

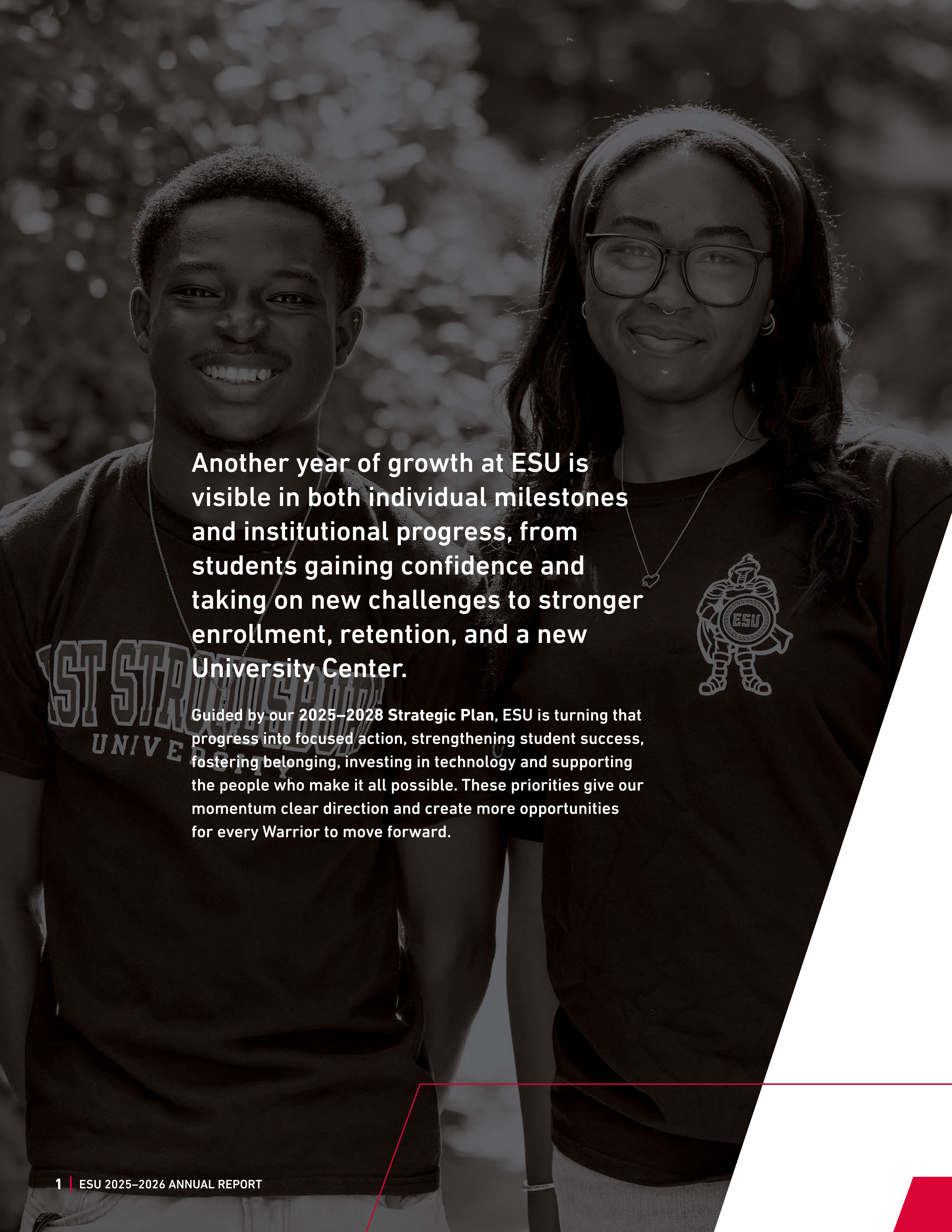


EAST
STROUDSBURG
UNIVERSITY



2025–2026 ANNUAL REPORT

WARRIORS WITH PURPOSE



Another year of growth at ESU is visible in both individual milestones and institutional progress, from students gaining confidence and taking on new challenges to stronger enrollment, retention, and a new University Center.

Guided by our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, ESU is turning that progress into focused action, strengthening student success, fostering belonging, investing in technology and supporting the people who make it all possible. These priorities give our momentum clear direction and create more opportunities for every Warrior to move forward.



BUILDING WITH MOMENTUM

It is my pleasure to share the Presidential Report for East Stroudsburg University's 2025–26 academic year, a year defined by student success, belonging, technology upgrades, applied learning and workforce development. This report spotlights work that we achieved together, guided by our current Strategic Plan, "ESU: Creating Opportunities Through Community, Engagement & Belonging."

Rising enrollment and retention rates are a reflection of the university's commitment to serving students with the advising, support and opportunities that will help them succeed after graduation. Our faculty and staff continued to expand their knowledge in their areas of expertise and in the way they teach in the classroom, and the results show.

Our campus continued to evolve this year as we completed construction on the new University Center, upgraded classroom technology, expanded our digital learning management system, improved campus connectivity and infrastructure and launched a major website redesign with upgrades for prospective and current students.

Hands-on and experiential learning, through partnerships with local businesses, school districts, healthcare facilities, nonprofit organizations and collaborations across university departments, continue to prepare our students for jobs in vital industries.

Our student-athletes excelled academically and athletically, with six teams reaching NCAA postseason play, including two PSAC championships, and continued their exemplary academic performance and community involvement.

I hope you will find, as you read through this report, how we've already started to put our new strategic plan into action. This is just an overview of what makes ESU a place Where Warriors Belong. **Thank you for being part of our progress and our future.**

KENNETH LONG, PRESIDENT

PROGRESS MADE VISIBLE

The numbers tell one part of ESU's story. The moments show where progress is leading. A growing student body, new University Center, redesigned website and Middle States reaffirmation marked a year of progress and clearer direction.

5,885 STUDENTS

4.4% enrollment growth, up from 5,636 students.

MIDDLE STATES REAFFIRMATION

Accreditation reaffirmed by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

A NEW DIGITAL FRONT DOOR

First major website redesign in nearly a decade.

A NEW CENTER FOR CAMPUS LIFE

109,233-square-foot University Center completed.

13TH ANNUAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SUMMIT

Experts explored regional economic trends, transportation, AI and business innovation.

50 YEARS OF ATHLETIC TRAINING EXCELLENCE

Nationally recognized Athletic Training program celebrates five decades.

2025-2028

STRATEGIC PLAN

Creating Opportunities Through Community, Engagement & Belonging

AREAS OF FOCUS

- 01 Develop a Culture of Student Success
- 02 Foster a Community of Belonging
- 03 Optimize Information Technology
- 04 Create an Engaged and Motivated Workplace

Student success depends on belonging, supportive technology, and people committed to every Warrior's future. **These four areas of focus turn ESU's progress into greater opportunity.**



“As an institutional newcomer, I was able to actively get to know and collaborate with fellow ESU faculty and staff across the university. The result was a sense of pride in playing a small part in our institutional growth.”

ARTRESS WHITE, PH.D.
Associate Professor of English, Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair



DEVELOP A CULTURE OF STUDENT SUCCESS

GROWTH WITH PURPOSE

Success looks different for every Warrior: being the first in their family to earn a degree, conducting research, discovering a career through an internship or passing a professional exam. **ESU gives Warriors the support and opportunities to define success and pursue it.**



75%
Overall Retention
Up from 72%.

71%
First-Generation Retention
Up from 68%

95%
First-Time NCLEX-RN Pass Rate
Class of 2026
Exceeding state and national averages.

SUCCESS IN ACTION

ESU's success is tied directly to student success. Enrollment measures growth; retention shows whether Warriors have the **advising, financial support, wellness resources, experiences and opportunities** to persist and reach their goals.

11 Here, your hands-on experience starts right away. My sophomore year, I was in the hospital seeing everything up close. You can see the reality of it and whether you really want to pursue it, which I knew I did.”

ELI MORRISON '26, BS NURSING
Intensive Care Unit Nurse, Geisinger Health System





Putting Passion to Work

Sport Management major Brianna Anderson '26 takes on a whole new personality in her work with Minor League Baseball's Jersey Shore BlueClaws: a 6-foot-2, green-haired, bright yellow mascot named Buster. For Anderson, the work comes down to creating a moment of joy: "If I can make someone smile or laugh, even for a second, then my job is complete."

WHERE LEARNING LEADS

At ESU, a classroom can be a laboratory, hotel, clinic or office. Through co-ops, industry partnerships, research and project-based learning, **Warriors apply what they learn to real challenges, building skills, confidence and clearer paths forward.**

Co-op Program

Connects academic learning with meaningful industry experience.

Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism Management

Turns classroom projects into real-world job opportunities and growth.

U.S. Chamber

Foundation's EPIC Initiative
Employer Provided Innovation Challenges program brings students and employers together.



FOSTER A COMMUNITY OF BELONGING

At ESU, belonging happens in classrooms and residence halls, on teams and in student organizations, through mentorship, research and the traditions that turn campus into community. **Where Warriors Belong™** is an experience ESU works to make real for every Warrior.

FINDING COMMON GROUND

The **Generation One Club**, fellow students and ESU faculty and staff help first-generation students find confidence and connection.



YOU BELONG IN THE ROOM

Through the **Warrior Startup Challenge**, student-faculty research, juried exhibitions and other opportunities, ESU encourages students to test ideas, share their talents and see themselves as entrepreneurs, researchers, artists and professionals. **These experiences build confidence to step into new spaces and know they belong there.**



“I came to a meeting and for the first time I heard some semblance of my own experience, and it was surreal because I had felt like maybe I don’t belong here, but the club helped me realize that I do.”

KHRYZTELLE ALFEREZ
Generation One Club member

WHERE WARRIORS BELONG™



BUILT FOR CONNECTION

The new **University Center** creates more space for collaboration, support, wellness and everyday connection, giving Warriors more ways to meet, access resources and engage in campus life.

COMMUNITY BEYOND CAMPUS

Through programs addressing Pennsylvania's teacher shortage, the **College of Education** prepares future educators while supporting local schools. **Investing in ESU students strengthens classrooms, families and communities.**



“The Accelerated Grant Program created an opportunity that once felt out of reach. Because of that investment, my students now benefit from a classroom led by someone who understands their needs from years of hands-on experience.”

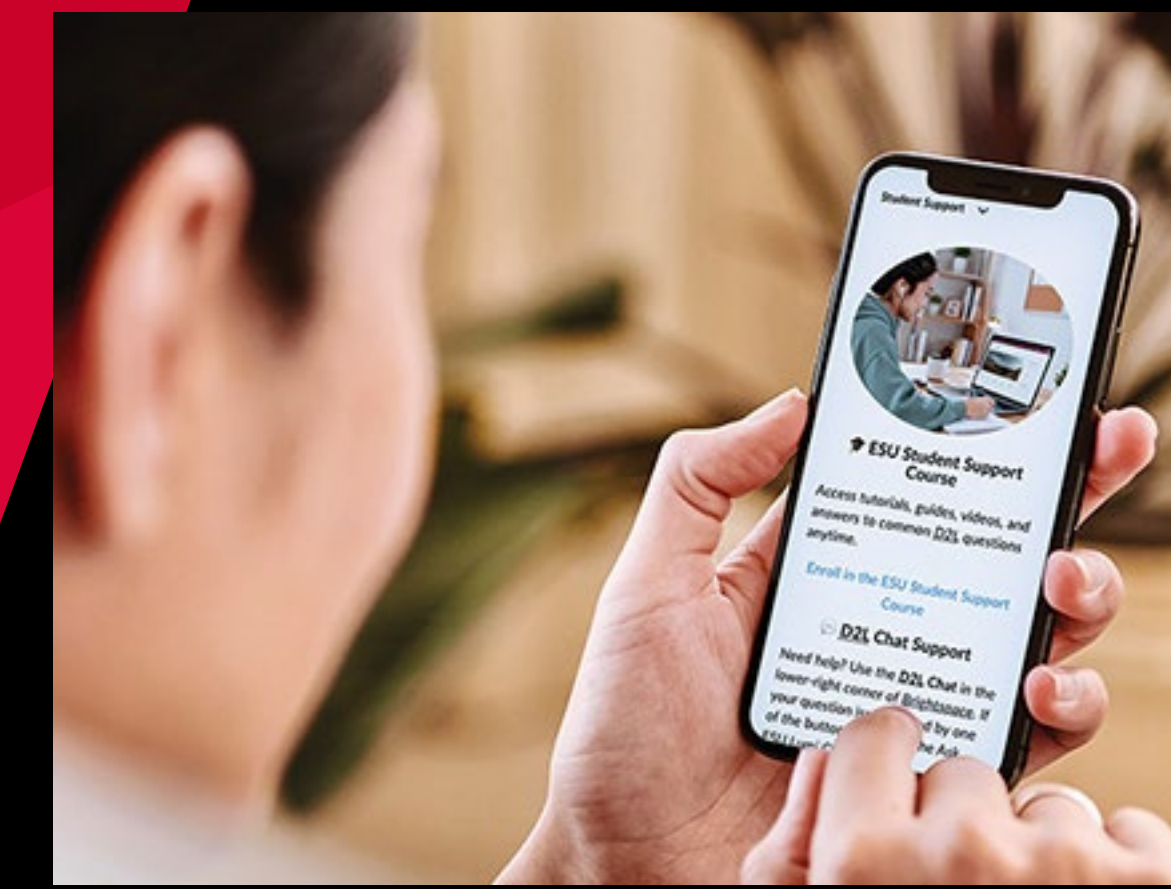
NICK TANZILLO M'25, SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

Member of the first cohort of 142 educators to complete the Accelerated Program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification in 2025

OPTIMIZE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY THAT SERVES PEOPLE

ESU invests in technology that removes barriers, improves access and gives students, faculty and staff better tools to learn, teach, communicate and succeed.



Teaching and Learning. Expansion of the D2L Brightspace learning management system, a consistent and reliable digital environment.



Campus Connectivity and Infrastructure. The residence hall wireless modernization includes nearly 650 wireless access points across campus.



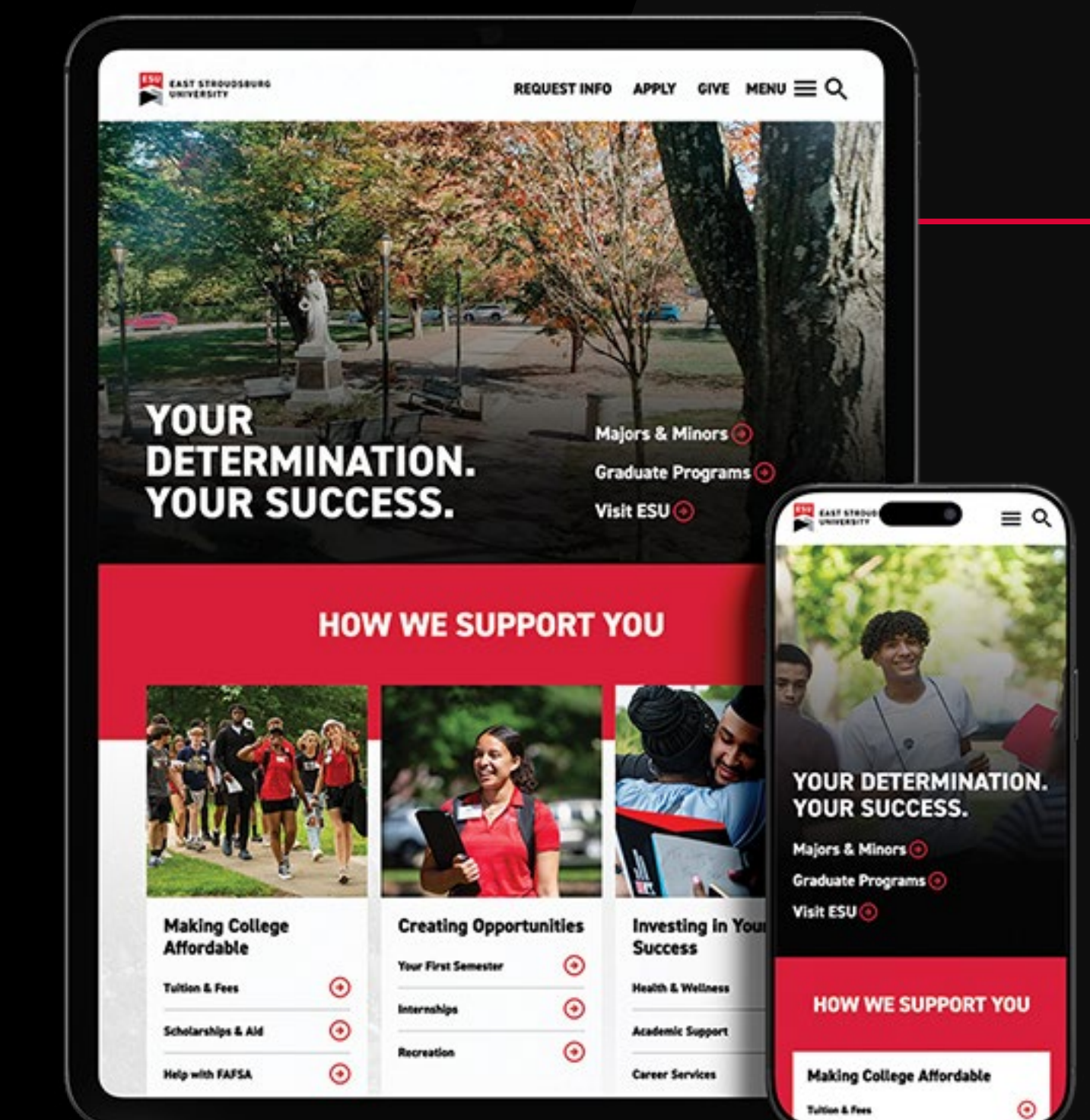
Accessibility and Universal Access. Our internal accessibility roadmap is on target to meet our 100% goal by December 30, 2026.

A New Digital Front Door

In 2025, ESU launched its first major website redesign in nearly a decade. Shaped by input from students, faculty and staff, the new site makes it easier to explore programs, find information and understand the Warrior experience, creating a **better connection between ESU and the people it serves.**

Creating Multifaceted Learning Spaces

Dedicated in 2025, the **Warrior Esports Room** features gaming computers and a shoutcasting room for live commentary. Connected to the McGarry Communications Center, it gives students opportunities to produce esports content for global audiences. The space was funded through a Pennsylvania Commonwealth Financing Authority grant and donor support.



150

wireless access points
replacements annually

1 Gbps

connectivity to
every desktop

15+

campus facilities

*Network modernization and
major switch replacement*

CREATE

AN ENGAGED AND MOTIVATED WORKPLACE



External Funding Total	\$4,375,311
Number of Awards Funded	43
Internal Funding	\$82,500

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

Behind every student success story are faculty, staff and mentors who challenge, connect and support Warriors. **Investing in them is another way ESU invests in students.**

Through the **ACUE** (Association of College and University Educators) initiative, faculty and staff strengthened skills that support more effective, inclusive teaching and student experiences.



“As a professional development opportunity, it was not only a way to reengage with some of the principles of teaching online but also seeing what’s trending and what’s most effective today.”

ERIC SCHUMACHER, PH.D., PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

37

faculty earned
Certificates in
Effective Teaching

42

faculty and staff
completed *Fostering a
Culture of Belonging*

Regional Economic Impact in Real Time

Students in ESU’s **Data Wrangling course** used Python to analyze guest reviews for Blue Mountain Resort and other Pennsylvania ski resorts, turning findings into recommendations for regional hospitality businesses.

Research, Innovation and Impact

Faculty research creates opportunities for student discovery and extends ESU’s impact beyond campus. In 2025, ESU was designated a Research College or University by the American Council on Education and the **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching**. Faculty continue advancing research and innovation through grants and awards.

“This experience has expanded what I can bring back to my students in thinking more broadly about how technology, craftsmanship, creativity and personal expression can come together.”

DARLENE FARRIS-LABAR, M.F.A., PROFESSOR OF ART + MEDIA + DESIGN



2025-2026 BY THE NUMBERS

Growth at ESU means more opportunities, a stronger community, and better ways for Warriors to learn, persist and succeed.

1,182
Degrees Awarded

Including 926 bachelor's, 234 master's, and 22 doctoral degrees

1,000+
Hours of Field Experience

Completed by each ESU education student during their preparation

29
Student Entrepreneurs

Entered ESU's 2026 Warrior Startup Challenge

90+
Student Presenters

Annual Student Research and Creative Activity Symposium

50+
Student Artists

Represented in the 2026 Art + Media + Design Senior Show

200+
Future Educators in Classrooms

Field experience and student teaching, Spring 2026

2,690
Residential Students

Including 1,090 first-year and transfer students

DONORS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Total Donors
2,826

Scholarships
794

Total Gifts, Grants and Pledges
\$6,055,627

Scholarship Dollars Awarded
\$1,282,278

ENROLLMENT

Undergraduate 5,136 +4.9%	Master's 647 -1.8%	Doctorate 102 +22.9%
PA Enrollment +5.1%	Out-of-State Enrollment +2.1%	Total Countries 51

DEMOGRAPHICS

Underrepresented Minority Students	45.5%
First Generation Students*	27.6%
Students Who Receive Financial Aid	91.5%
Pell Awards	45.4%

* Students who filed FAFSA

TOP 10 MAJORS FOR UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

Business Management 460	Biology 256
Psychology 400	Nursing 250
Undeclared 296	Criminal Justice 249
Exercise Science 290	Sport Management 208
Early Childhood Education 276	Computer Science 183

TOP 10 PA COUNTIES BY ENROLLMENT FALL 2024

Monroe 1,409
Northampton 587
Philadelphia 293
Montgomery 231
Lehigh 229
Pike 223
Bucks 188
Luzerne 161
Lackawanna 147
Carbon 82

WHERE WARRIORS MEET THE MOMENT

Built through preparation, teamwork, academic support and shared commitment, Warrior athletics reflects ESU's focus on student success, belonging and growth on the field, in the classroom and beyond.



6 TEAMS
IN NCAA
POSTSEASON

- Field Hockey
- Women's Volleyball
- Women's Cross Country
- Baseball
- Softball
- Women's Lacrosse

All-America
Athletes

19

Teams with
3.0 GPA or
Higher

96%

PSAC Scholar-Athletes

62%
(333 Students)

6 Academic
All-America Selections

2 PSAC Championships
Women's Cross Country, Women's Volleyball

2,000+
Pennsylvania Special Olympics

Athletes supported by ESU student trainer volunteers like Olympia Curley-Katrishen and Cameron Nunez.

It speaks volumes that ESU promotes a positive environment for the students so that when they become actual athletic trainers, they want to give back by doing things like this."

DR. JAYME GALDIERI, MS, LAT, ATC
ESU Athletic Trainer and Special Olympics Pennsylvania Summer Games Medical Lead since 2012.



**5TH ANNUAL EVENT
FOR NATIONAL MARROW
DONOR PROGRAM**

Current Warriors honor the memories of ESU student-athletes Ryan Smith and Alyssa Oxenford with annual donor drive.



LEADING THE WAY FORWARD

ESU leaders align people, resources and decisions around student success and the university’s future.



COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

- L. Patrick Ross '67**, Chair
- John Pekarovsky III '07**, Vice Chair
- Paul E. Shemansky '96 M'01 M'04**, Secretary
- Edward P. Abraham**
- Frank A. Epifano**
- Thomas J. Grayuski '84**
- Ainslee Green '27**
- Tina L. Nixon '89**
- Elizabeth O'Brien '01**
- Tameko Patterson**
- Christopher M. Fiorentino**, *Ex-Officio*

PRESIDENT’S CABINET

- Kenneth Long**, President
- Margaret Ball, D.M.A.**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Miguel Barbosa**, Chief of Staff and Vice President for University Relations
- Lorna J. Hunter, Ph.D.**, Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Mary Frances Postupack**, Vice President for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship
- Robert Smith, Ed.D.**, Chief Information and Technology Officer
- Santiago Solis, Ed.D.**, Vice President for Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence
- Omar Mayyasi, Ph.D.**, Interim Chief Financial Officer
- Michael C. Sachs, J.D.**, Interim Vice President for Administration and Accreditation
- Rich Santoro**, Executive Director, ESU Foundation

DEANS

- Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap, M.F.A.**, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- Sylvester Williams, J.D.**, Dean, College of Business and Management
- Brooke Langan, Ed.D.**, Dean, College of Education
- Chris Domanski, M.F.A.**, Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences
- Jennie Smith, Ed.D.**, Dean of Student Life

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION

- Allen G. Snook Jr., D.H.Sc.**, Director of Athletics
- Sarah Ross**, Associate Athletic Director for Student Success/Senior Woman Administrator
- Jim Glovach, Ed.D.**, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance
- Shawn Munford, Ph.D.**, Faculty Athletics Representative

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Elizabeth Richardson**, Director
- Greg Knowlden**, Assistant Director



ESU is moving forward with purpose.
Explore our continued progress at [ESU.edu](https://www.esu.edu)