

# Commencement

Penn State Mont Alto  
1903 – 2023

10 a.m.  
Saturday, May 6, 2023

## To Our Guests

Commencement, the solemn but joyful climax and recognition of the graduate's years of study, is an important and meaningful occasion to the University, its faculty, staff, and students. The faculty and staff at Penn State Mont Alto are proud of our graduates and their families. The graduates will be honored today in the centuries-old tradition of a commencement ceremony. This ceremony is designed to be a formal, academic ceremony to honor the graduates for all their academic achievements at Penn State. Degrees are conferred by the Chancellor, the Chief Academic Officer, and the Director of Student Affairs.

We welcome you to take pictures as your graduate is receiving his or her diploma. You may walk up to the designated area in front of the stage. **Please do not stand in the center aisle in the area where the graduates are seated or in the path marked for them to return to their seats.**

We request your cooperation in maintaining appropriate decorum during this important event. Please refrain from talking, excessive cheering, using noisemakers, or any other activities that would distract from the academic nature of this ceremony.

When the processional begins, the audience should rise. They should remain standing until all members of the platform party have taken their places on the platform and during the singing of the national anthem and the alma mater.

- Refreshments will be served after the ceremony in the multipurpose room.
- A first-aid station is located in the training room in this building.
- Lost and found items will be taken to the training room in this building.
- The bookstore will be open from 9-10 a.m. today.

At our commencement ceremony today, students who have honorably served, are serving, or are commissioned to serve in the U.S. military are wearing red, white, and blue cords in recognition of their duty and sacrifice. The cords are given to eligible graduating students in the following groups: active duty, reserve and National Guard service members, veterans, and graduates receiving a commission through Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and official U.S. Armed Forces recruiting programs. The cords are presented to the candidates and worn during the processional and throughout the ceremony in recognition of their achievement. We congratulate these candidates on their accomplishments. Faculty who served are also wearing red, white, and blue cords in recognition of their service.

# **Penn State Mont Alto**

## **Commencement Program**

Saturday, May 6, 2023

- Presiding:** Francis Achampong, Ph.D.  
Chancellor
- Academic Procession:** The audience will please rise.  
Vahid Ghomi, Ph.D.  
Mont Alto Faculty Scholar Award Recipient
- National Anthem:** The audience is asked to join in the singing.  
Bella Smith
- Welcome:** Benjamin Thomas Jr.  
Penn State Mont Alto Advisory Board Vice Chair  
Francis Achampong, Ph.D.
- Speaker:** Mike Ross  
President and CFO  
Franklin County Area Development Corporation
- 2023 Faculty Scholar Award:** Michael Doncheski, Ph.D.  
Chief Academic Officer
- Presentation of Candidates:** Academic Marshals
- Conferring of Degrees:** Francis Achampong, Ph.D.  
Michael Doncheski, Ph.D.  
Jay Arcuri  
Director of Student Affairs
- Charge to the Graduates:** Francis Achampong, Ph.D.
- Alumni Speaker:** Staci McCoy '99, '18  
Vice President, Mont Alto Alumni Society
- Alma Mater:** The audience is asked to join in the singing.  
Bella Smith

### **RECESSION**

Please remain seated until the platform party, faculty, graduates, and ADA section have recessed.

## **Academic Procession**

Leading the procession are the University Marshal, the Chancellor, the speaker, and members of the faculty and staff who are appointed to conduct the commencement proceedings. They are followed by the candidates for the degrees. The mace, which symbolizes the President's authority, is carried at the head of the academic procession by the University Marshal.

## **The Pageantry of Commencement**

Much of the stirring pageantry of commencement comes from the traditional and significant use of caps, gowns, hoods, and colors which had their origins in twelfth century France and Italy. It was there that the custom of wearing a cap and gown to mark the admission of the licentiate or "graduate" to a group of master teachers is said to have first begun.

The custom had a practical side. The gowns were the outer garments worn by the masters to keep out the chill and dampness of the medieval buildings. Because most of the masters were clerics, our present gowns are outgrowths of the long, flowing robes worn at that time. The hood probably originated from the monk's cowl, at first attached to the gown and then later detached when the wearing of a cap became popular. The mortarboard cap evolved from the skull cap of the scholars.

Caps and gowns have been used in this country from colonial times, but it was not until 1895 that the present American Intercollegiate Code was adopted.

Gowns worn by those in the procession vary according to the degree held. Although the gown is most frequently black for academic degrees, certain universities have authorized the use of colored gowns. There are no trimmings on the associate, bachelor's, and master's gowns, but the doctor's gown is faced in front with black velvet and has three bars of the same material across the sleeves or, in some cases, the color of the velvet relates to the field in which the degree is granted: blue (philosophy); light blue (education); brown (fine arts, architecture); copper (economics); drab (business administration); golden yellow (science); green (medicine); sage green (physical education); orange (engineering); pink (music); russet (forestry); and white (arts, letters, humanities). Hoods usually are not worn by the recipients of the associate or bachelor's degrees. The doctor's hood is longer than the master's hood and has distinguishing panels. Hoods are lined with the colors of the school which granted the degree, and the velvet border of the hood indicates the field in which the degree was granted.

The standard cap is the mortarboard, usually the color of the gown, and the standard tassel is black, except that the doctor's mortarboard has a gold tassel. Undergraduates wear the tassel on the right side of the cap until the moment the degree is conferred by the Chancellor.

## **Degrees**

The Pennsylvania State University awards a variety of academic degrees: doctoral, master's, bachelor's, and associate. The Mont Alto campus awards bachelor's and associate degrees.

# **Commencement Marshals**

## **University Marshal**

Vahid Ghomi, Ph.D.

## **Academic Marshals – Baccalaureate Degrees**

University College – Business  
Hanafiah Harvey, Ph.D.

University College – Health Policy and Administration  
Karen Buhr, Ph.D.

University College – Human Development and Family Studies  
Jackie Schwab, Ph.D.

University College – Information Sciences and Technology  
John Henry, M.B.A.

University College – Information Technology  
Elizabeth Denlea, M.S.

University College – Multidisciplinary Studies  
Lauraine K. Hawkins, Ph.D.

Ross and Carol Nese College of – Nursing  
Stephanie Unger, Ph.D.

University College – Psychology  
Nikolette Lipsey, Ph.D.

College of Liberal Arts – Labor and Human Resources  
Jennifer Reilly, Ph.D.

Eberly College of Science – Physics  
Kimberly Herrmann, Ph.D.

## **Academic Marshals – Associate Degrees**

University College – Business Administration  
Thomas Kramer, Ph.D.

College of Agricultural Sciences – Forest Technology  
Kimberly Bohn, Ph.D.

University College – Multidisciplinary Studies  
Kendra Wolgast, M.B.A.

University College – Occupational Therapy  
Melanie Wheeler, OTD

University College – Physical Therapist Assistant  
Renee Borromeo, DPT

## 2023 Associate Degree Candidates

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of minimum criteria, degrees and distinctions will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

\*These candidates graduated in summer or fall 2022.

\*\*These candidates are being recognized prior to their semester of graduation.

### University College – Associate in Science Business Administration

The candidates will be presented by Thomas Kramer, Ph.D.

Brady A. Cauffman  
Julia L. Coulston \*  
Darian D. Mort \*  
Thomas G. Oberholzer \*  
Erica A. Paylor  
Adam Peters

### College of Agricultural Sciences – Associate in Science Forest Technology

The candidates will be presented by Kimberly Bohn, Ph.D.

Gabriel M. Brandt *Candidate for Summa Cum Laude*  
Dashiell R. Fitzgerald *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*  
Alexander J. Gable  
AnneMarie Hoyt  
Benjamin D. Keller  
Christopher A. Knode  
Thomas R. Lane  
Seth R. Laudermilch  
Luke W. Michaels  
Justin A. Musselman  
Justin J. Nichol *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*  
Emily H. Saltzer  
Kaleb M. Slimm  
Zoe Zentz

### University College – Associate in Science Multidisciplinary Studies

The candidates will be presented by Kendra Wolgast, M.B.A.

Jordan A. Heffner *Candidate Cum Laude*  
Trenton James \*

## University College – Associate in Science Occupational Therapy

The candidates will be presented by Melanie Wheeler, OTD

The Occupational Therapy program requires 16 weeks of clinical education in addition to the two years of class and lab work. This means that our students cannot graduate in the spring when we hold our commencement ceremony. Their degrees, and in some cases, distinctions, are awarded in the fall. Therefore, it is our custom to extend recognition to them at this ceremony, with the full expectation that they will successfully complete their clinicals during the summer and fall at the various hospitals, clinics, and institutions to which they will be assigned and complete their degree work.

(The following candidates are being recognized prior to their semester of graduation.)

Caroline E. Blickley  
Jordan A. Heffner *Candidate Cum Laude*  
Makena C. Jacobs  
Aspyn E. Keetch  
Acadia K. Lankford  
Brooke N. Latterner *Candidate for Summa Cum Laude*  
Alex Miller  
Cheyenne V. Proctor *Candidate for Cum Laude*  
Madison Proctor *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*  
Kasey A. Smith

## University College – Associate in Science Physical Therapist Assistant

The candidates will be presented by Renee Borromeo, DPT

The Physical Therapist Assistant program requires a 12-week practicum in addition to the two years of class and lab work. This means that our students cannot graduate in the spring, when we hold our commencement ceremony. Their degrees, and in some cases, distinctions, are awarded in the summer or fall. Therefore, it is our custom to extend recognition to them at this ceremony, with the full expectation that they will have successful practice during the summer at the various hospitals, clinics, and institutions to which they will be assigned and complete their degree work.

(The following candidates are being recognized prior to their semester of graduation except as noted.)

Jeriah A. Blanks  
Elizabeth B. Cofrancesco  
Casey D. Hammond *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*  
Kailyn A. Jones  
Stephanie K. Lewis  
Audrey J. Miller *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*  
Jacob S. Peck  
Taylor L. Ramsey  
Brittany A. Riley  
Jordan A.C. Taylor  
Samantha L. Williams *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*

# 2023 Baccalaureate Degree Candidates

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of minimum criteria, degrees and distinctions will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

\*These candidates graduated in summer or fall 2022.

\*\*These candidates are being recognized prior to their semester of graduation.

\*\*\*These candidates are registered nurses completing their Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

<sup>H</sup> This candidate completed the Campus Honors Program. <sup>S</sup> Schreyer's Honors College

## University College – Bachelor of Science Business

The candidates will be presented by Hanafiah Harvey, Ph.D.

Brianna M. Barnes  
Mariah N. Bingaman \*\*  
Saige M. Eckard \*  
Nevaes Gordon  
Triston R. Horn \*  
Trystan G. Housman \*\*  
Matthew Huston \*  
Nickolas D. Kostyak  
Luke D. Lardarello \*\*  
Brittany E. Morrow  
Ashly C. Perez \*\*  
Holly J. Smith  
Scott A. Stanko Jr. \*  
Payton L. Watkins

Holly Smith is a candidate for a minor in Psychology

## University College – Bachelor of Science Health Policy and Administration

The candidates will be presented by Karen Buhr, Ph.D.

Taylor M. Jones \*  
Violeta Montoya \*\*  
Taylor A. Norris  
Canisha K. Robinson  
Chloe M. Schur  
Tristan D. Talhelm  
Jocelyn N. Tovar  
Colton B. Yentzer  
Wendy W. Yu \* *Graduated Cum Laude*

Chloe Schur is a candidate for a minor in Information Science Technology in Health Policy and Administration

Colton Yentzer is a candidate for a minor in Human Development and Family Studies



University College -Bachelor of Science  
**Human Development and Family Studies**

The candidates will be presented by Jackie Schwab, Ph.D.

LeMar Best  
Kara A. Cook <sup>H</sup> *Candidate for Cum Laude*  
Raylee C. Gibbons  
Veronica A. Herrera  
Grace H. Re \*\*  
Kayla N. Reifsteck *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*  
Derek O. Rotz \*  
Colette P. Salyers  
Abigail L. Stine \* *Graduated Cum Laude*  
Shrysthaley Velasquez  
Dominik J. Wiesniewski

Abigail Stine earned a minor in Child Maltreatment and Advocacy Studies

LeMar Best is a candidate for a minor in Civic and Community Engagement

Kara Cook is a candidate for minors in Criminal Justice and Women's Studies

Kayla Reifsteck and Shrysthaley Velasquez are candidates for a minor in Psychology

University College – Bachelor of Science  
**Information Sciences and Technology**

The candidates will be presented by John Henry, M.B.A.

Joseph T. Giuliano  
Kyah L. A. Rucker

Kyah Rucker is a candidate for a minor in Security and Risk Analysis

University College – Bachelor of Science  
**Information Technology**

The candidates will be presented by Elizabeth Denlea, M.S.

Austin M. Noll  
Jared W. Pine  
Jacob A. Schaub \*

Austin Noll is a candidate for a minor in Security and Risk Analysis

Austin Noll and Jared Pine are candidates for a minor in Business

University College – Bachelor of Arts

Multidisciplinary Studies

The candidates will be presented by Lauraine K. Hawkins, Ph.D.

Grace Banfe \*\*  
Danielle A. Barnhart <sup>H</sup>  
Madison E. Bishop \*  
Lacey E. Daum  
Donald T. Grier \*  
Connor M. Houston  
Ronald T. Schilpp III

Danielle Barnhart is a candidate for a minor in Human Development and Family Studies

Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing

Nursing

The candidates will be presented by Stephanie Unger, Ph.D.

Maegan I. Aleshire <sup>H</sup>  
Layken S. Barrows  
Amanda S. Bingham  
Drew M. Faust  
Serena A. Feese  
Camille K. Flack  
Kylee R. Gooding *Candidate for Cum Laude*  
Maria S. Gouker  
Kathryn M. Herr  
Payton M. Ilgen  
Erica R. Johnson *Candidate for Magna Cum Laude*  
Abigail L. Keiser  
Hannah N. Kertes  
MaKenzie K. Llewellyn  
Courtney A. Matthews \*  
Kaitlyn M. McCollum  
Tyler C. Moreland  
Taylor N. Peachey  
Allyson E. Ruth  
Summer R. Sellers  
Katelyn S. Smith  
Meagan R. Smith  
Hope E. Sprecher  
Skye M. Strayer  
Laikayn A. Wagner

Allyson Ruth is a candidate for a minor in Deafness and Hearing Studies

Payton Ilgen, Kaitlyn McCollum, Kayla Reifsteck, and Meagan Smith are candidates for a minor in Psychology

Payton Ilgen is a candidate for a minor in Human Development and Family Studies

University College – Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science  
**Psychology**

The candidates will be presented by Nikolette Lipsey, Ph.D.

Anthony E. Davis III \*\*  
Alexander Martinez \*  
Taylor C. Mentzer \*  
Melissa A. Metcalfe  
Sofia Perez-Espinosa  
Cristian A. Rogers Jr.  
Alexis P. Stamets \*\*  
Alexis M. Talpas \*

Alexis Talpas earned a minor in Human Development and Family Studies

College of Liberal Arts – Bachelor of Arts  
**Labor and Human Resources**

The candidate will be presented by Jennifer Reilly, Ph.D.

Jade B. Gable

Eberly College of Science –Bachelor of Science  
**Physics**

The candidate will be presented by Kimberly Herrmann, Ph.D.

Konnor L. Koons <sup>S</sup>

## Graduation with Distinction

Distinctions are noted in the program as follows:  
*Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude*

Students who are candidates for Summa Cum Laude are wearing a blue and white cord, students who are candidates for Magna Cum Laude are wearing a blue cord, and students who are candidates for Cum Laude are wearing a white cord.

### All Associate Degrees (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Summer 2023)

Cum Laude.....	3.81	Cumulative GPA
Magna Cum Laude.....	3.90	Cumulative GPA
Summa Cum Laude.....	3.98	Cumulative GPA

### Baccalaureate Degrees (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Summer 2023)

	Nursing	University College
Cum Laude.....	3.85 Cumulative GPA	3.83 Cumulative GPA
Magna Cum Laude.....	3.92 Cumulative GPA	3.91 Cumulative GPA
Summa Cum Laude.....	3.98 Cumulative GPA	3.98 Cumulative GPA

Distinction is awarded to baccalaureate degree candidates with at least 60 credits (30 credits for associate degree candidates) earned at Penn State who have a minimum of a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average and are in the top 12 percent of a college's graduating class. The distinction table is created in September for the coming fall, spring, and summer semesters based on the grade-point average information of previous graduates.

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of minimum criteria, distinction may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

## Campus Honors Program

The Honors Program at Mont Alto is part of the Penn State honors tradition that includes Schreyer Honors College. Honors students participate in an honors seminar each semester and do additional honors work in many of their other classes. They are excited about learning, value academic excellence, and challenge themselves to become citizens of the world. Students graduating with honors from Mont Alto have been active members of our campus Honors Program every semester that they have been here. Mont Alto Honors Program students wear a gold cord.

# The Pennsylvania State University

Neeli Bendapudi, president

Penn State Mont Alto  
Francis Achampong, chancellor

## Advisory Board

Tammy Stouffer, Chair  
Benjamin Thomas, Jr., Vice Chair  
Francis Achampong, Secretary-Treasurer

## Members

Zachery Albright (*ex-officio*)  
Shane Binkley (*ex-officio*)  
Tiffany Bloyer  
Abel Castro  
William Coy  
Joshua Dunklebarger  
Ed Franchi  
Constance Glass  
Terry Guberman  
Hon. Annie Gomez Shockey  
Lura Hanks  
Douglas Harmon  
Robin Harmon  
Steve Hawbaker  
Lissett Jones  
James Junkin  
Peter Lancaster (*ex-officio*)  
Angela Lynch (*ex-officio*)  
Tim Mussmon  
Jason Piatt  
Lisa Pogue  
L. Michael Ross (*ex-officio*)  
Tracy Ross  
Matt Runyon  
Charlene Saeman (*ex-officio*)  
Paul Schemel (*ex-officio*)  
Donna Scherer (*ex-officio*)  
Kimberly Shockey  
Kimberly Slee  
Robert Ziobrowski (*ex-officio*)  
Linghao Zhong (*ex-officio*)

# Faculty

Kristi Addleman Ritter, MLIS .....	Library Studies
Khaled Amleh, Ph.D. ....	Engineering
Somjit Barat, Ph.D. ....	Marketing
Carranda Barkdoll, D.N.P. ....	Nursing
Kimberly Bohn, Ph.D. ....	Forestry
Kevin Boon, Ph.D. ....	English
Renee Borromeo, DPT .....	Physical Therapy
Karen Buhr, Ph.D. ....	Health Policy and Administration
Peter Dendle, Ph.D. ....	English
Elizabeth Denlea, M.S. ....	Information Sciences and Technology
Anne Devney, Ed.D. ....	Nursing
Nancy Funk, M.A. ....	Integrative Arts
Ronald George, M.A. ....	English
Vahid Ghomi, Ph.D.....	Project and Supply Chain Management
Kira Hamman, M.S. ....	Mathematics
Olivia Hammond, M.B.A. ....	Occupational Therapy
Hanafiah Harvey, Ph.D. ....	Economics
Lauraine Hawkins, Ph.D. ....	Biology
John Henry, M.B.A. ....	Information Sciences and Technology
Kimberly Herrmann, Ph.D. ....	Physics
Anne Hill, M.P.T. ....	Physical Therapy
Edward Hipkiss, M.S. ....	Biology
Angela Hissong, D.Ed. ....	Occupational Therapy
Morgan Jenkins, M.M. ....	Music
Susan Johnston Graf, Ph.D. ....	English
Thomas Kramer, Ph.D. ....	Business
Peter Linehan, Ph.D. ....	Forestry
Nikolette Lipsey, Ph.D.....	Psychology
John Long, M.S. ....	Biology
Gregory Mahlon, Ph.D. ....	Physics
Jacob Moore, Ph.D. ....	Engineering
Beth Neisser, M.S. ....	Mathematics
Ermek Nurkhaidarov, Ph.D. ....	Mathematics
Michelle Pittman, M.S. ....	Health Policy and Administration
Patrick Plummer Ph.D. ....	Business Administration
Jennifer Reilly, Ph.D. ....	Human Development and Family Studies
Thomas Reinsfelder, Ph.D. ....	Library Studies
Alice Royer, M.A. ....	English and Women's Studies
Denise Salters, DHSc. ....	Biobehavioral Health
Jacqueline Schwab, Ph.D. ....	Human Development and Family Studies
Barrett Scroggs Ph.D. ....	Psychology
David Seitz, Ph.D. ....	Communication Arts and Sciences
Nancy Skacel, Ph.D. ....	Biology
Amanda Snider, DPT .....	Physical Therapy
Kelly Sprinkle, M.S. ....	Kinesiology
Alexander Storm, M.S. ....	Forestry
S. Stephanie Unger, Ph.D. ....	Nursing
C. J. Voller, M.S.N. ....	Nursing
Lisa Ward, DNP .....	Nursing
Susan Wells, DNP .....	Nursing
Melanie Wheeler, OTD .....	Occupational Therapy
Deborah Wilson, Ed.D.....	Nursing
Kendra Wolgast, M.B.A. ....	Academic Support Center
Robin Yaure, Ph.D. ....	Human Development and Family Studies
Linghao Zhong, Ph.D. ....	Chemistry

## Adjunct Faculty

David Beecher, Ph.D.	History
Tiffany Bloyer, M.B.A.	Management
Robyn Chotiner, M.Ed.	Psychology
Anne Copenhaver, M.S.	Chemistry
Joseph Cunningham, M.B.A.	Accounting
J. Frederick Davison, D.M.A.	Music
Cheryl Deal, M.S.	Occupational Therapy
Steven Evanchec, M.S.	Accounting
Patricia Fridgen, M.S.	Communication
M. Kathryn Geesaman, M.Ed.	Mathematics
Julie Guistwite, Ph.D.	Sociology
Bruce Hartman, M.S.	Computer Science
Karen Johnston, M.S.	Human Development and Family Studies
Kristi Kusch-Lucabaugh, M.Ed.	Occupational Therapy
Jan Liu, Ph.D.	Physics
Alice Lowe, M.S.N.	Nursing
Nicholas Malone, B.S.	Forestry
Raymond Mayak, M.B.A.	Project and Supply Chain Management
Julianna McCracken, M.S.	Physical Therapy
Misti Michael, M.S.N.	Nursing
Thomas Miller, M.A.	Political Science
Judith Mullen, M.Ed.	Mathematics
Lureen Nelson, ESL	Spanish
Gayniale Nowak, M.S.	Statistics
Kaitlyn Proschold, M.S.N.	Nursing
Martin Quinn, Ph.D.	Political Science, English
Danielle Ray, B.S.N.	Nursing
Alan Rock, M.B.A.	Business
Trina Schenzel, DPT	Physical Therapy
Angie Shupp, M.S.	Kinesiology
Timothy Sindlinger, M.S.	Physical Therapy
Frank Sorokach, M.B.A.	Information Science and Technology
Ashley Tkacik, M.S.	English
Becky Trez, M.S.N.	Nursing
James Ulrich, M.S.	Information Science and Technology
Robin Witmer-Kline, Ph.D.	Psychology
Ashley Yinger, M.S.	Criminal Justice

# Full-time Staff

## Chancellor

Francis Achampong .....Chancellor  
Alicia Miller ..... Administrative Support Assistant

## Academic Affairs

Michael Doncheski .....Chief Academic Officer  
Jacob Moore ..... Assistant Director of Academic Affairs  
Jeffrey Gable ..... Campus Registrar  
Deana Clevenger .....Records Specialist  
Charlene Saeman..... Administrative Support Coordinator  
Eileen Strausner .....Administrative Support Assistant

## Academic Support Center

Kendra Wolgast.....Director  
Marla Minnich.....Student Advocacy Manager

## Advising Center

Sophia McCleaf ..... Academic Advising Manager  
Alexandra Dunn ..... Academic Adviser

## Athletics

Staci Brennan ..... Director  
Shane Myers..... Assistant Director  
Kim Plezia.....Administrative Support Assistant

## Bookstore

Stephani Stine.....Assistant Manager

## Continuing Education

Helen McGarry ..... Director  
Roxann Miller ..... Program Coordinator

## Development and Alumni Relations

Randall Ackerman .....Director of Campus Development  
Brandi Biesecker.....Development Assistant



## **Enrollment Management**

Shawn Wiley ..... Director  
Ana Lopez Martinez ..... Admissions Counselor  
Derrick Brown ..... Admissions Counselor  
Antonia Spedden ..... Student Aid Coordinator  
Jenny Wetzel ..... Administrative Support Assistant

## **Finance and Business**

Matthew Ulmer ..... Director  
Susan Mayer ..... Assistant Finance Officer  
Karen Weller ..... Financial Assistant  
Judith Staley ..... Administrative Support Assistant

## **Physical Plant Maintenance and Operations**

Bradley Kendall ..... Maintenance Supervisor  
Shaun Beaver ..... Custodial Supervisor  
Joshua Beidel ..... Maintenance  
Karen Bingaman ..... Custodial  
Rhonda Blough ..... Custodial  
Sydney Case ..... Custodial  
Ronald Harshman ..... Maintenance  
Cindy Hockenberry ..... Custodial  
Amber McConnell ..... Maintenance  
Rose Ray ..... Custodial  
Judy Royce ..... Custodial  
Bryce Schaeffer ..... Maintenance  
Kurt Schaich ..... Maintenance  
Rodger Small ..... Custodial  
Shelley Yurkovich ..... Custodial

## **Housing and Food Service**

Phillip Cordell ..... Manager  
Curt Wengert ..... Manager  
Katrina Giffin ..... Administrative Support Assistant  
Elizabeth Bishop ..... Administrative Support Assistant  
Darla Barkdoll ..... Food Service  
Roger Bowers ..... Food Service  
Darlene Giasomo ..... Food Service  
Cherrie Koons ..... Food Service  
Loretta Gates ..... Food Service  
Jessica Green ..... Food Service  
Hannah Shupp ..... Food Service  
Todd Newman ..... Housing

## **Human Resources**

Brooke Young ..... HR Consultant

## **Information Technology Services**

Douglas Prowant ..... Director of Information Technology

Shawn Albright..... Network and Systems Administrator

Anthony Ogburn ..... Information Technology Specialist

## **Library**

Thomas Reinsfelder ..... Head Librarian

Kristi Addleman Ritter.....Reference & Instruction Librarian

Julie Stafford ..... Information Resources and Services Support Specialist

## **Police and Public Safety**

Craig Wagner ..... Lieutenant

Jimmy Brown.....Officer

Christopher Gilbert.....Officer

Walter Maiellano.....Officer

Stephen Spangler.....Officer

## **Public Relations and Marketing**

Sarah Smith.....Marketing Communications Specialist

## **Student Affairs**

Jay Arcuri.....Chief Student Affairs Officer/Director

Patricia Gochenauer.....Student Services Manager/Career Counselor

Danielle Werner .....Campus Nurse

Darlene Pasi ..... Counselor

Donna Rhodes.....Student Life Manager

Lisa DeGregorio..... Administrative Support Assistant and Veterans Certifying Official

Mary Jo Stevenson ..... Administrative Support Assistant

Caitlin Demski.....Residence Life Coordinator

Christopher Wounderly .....Residence Life Coordinator

## Faculty Awards

2023 Martha A. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching Full-Time ..... Dr. Deborah Wilson  
2023 Martha A. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching Part-Time ..... Mr. Jeff Rock  
2023 Mont Alto Faculty Scholar Award ..... Dr. Vahid Ghomi  
2023 SGA Award for Excellence in Advising ..... Dr. Peter Dendle

## History

Nestled among the trees at the edge of the Michaux State Forest stands an institution that has educated students for over a century. The Pennsylvania State Forest Academy was founded in 1903 and is known today as Penn State Mont Alto.

The governor of Pennsylvania established the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy at Mont Alto. It was the third forestry school in the nation after Yale University and Biltmore, respectively. Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, M.D., an arctic explorer, botanist, and medical doctor led the early Academy to train men for service in the state forests. The curriculum was patterned after university curricula in Germany, a leader in reforestation. Currently, Penn State Mont Alto educates America's foresters along with students in many other academic programs.

In 1929, the Commonwealth decided the Academy had trained enough foresters. The Pennsylvania State College also offered forestry, so the Academy was merged with the college and the Mont Alto campus was born.

By 1963, Penn State Mont Alto became a Commonwealth Campus, offering the first two years of most Penn State majors. This was the first time that the campus was considered "co-educational."

Today, Mont Alto offers nine baccalaureate degrees and seven associate degrees. Adult students seeking degree completion as well as professional development are served through the Continuing Education unit on campus as well as at other sites throughout the region. The campus is part of the University College, the largest academic college located within Penn State.

Penn State Mont Alto has more than 15,000 alumni who began their university education here and now work throughout the world and in many fields of service.

In 2003-04, Penn State Mont Alto celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of this campus. The theme selected for the centennial year, "From Forest Academy to University," reflects Mont Alto's history as a progressive educational institution. As alumni of Penn State Mont Alto, you are joining a distinguished group of individuals who are carrying on the legacy and the heritage of this important and special institution.

**Mike Ross**  
**President and CFO**  
**Franklin County Area Development Corporation**  
**Commencement Speaker**

Mike Ross has been President of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation (Chambersburg, Pennsylvania) since its start-up in 1986. Under Mike's direction, the FCADC has facilitated more than 1,000 projects throughout the county. The projects have resulted in more than \$2.2 billion of new investments. The FCADC has been able to support the projects with more than \$345 million of economic development resources. Most importantly, the projects have impacted more than 53,600 employment positions (created/retained). For its accomplishments, the FCADC is a past recipient of the *Small Agency of the Year* and the *Large Agency of the Year* awards by the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association. (The FCADC is the only agency to have received the award in each category.) In addition, the FCADC was the recipient of the President's Award for Overall Economic Impact and the Program of the Year Award from the Northeastern Economic Development Association (NEDA).

Mike is active in numerous professional and community organizations, including:

- Commissioner, PA Military Communities Enhancement Commission
- Commissioner, PA Early Learning Investment Commission
- Pennsylvania Association Council of Trustees - Board of Directors, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Advocacy Committee
- Penn State University-Mont Alto - Advisory Board, Policy & Planning Committee, Entrepreneur Adv. Council
- Team Letterkenny - Chair
- Southcentral Workforce Investment Board (SCPa Works) - Vice-Chair-Board of Directors
- Franklin County Visitors Bureau - Board of Directors, Property Committee-Chair
- Franklin County CareerTech - General Advisory Board
- United Way of Franklin County - Board of Directors (2015 Campaign Chair)
- Past President of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Assoc; and Northeastern Economic Developers Assoc.

Mike has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Slippery Rock University; is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute, Oklahoma University; and a 2014 graduate of Commandant's National Security Program, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle.

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