Monday Morning Message from President Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D. - October 8, 2018

Student Success is at the center of everything we do at East Stroudsburg University. The faculty, staff, and administrators throughout all divisions interact with our students on a daily basis and desire nothing less than their success. As a matter of fact, in the development of the university's strategic plan, *Students First: Empowering Students through Collaboration* it was noted that while various areas of campus work to help students, we've found that often the work of departments was being done in isolation which, in the end, did not help our students. But after great discussion among divisions and at the end of a thorough search process, ESU identified and selected a student success platform by Hobsons known as Starfish as an ideal tool to help us as we facilitate students growth and achievement academically and professionally.

Starfish (which will be known at ESU as Warrior Fish) is a comprehensive student advising and early alert, cloud based, software platform. Warrior Fish will pull together data from Banner and D2L. This new portal will help advisors, professors and other university professionals identify students who need help, while working together to ensure their success. Warrior Fish will pull data (student advising, early alerts, student performance analytics) from other sources and enable faculty and staff to view information on students regarding advising, early alerts, and student performance analytics. Another very interesting feature of Warrior Fish is that our students can reach out to anyone at ESU – via the portal – for help with anything, from advising and tutoring to assistance with financial aid and registration. It's all at their fingertips.

The full implementation of Warrior Fish began in July 2018 and is a two year process. During the fall semester, the implementation team - comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators from all areas of campus - is configuring the system and integrating the data from banner, D2L, and Outlook. Warrior Fish training will also occur throughout the semester in Stroud 405 on a schedule that is convenient for each of the offices.

In January 2019 we will have a kickoff event to officially launch Warrior Fish, providing students, faculty, staff and others access to the comprehensive student advising system component. An assessment of the first year of Warrior Fish will be conducted by the implementation team during the Summer 2019 and appropriate changes will be made. During the 2019-2020 academic year we will continue to use Warrior Fish for student advising and will then implement its early alert system. The intent is to continually improve, assess and utilize Warrior Fish to advance student success at ESU, which we hope will translate into improved retention rates as well.

In the coming weeks there will be the launch of a web site along with informational and training sessions on Warrior Fish provided by members of the implementation team. I invite each of you to join those leading the Warrior Fish initiative in "connecting the dots" between/among all of us through this critical student success initiative. If you have any questions concerning Warrior Fish or if you're interested in scheduling a training session for you or your department, contact the project lead, Dr. Jeffrey Weber, associate provost, at jweber@esu.edu.

Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D.
President