

Integration INSIGHT



September 2021

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you new information relating to the Northeast Integration. Our Functional and Senior Implementation teams have been hard at work through the summer to operationalize the plans that were submitted in July.

ACADEMIC UPDATES

In addition to expanded academic program offerings at each campus, below are some of the developing examples of new academic opportunities that will become available through integration.

- **Artist or Musician in Residence** opportunities, aligned with faculty expertise, to explore new techniques and develop new skills in state-of-the-art studio settings.
- **Business** – Plans exist to expand professional development, Business Idea Competition, and more through the AACSB-accredited business program at BU.
- **Criminal Justice** – Opportunity for to enroll into the Police Academy pathway for Criminal Justice majors (spend 6-months in the PA Municipal Police Academy as part of your degree program) or add an EMT-national certification at Mansfield.
- **Education** – Broader opportunities for student-teaching (including residential housing opportunities) are forthcoming, including plans to closely align with districts and employment opportunities they can offer to our graduating seniors.
- **Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Science** field camp opportunities will expand, offering opportunities to explore differences offered through our respective locations.
 - A new soils minor may be offered through BU/LHU soils expertise/partnership.
- **Nursing/Physician Assistant Programs** – There are plans to offer expanded clinical settings or clinical rotation opportunities.
- **Pharm.D. Program** – Expand on new BU partnerships with Temple and Farleigh Dickinson universities and their respective Schools of Pharmacy – these partner institutions are excited to expand their reach into Central PA through LHU/MU. Signing ceremonies will occur in September 2021.
- **Scientist in Residence** opportunities that align with faculty expertise and research opportunities.
 - For example, [collaborative tree swallow nesting research](#) through BU/MU faculty connections is already taking place.

NCAA UPDATE

The NCAA is aware of the unanimous vote by the PA State System Board of Governors to proceed with the integration of Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield. The NCAA has indicated that it will act following a Middle States decision, expected in Spring 2022. Given state and federal alignment required for athletics, this is not a surprise. We are continuing along the path we laid out from the beginning - that we will retain athletics on the three campuses that currently host them.

Our athletics programs are a vital aspect of campus and student life, contributing to much of what we love most about our universities. For current student-athletes – we are operating as we would in any other year. For those currently being recruited, this path would allow us to retain our existing sports teams at each institution.

NE NAMING RESEARCH

As we continue our process of determining the Northeast integrated university's name for Middle States and other accreditation purposes, we will be conducting more research this fall, and then we will determine our next steps. As we have stated previously, our names, colors, mascots, and other brand elements will not change. We want to

ensure that we strategically align our resources in the Northeast to maintain the strength of our brands and in ways that champion our students and their success.

We should note that our colleagues in the West Integration are charged with launching an online campus as a stand-alone entity. They are on a different pace and timeline that may include the announcement of a naming convention this fall.

FUTURE BIG-PICTURE OPPORTUNITIES

For high school students – Expansion of dual enrollment will be part of a broad portfolio of programs to engage with our institutions. This includes opportunities to earn an associate's degree, especially in some pre-health care tracks of interest. In-person and hybrid modalities will be kept in mind for flexible offerings.

Anchor program – Bloomsburg University's Anchor Program provides youth, ages 15 to 18, involved in the Pennsylvania foster care system the opportunity to explore their academic interests and talents through a multi-year summer residential college life experience program and year-round mentorship opportunities to ensure that they are confident and prepared to make life choices like furthering their education and living independently.