



# Celebrating Our Success



## 2023-2024 Annual Report





## Message from the President ►►►

East Stroudsburg University saw another year of growth and achievements during the 2023-24 academic year, for our students and our institution as a whole.

As you look through this report you will notice so many opportunities that were created to help our students gain a better understanding of their area of study as well as the world around them. I hope, as you read on, you will get a glimpse of what makes East Stroudsburg University a place Where Warriors Belong.

Our renowned faculty and dedicated staff made sure learning didn't stop in the classroom. Our students experienced trips to the United Nations and Washington, D.C., and studied in Costa Rica, Italy, and Ghana. Speakers from across the country and around the world led discussions on campus. These enriching experiences give students another perspective on their areas of study and create networking opportunities.

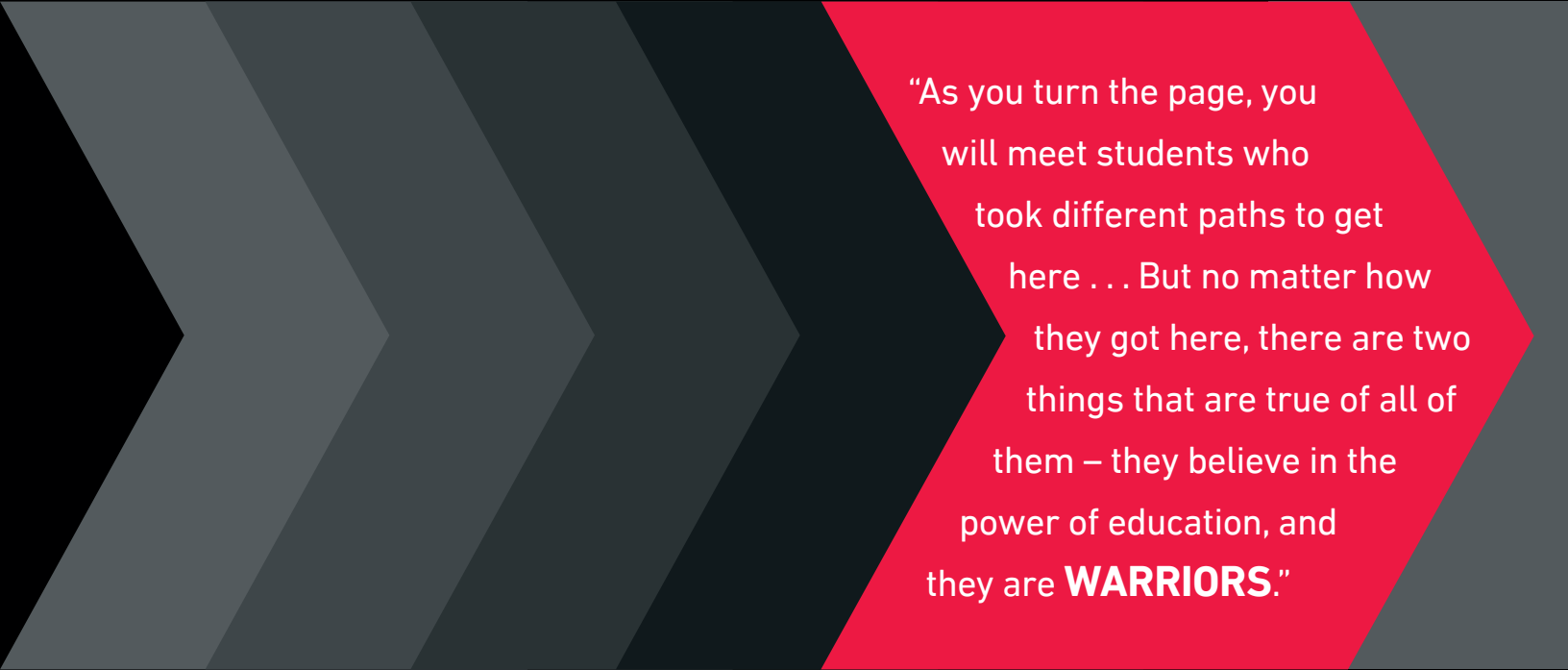
From athletics conference championships to an exciting season of theatre, music, and art, Warrior Pride was felt throughout the region this year. The Annual Economic Outlook Summit and Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast brought the community together to celebrate, learn, and grow.

With student enrollment continuing to rise, ESU's campus is constantly transforming to better serve our students. Renovations to existing buildings included accessibility improvements and branding while construction on the new University Center continues to progress with an opening slated for Fall 2025.

As you turn the page, you will meet students who took different paths to get here – some came as freshman, while others transferred from another institution; some are here as student athletes, and several are the first in their family to pursue a degree. Some are working on their second or third degree while others are overcoming homelessness or using their military benefits to be here. But no matter how they got here, there are two things that are true of all of them – they believe in the power of education, and they are Warriors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Long". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth Long  
*President*



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## Warriors At A Glance >>>



Olivia Kautz

Olivia Kautz is a first-generation college student who used to play “teacher” with her older sister. Now, she is pursuing her passion for Early Childhood and Elementary Education at ESU. Olivia, a junior from Stroudsburg, notes that not many colleges offer field experiences before student teaching. She is a shining example of how public higher education can help turn childhood dreams into reality.

### Diaa Meqdadi

Diaa Meqdadi, a senior computer science and computer security student, won the \$10,000 first-place prize in the annual PASSHE Startup Challenge in April. His company, Merzial LLC, simplifies data management and digital marketing solutions using an innovative approach to develop drag-and-drop customizable database API software. Meqdadi hopes the company will revolutionize how businesses handle data.





## Jerome Dixon

Jerome Dixon was homeless when he enrolled at ESU and connected with ESU's Health and Wellness Center and case manager Dr. Bailey Higgins. With connections made through the university's CARE (Campus Advocacy and Resource Engagement) program and his determination to overcome big challenges, he showed grit and resilience, secured an internship with Paramount and Nickelodeon, and knows his education is the cornerstone for a future of financial stability and economic mobility.

## Arlene Hargrave

Arlene Hargrave '08 M'21 D'24 knew exactly where she wanted to pursue her doctorate in health science. "Dr. Mom" became a reality with the help of ESU's faculty guidance and the program's flexible schedule – supporting her family including four children, her job and other obligations. And someday, the three-time ESU graduate may be teaching at the collegiate level as well.



## Warriors At A Glance >>>



### Brian McGarrity

Brian McGarrity had specific criteria in mind when looking for a college – a supportive academic business management program and a strong cross country and track and field team. After exploring his options, he discovered that ESU was the perfect fit. “It felt like home,” said Brian, now a junior. “I knew I would be able to succeed, and ESU is preparing me well for my future.”



### Jady van Gils

Jady van Gils always dreamed of studying and playing field hockey in the United States but needed the perfect fit. A junior from the Netherlands, she easily embraces her family away from home through her teammates and coaches. She’s now a national champion on the field, an aspiring sport management professional, and proving that dreams come true with dedication.



## Aliyah Williams

Aliyah Williams transferred to ESU from Northampton Community College as an English major, and takes advantage of all the resources the college has to offer, including the tutoring center and the writing studio. But she's found her biggest asset is the connections she has built with her professors. "They have helped me open up my networking opportunities," she said. "I have really gained confidence in myself to be a future professional."

## Jared Johnson

Jared Johnson '24 had an unclear path ahead of him after completing his duty as a range instructor in the Navy. He wanted to transform teaching into a profession, but he wasn't sure how to get there. Fortunately, with the support of his professors, he has found a clear path to success in middle-level education. "They have this innate way of motivating their students," he said. "They see the good in all of us."



## Guest Speakers >>>

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to learn from guest speakers who are experts in their field. From regional business executives in the Crayola Lecture Series, to doctors and veterans, activists and advocates, television stars, and the former Vice President of Afghanistan, there was no shortage of topics covered by leading experts. The year ended with the return of Dr. Salome Thomas-El, a 1986 graduate of ESU. Dr. Thomas-El, a nationally recognized educator and chess coach and bestselling author, was the keynote speaker for both undergraduate commencement ceremonies.



Dr. Salome Thomas-EL '86



Colonel Lawrence M. Riddles – Veterans Day



Dr. Sima Simar – Wimer Lecture Series



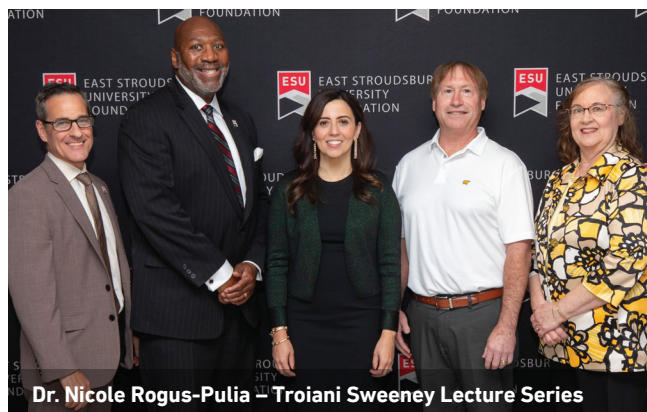
Daymond John



Dr. Kerri Green M'97 Ed.D. '20



Tarun Chopra '01 – Economic Outlook Summit



Dr. Nicole Rogus-Pulia – Troiani Sweeney Lecture Series



Edith King-Lawrence '12





## Travel Experiences >>>

ESU students spent time outside the classroom, whether traveling abroad for coursework, setting forth to implement change in our nation’s capital, interning in Minneapolis, or visiting the Maltese Embassy. And it wasn’t just students traveling – in summer 2023, five members of ESU’s faculty and staff spent 10 days in Ghana learning more about the culture and shared practices.





Economic Outlook Summit



Siblings Day



Admitted Students Celebration



Twelfth Night



Holiday Tree Lighting



Commencement



All One Charities Grant



Good Neighbor Walk



Homecoming Bonfire



Commencement



Distinguished Professor Awards



Warrior Madness

## Year in Review >>>

From annual events inviting families, alumni, and the community to celebrate their Warrior Spirit to honoring those who support the mission of our university, we are thankful to everyone who brought us through another impactful year and showed that ESU is always a place Where Warriors Belong.



Scholarship Dinner



World Down Syndrome Day



MLK Celebration Scholarships



MANA – A National Latina Organization

## Commitment to Inclusive Excellence >>>

As an institution of higher education, we value and welcome diversity in thoughts, perspectives, ideas, and abilities. We believe when we create a community inclusive of race, sexual identity, religion, and those who are neurodiverse we can continue to learn and grow in our personal and professional lives.



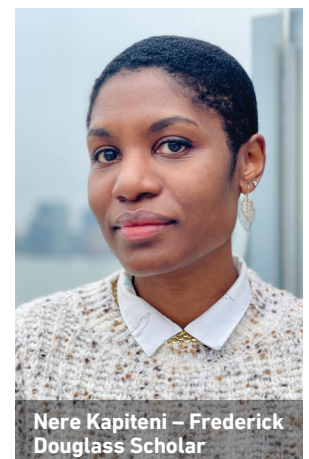
Homecoming Pride Mixer



Men of Color Alliance



Women of Color Initiative



Nere Kapiteni – Frederick Douglass Scholar

## Commitment to the Community >>>

Whether participating in a neighborhood beautification project, hosting community celebrations, collecting food and holiday gifts for those in need, or inviting our youngest neighbors to campus, East Stroudsburg University is deeply ingrained in the Pocono Mountains.



Pink Light Walk



SGA Teddy Bear Drive



Paint the Town - ESU Homecoming



ESU 4 Kids



Pocono Arts Council



Pick Up The Poconos



Field Hockey – 2023 PSAC Champions

## 5 Teams Selected for NCAA Postseason:

- Field Hockey
- Football
- Baseball
- Softball
- Women's Lacrosse



## Intercollegiate Athletics >>>

Warriors compete – on their playing field, in the classroom and the community. ESU was third of 18 institutions in the PSAC's Dixon Trophy standings, its best-ever finish. Student-athletes also continued to raise their standard academically and engaged with the Poconos, especially children – future Warriors.



Salvation Army



Be The Match National Marrow Donor Registry



Read Across America

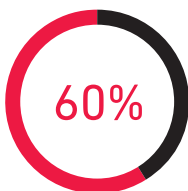


National Girls and Women in Sports Day

3.267

Average Cumulative GPA

Student-Athletes Who Achieved PSAC Scholar-Athlete Status with 3.25 Cumulative GPA (296)



Women's Lacrosse – 2024 NCAA DII Final Four

Teams With 3.0 GPA



5 Academic All-America and 14 Academic All-District Selections



Big Brothers Big Sisters



Jeff Wilson '86 M'92 – Men's Basketball, 400 Career Wins

# ▶▶▶ 2023-2024 Grant Funding ▶▶▶

## External Awards

**\$4,856,117 AWARDED IN EXTERNAL FUNDING**

### External Grant Awards 2023-2024

8 awards  
were funded from  
state agencies



2 awards  
were funded  
from PASSHE



53 PIs and CO-PIs  
submitted  
58 proposals

University Divisions  
and Affiliates  
\$3,275,142

College of Arts  
and Sciences  
\$964,453

College of Education  
\$522,542

College of Business  
and Management  
\$93,980



3 awards  
were funded from  
federal agencies



26 awards  
were funded from  
private agencies

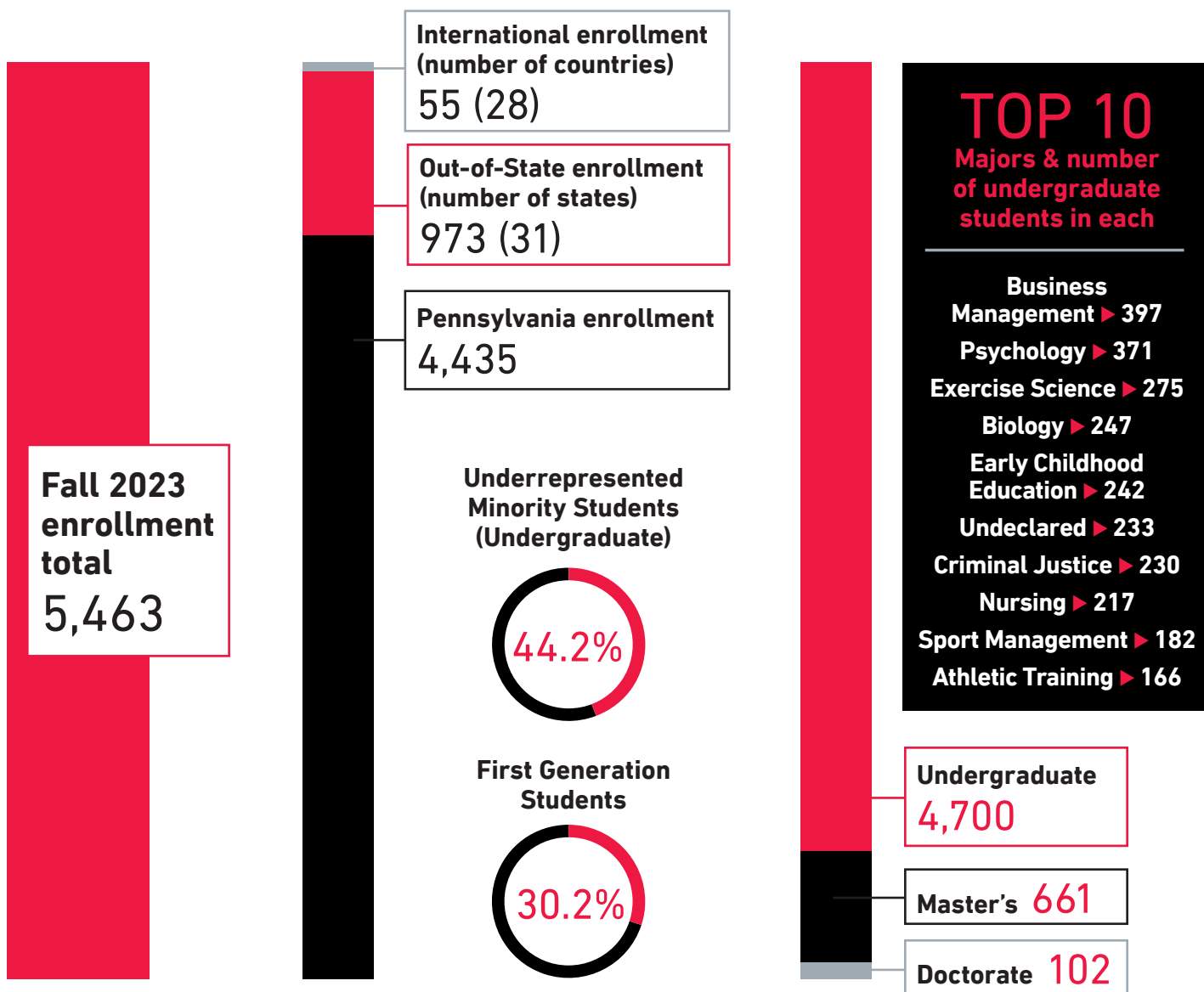


36 PIs and CO-PIs  
were funded for  
39 awards

## Internal Awards

**\$70,719 AWARDED IN INTERNAL FUNDING**

## By the Numbers >>>



### TOP 10 PA COUNTIES BY ENROLLMENT

Monroe ▶ 1,292	Montgomery ▶ 186
Northampton ▶ 555	Bucks ▶ 168
Philadelphia ▶ 341	Luzerne ▶ 148
Lehigh ▶ 224	Lackawanna ▶ 103
Pike ▶ 209	Delaware ▶ 73

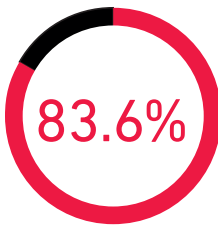
Freshman Class Profiles	2022	2023
Enrollment	1,153	1,399
Average HS GPA	3.15	3.27
College of Arts & Sciences	479	571
College of Business & Management	222	260
College of Education	74	96
College of Health Sciences	226	314
Undeclared or Meta Majors	152	158





**Scholarship \$  
Awarded in 2023-24**  
**\$1,218,493**

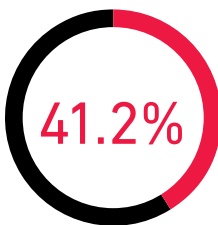
**Students  
who receive  
financial aid**



**Scholarships in  
2023-24**



**Pell Awards  
(undergraduate)**



**Total Donors  
in 2023-24**  
**2,669**

**Total Gifts \$  
in 2023-24**  
**\$5,623,720**



Leiding Family with 2024 Scholarship Recipient

**Total Alumni**  
**45,148**



**Alumni in...**

- PA ▶ 28,400**
- NJ ▶ 6,629**
- NY ▶ 1,939**
- FL ▶ 1,745**



Koehler Fieldhouse



University Center

## Campus Improvements >>>

ESU's campus is continuously transformed to better serve our students and community. Construction is progressing on the new University Center, which is slated to open for the Fall 2025 semester. The 156,233-gross-square-foot, state-of-the-art building will house most of ESU's student services in one location and also include a large ballroom, bookstore, theater, art gallery and food court. Recent renovations of existing buildings include accessibility improvements in the Abeloff Center for the Performing Arts, interior cosmetic renovations in Dansbury Commons, and updated branding in the Zimbar-Liljenstein Hall gymnasium, and the Schisler Museum of Wildlife and Natural History.



ESU Lightpost Banners



University Center Construction Media Walkthrough



Zimbar-Liljenstein Hall Gymnasium



Abeloff Center for the Performing Arts



Dansbury Commons



## **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  
Damali Jackson '25  
Marcus S. Lingenfelter '95  
Tina L. Nixon '89  
Elizabeth O'Brien '01  
Tameko Patterson  
Daniel Greenstein, *Ex-Officio*

## **PRESIDENT'S CABINET**

Kenneth Long, M.B.A. *President*  
Margaret Ball, D.M.A., *Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
Miguel Barbosa, *Chief of Staff and Vice President for University Relations*  
Donna Bulzoni, C.P.A., M.B.A., *Chief Financial Officer*  
Lorna J. Hunter, Ph.D., *Vice President for Enrollment Management*  
Mary Frances Postupack, *Vice President for Economic Development and Entrepreneurship*  
Michael C. Sachs, J.D., *Interim Vice President for Administration and Accreditation*  
Robert Smith, Ed.D., *Chief Information and Technology Officer*  
Santiago Solis, Ed.D., *Vice President for Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence*  
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*  
Brian Street, Ph.D., *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*  
Shawn Munford, Ph.D., *Faculty Athletics Representative*

## **MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

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



**EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY**

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