupt their educational journey by providing immediate one-time emergency funds.

An estimated 3,000,000 students across the U.S. dropped out of college due to financial needs of less than \$1,000. **KEEP** – a critical component of our student success portfolio - helps students stay in college, graduate, and join Pennsylvania's workforce.

Emergency cases include food and housing insecurity, utility bills, travel expenses, learning resources, medical circumstances, childcare assistance, and victims of crimes or natural disasters. The program also aims to address student retention rates by assisting with referrals to additional services within the campus and local community.



54% Underrepresented
Minority Awards



100% Retention Rate
in 2021-2022



100% Graduation Rate
in 2021-2022



Outcomes

- Awards are processed within 48 hours, with payments sent directly to students via Venmo.
- \$88,224 total funds awarded in 2022-2023 (\$735 average award per student).
- 52% of 2022-2023 awarded students are first-generation college students.



YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Gifts to the Emergency Grant program are tax-free contributions and help reduce financial barriers for people seeking to continue their post-secondary education.

Join us in supporting our amazing PASSHE students through this successful program.