



2018: YEAR IN REVIEW



MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED: 1926

TYPE OF COLLEGE: Catholic comprehensive. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy. Coeducational since Feb. 3, 1969

SCHOOL COLORS: Green/White

MOTTO: Carpe Diem - Seize the Day

MASCOT: Luke the Laker

ENROLLMENT: Total Enrollment across all campuses: 3,357

New undergraduates on the Erie campus: 704

New graduate students: 92

46 states and 47 foreign countries represented

TOTAL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES: 399

(Faculty: 143; Staff & Administration: 256)

ALUMNI: Approximately 20,370

ACCREDITATION:

Middle States Commission on Higher Education

3624 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: (267) 284-5000

DEGREES: 86 undergraduate majors and 10 graduate majors.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music; also Associate of Science and Associate of Arts, Certificate Programs in the areas of Business and Health Professions.

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS: Anthropology, Applied Intelligence,

Criminal Justice Administration, Cyber Risk Management, Cyber Security, Data Science, Organizational Leadership, Physician Assistant Studies, Secondary Education and Special Education.

ADULT PROGRAMS: Comprehensive degrees. Post baccalaureate certificates. Accelerated degree program. Teacher certification.

HAMMERMILL LIBRARY: The Hammertmill Library is a fully automated facility; the virtual library provides 24/7 access to most of the library's collections. Among the library's holdings are book volumes, eBooks and electronic journal databases to support the scholarly needs of students. It is also home to the Thomas J. and Michele Ridge Collection (archives) and the Sister Joan Chittister Archives.

ATHLETICS

TEAM NAME: Lakers

MASCOT: Luke the Laker

24 VARSITY SPORTS: Basketball (M/W), Baseball (M), Cross Country (M/W), Golf (M/W), Soccer (M/W), Softball (W), Tennis (M/W), Volleyball (W), Rowing (M/W), Field Hockey (W), Ice Hockey (M/W), Lacrosse (M/W), Football (M), Wrestling (M), Water Polo (M/W).

CONFERENCE AFFILIATIONS: NCAA Division II. Division I in men's and women's ice hockey. Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference, Atlantic Hockey Association (men's hockey), College Hockey America (women's hockey), Collegiate Water Polo Association (men), Western Water Polo Association (women), Great Midwest Athletic Conference (men's lacrosse), Intercollegiate Rowing Association (men's rowing) and Eastern College Athletic Conference (women's rowing).

- Welcomed 704 new undergraduate students for the 2018-2019 academic year.
- Continued to rank in the top tier of Regional Universities (North) in the Best Colleges Guide of U.S. News & World Report.
- Recognized as a Purple Heart University, only the second in Pennsylvania, (the other being St. Joseph University in Philadelphia) for its service to veterans, in particular, combat veterans.
- Opened Ryan Hall, a \$25 million sophomore residence hall on the east campus. The suite-style building houses approximately 350 students and was named in honor of alumna, donor and former trustee Ellen Ryan and her husband, David.
- Opened the \$1 million MCPc Cyber Center at Mercyhurst University, reflecting the university's commitment to educating students in the high-demand fields of cyber and data science. The cyber lab provides students with top-notch training in cybersecurity, while the adjacent operations center employs Mercyhurst students to work with real MCPc clients, another important example of Mercyhurst's commitment to hands-on learning.
- Launched the risk management program aimed at educating a growing workforce, creating economic opportunities and advancing the high-demand field. Program made possible through the generosity of Betsy Hirt Vorsheck, a 1977 graduate of Mercyhurst and a board member of Erie Insurance.
- Named Leanne Roberts provost following the departure of David Dausey, who returned to his hometown of Pittsburgh as provost at Duquesne University. Christina Riley-Brown assumed Roberts' former post as dean of the Hafemaier College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.
- Announced the retirement of Sister Lisa Mary McCartney, recognizing that the college is without a Sister of Mercy working full time on campus – a first in its 92-year history. Greg Baker has assumed her place as vice president for mission integration.
- Achieved considerable success in the inaugural year of the Mercyhurst-led Erie Innovation District, from deploying technology to launch a Secure Smart City™ pilot project to welcoming nine high-tech startups to the inaugural Secure Erie Accelerator (SEA). Most recently, EID CEO Karl Sanck announced that five of the nine accelerator companies have committed to staying in Erie, while Quantela has committed between \$5-7 million to expand the Smart City project.
- Chairing the EID board is Joseph NeCastro, vice chair of the university's board of trustees. Other EID board members from Mercyhurst are Provost Leanne Roberts and Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement Cal Pifer.
- Marked the passing of Robert S. Miller, trustee emeritus, and primary benefactor of Mercyhurst North East.
- Named Brad Davis the university's new athletic director, replacing retired AD Joe Kimball.
- Welcomed a sold-out crowd to hear Shirley MacLaine open the live series of the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture. Also, more than 400 guests were on hand for the second annual summer gala in celebration of The 501, a special fundraising society instituted to support MIAC. The group was entertained by Broadway legend Audra McDonald.
- Recognized the appointment of Mercyhurst University Board Chair Richard A. Lanzillo as Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, seated in Erie.
- Finished 32nd among 268 NCAA Division II athletic departments in the Learfield Directors' Cup, an annual award given to the most successful athletics departments. Points are earned based on the order of finish in each sport's championship.
- Chosen to host the NCAA's most prestigious event in men's college hockey – The Ice Breaker Tournament – in October 2018 at Erie Insurance Arena, where the Lakers will welcome Miami, Providence and Notre Dame.
- Honored chemistry professor Ronald Brown with the 2018 Teaching Excellence Award.
- Honored Sue Corbran, public relations coordinator, with the 2018 Commitment to Mission Award and Lindsay Frank, director of alumni engagement, with the Staff Person of the Year Award.
- Established a new Department of Nursing. The first-ever department is headed by Judy Stanley, with individual program directors Karen Morahan, Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion Program (RN-BSN), Charlotte Forester, Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN), and Kathryn Habusta, Practical Nursing (PN).
- Utilized a \$300,000 "It's On Us" grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Mercyhurst to create an All-Campus Violence Prevention Project in collaboration with the Erie County District Attorney's Office, the Erie Police Department, Crime Victim Center and SafeNet.
- Garnered a \$411,432 grant from the Hirtzel Foundation to house sophisticated new equipment to expand neuroscience research locally, particularly in the areas of schizophrenia, autism and epilepsy.
- Launched an archaeological and public history study of the Warren County homestead of Robert H. Jackson, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Chief U.S. Prosecutor during the Nuremberg Trials.
- Partnered with the City of Erie to return fireworks to the Erie Bayfront for their Independence Day celebration. Their joint effort was heralded as "Lights over Lake Erie."
- Secured 32 major gifts for a total exceeding \$5.5 million. Two fundraising milestones were also achieved this year: alumni John Saxon '89 and his wife, Patty '90, gifted \$1.5 million, the largest individual alumni donation in Mercyhurst history; and 34-year-old Dr. Ivan Rusilko, a product of both Mercyhurst and LECOM, became the youngest alum to create an endowed scholarship.
- Established a new tradition – the Mass of Thanksgiving, which will be held every spring toward the close of the academic year, much like the Mass of the Holy Spirit is held every fall to mark the spiritual start of the school year.