

University, students, faculty, staff and alumni news:

[SRU names Michael Zieg provost and vice president for academic affairs](#)

Following an extensive national search process, Slippery Rock University has named Michael Zieg as provost and vice president for academic affairs, effective immediately. Zieg has served in the interim role since April 2022.

[Pease-Hernandez receives PASSHE DEI Keeper of the Flame Award](#)

Christine Pease-Hernandez, a Slippery Rock University associate professor of strategic communication and media, received Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Keepers of the Flame Award.

[SRU recognizes Indigenous people with land acknowledgment statement](#)

November was National Native American Heritage Month, and at Slippery Rock University there's an observance of Indigenous people that will go beyond a span of 30 days each year. Through a shared-governance effort between SRU administration and faculty, the University has adopted a new land acknowledgment statement that will be used permanently by students, faculty, staff and visitors to recognize the previous land occupants of the campus and surrounding area.

[Bian and Leight win SHAPE PA awards](#)

Wei Bian, a Slippery Rock University associate professor of physical and health education, and Joanne Leight, an SRU professor of physical and health education, were both recently selected for awards offered by the Society of Health and Physical Educators of Pennsylvania.

[SRU College of Education recognized by CAEP](#)

Slippery Rock University's College of Education was recently recognized by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation with the Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement. SRU was one of 21 colleges and universities in the world recognized for excellence in educator preparation through the purposeful use of self-study procedures and evidence-based reporting that assure quality and support continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 learning.

[SRU names Holly McCoy chief human resources officer](#)

Slippery Rock University announced that Holly McCoy has been appointed as the University's chief human resources officer, effective immediately. McCoy, who served as interim CHRO and Title IX coordinator since June 2022, was selected as the successful candidate for the position after the University conducted a national search.

[SRU programs recognized on 2023 BestColleges rankings](#)

Slippery Rock University appeared on two different 2023 rankings published by BestColleges.com, an online education resource that helps prospective students with their college search.

[SRU dedicates memorial gardens for the late Carolyn Carruth Rizza](#)

Slippery Rock University held a dedication ceremony, Oct. 27, at the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center in memory of the center's late benefactor, Carolyn Carruth Rizza. The newly completed Carolyn Carruth Rizza Memorial Garden now sits near the entrance of the SHEC to pay tribute to Rizza, who passed away Dec. 27, 2022, at the age of 78.

[SRU online programs recognized in 2023-24 EduMed rankings](#)

Three academic programs at Slippery Rock University were recognized on EduMed's 2023-24 rankings. EduMed is a resource supporting students' pursuits of an online or hybrid education in the allied health, nursing and medical fields.

[Dunlap receives BC3 Distinguished Alumni Award](#)

Ivory Dunlap, Slippery Rock University director of inclusive excellence, was recognized by Butler County Community College as one of its 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

[SRU special education students receive full scholarships from state grant](#)

Four Slippery Rock University graduate students in the Master of Education in special education, PK-12 certification, have earned full tuition scholarships from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

[Keener and Pease-Hernandez serving as SRU's DEI fellows](#)

Slippery Rock University is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in a variety of ways, from hiring practices to programming for students. A new development is having two faculty members appointed as DEI fellows to assist with training faculty and other service related to the DEI requirement within SRU's general studies program. Emily Keener, associate professor of psychology, and Christine Pease-Hernandez, associate professor of strategic communication and media, were appointed as SRU's first DEI fellows starting in the Fall 2023 semester.

[SRU listed among 'Best Mid-Atlantic' Colleges in 2024 Princeton Review's Best Colleges Guide](#)

Slippery Rock University has been recognized among the best colleges in its region by The Princeton Review. SRU appeared on the "Best Mid-Atlantic" list in The Princeton Review's 2024 Best Colleges Guide.

[SRU President's House decorated with student art and other University artifacts](#)

When Slippery Rock University President Karen Riley moved into her residence on campus earlier this year, she needed help decorating. With an art gallery across the street from the President's House, Riley didn't have to look too far for inspiration. But her goal wasn't about filling an empty space on the wall — she wanted to represent the University. The SRU Art Department worked with Riley to create the SRU President's Student Art Award in Residence, where Art Department faculty nominate an SRU student whose artwork will be displayed in the President's House each semester.

SRU faculty and students contribute to PCA convention

Slippery Rock University hosted the Pennsylvania Communication Association Annual Convention, Sept. 29-30, at the Smith Student Center, and several SRU faculty and students presented at the meeting, served as panelists or were recognized.

ATHLETICS UPDATES

Men's Cross Country: Brentham wins NCAA Division II XC Elite 90 award

SRU men's cross country standout Ethan Brentham won the NCAA Elite 90 award at the 2023 Division II Cross Country Championships, becoming the first SRU student-athlete in any sport to be named as an Elite 90 winner. The honor is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 90 National Championships.

Women's Cross Country: SRU wins PSAC title for first time since 1995

The SRU women's cross country team won its first Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Championship since 1995 and its third in program history by placing five runners the top 19 positions to win the title. The team finished second at the Atlantic Region Championships to qualify for the NCAA Division II National Championships to make its fourth team appearance at the national meet in program history and its first since 2008.

Football: SRU advances to NCAA quarterfinals/semifinals

The SRU football team advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II Playoffs for the third time in the last five seasons. SRU led all programs in Super Region One with seven selections to the [Division II Conference Commissioner's Association All-Region team](#). Quarterback Brayden Long was named Super Region One Offensive Player of the Year.

Men's Soccer: SRU has most Academic All-District representatives ever

The SRU men's soccer team garnered a program-record five student-athletes on the 2023 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team. CSC Academic All-District selections must have a cumulative grade point average above 3.50 and have significant athletic credentials. Topher Garcia, Luke Gildea, Will Harrigan, Aitor Jorde and Jeroen Van Der Veen made up the largest showing on the team in team history.

Women's Soccer: SRU has 27th straight winning season and is recognized for academics

In addition to its 27th consecutive winning season with a 12-4-3 record in 2023, the SRU women's soccer team placed six student-athletes on the 2023 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team. CSC Academic All-District selections must have a cumulative grade point average above 3.50 and have significant athletic credentials. Maddie DeLucio, Nina King, Sydney Patrick, Brooke Riefenstahl, Morgan Sarver and Libby Zacharyasz were all named to the honor.

Volleyball: [The Rock matches team's highest win total in last nine years](#)

SRU won 14 matches which tied for the program's highest victory total over the last nine years. The Rock played 12 matches against teams that qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

Field Hockey: [SRU wins two of last four games](#)

Although SRU's field hockey team posted four wins during the season, two came in the final four games and The Rock's final game of the season was a close, 3-2, loss to No. 4-ranked Bloomsburg.