2022 Presidential Search
Position Prospectus
Presidential Search

Slippery Rock University, a regional public master’s university and member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), has initiated the search for its next President. As a leading institution in the system, Slippery Rock is poised to continue its legacy as a university with its eyes to the future and a mission of transforming the intellectual, social, physical, and leadership capacities of students to prepare them for life and career success.
Slippery Rock University, founded in 1889, is a member of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). The University is shaped by its normal school heritage and characterized by its commitment to intellectual development, leadership, and civic responsibility. SRU provides students with a comprehensive learning experience that intentionally combines academic instruction with enhanced educational and learning opportunities that will help them succeed in their lives, professional careers and be engaged citizens.

Slippery Rock University is a four-year, public, coeducational, comprehensive university offering a broad array of undergraduate and select graduate programs to nearly 8,500 students. The University has earned institutional accreditation through the Middle State Commission on Higher Education and discipline-specific accreditations.
VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Vision
Slippery Rock University will excel as a caring community of lifelong learners connecting with the world.

Mission
The fundamental educational mission of SRU is to transform the intellectual, social, physical and leadership capacities of students in order to prepare them for life and career success. Complementary missions are to engage in scholarly activity and professional service.

SRU is committed to serving a diverse student body and empowering students regionally, nationally, and internationally who can benefit from its programs and lifelong learning opportunities. Thereby SRU addresses the educationally-related economic, health, environmental, social, cultural, and recreational needs of the communities served by the University.

In pursuit of SRU’s educational purpose, talented faculty and staff provide creative integrated curricula and experiences that are connected to the world in which graduates will work and live. Students are taught using powerful and engaging pedagogies in appropriate learning spaces while employing state-of-the-art technology. They study in an open, caring, nurturing, and friendly environment, and live in a safe community with access to high-quality student services. SRU strives to be a best-value institution with an affordable cost and substantial student financial support.

Core Values

- Student Success
- Excellence Innovation
- Social Responsibility
- Intellectual Freedom, Integrity and Free Expression
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
- Openness, Shared Governance and Accountability
In 1887, the residents of Centerville (the town would later change its name to Slippery Rock, circa 1900) and the surrounding area met to discuss their interests in providing their children with options beyond simply graduating from the 8th grade and going to work either on a farm or to a factory job in Butler. Because there was not a Normal school in the 11th Normal School district of Allegheny, Beaver, and Butler counties, the residents made the decision to build their own.

The group started selling shares in the Slippery Rock Normal School Stockholder Association at $100 per share at a time when the average annual income of the area was also $100. The fundraising drive was a huge success as the group raised approximately $12,000 for the construction of the school.

Many of the area men served as volunteer laborers to construct the school’s original three buildings, including a girls’ dormitory, a boys’ dormitory, and the chapel where classes occurred. Local men and boys brought in farm stone from the fields and crushed them to create Morrow Way, the original road on campus, which remains today. The local women and girls handmade all the carpets, curtains, and bed linens for the students that lived in the dormitories.
On March 26, 1889, the institution opened its doors as Slippery Rock State Normal School with 168 students and the primary purpose of training teachers.

Limited to a singular mission in teacher education, the Normal school over the years fulfilled its mandate well, graduating thousands of students to staff the public schools in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation.

In 1926, the institution was purchased by the Commonwealth, became a four-year teachers’ college, and continued the tradition of teacher training. While the curricular preparations were in elementary education and in a number of secondary education subjects, the area of academic focus which was assigned at that time by the Pennsylvania Department of Education was in health and physical education. It was in that concentration that the institution soon achieved a national reputation for excellence.

The institution was renamed Slippery Rock State College in 1960 and for the first time, could award undergraduate and graduate degrees in the liberal arts and in the professions. Expanded curricular offerings and an increased number of degree programs created an appreciable rise in enrollment. From 1960 to 1971, enrollment rose from 1,314 to 6,020 students, before eclipsing 7,000 in 1988, 8,000 in 2005 and reaching today’s level that exceeds 8,400.

**Name changes:**
- Established in March 1889 as Slippery Rock Normal School.
- Changed in August 1927 to Slippery Rock State Teachers College.
- Changed in June 1960 to Slippery Rock State College.
- Changed in July 1983 to current name, Slippery Rock University.
Founded: 1889

Location: Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, a rural community of approximately 3,000 residents located in Butler County, one hour north of Pittsburgh.

Campus: 660 acres and more than 60 buildings and structures.

Enrollment: 8,424, including 6,921 undergraduates and 1,503 graduate students.

Student Demographics:
• 90% of first-year students live on campus
• 88% have in-state residency status
• 50% are residents of the five nearest Pennsylvania counties
• 84% are traditional college age (under 25)
• 59% are female
• 12% are non-majority ethnicities

Tuition and Fees: $20,922 (Pennsylvania residents), $25,030 (Out-of-state residents with 3.0 GPA).

Faculty and Staff: More than 1,000 employees including 400 full-time faculty and a 19:1 faculty-to-student ratio.

Academics: More than 150 undergraduate majors and 40 graduate degrees and certificates.

Student Quality: 1070 average SAT score and 3.5 high school GPA for entering first-year students.

Student Success: 82% freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and 53% four-year and 68% six-year graduation rates.

Student organizations: More than 200 recognized student organizations involving more than 5,000 students.

Athletics: 17 NCAA Division II men’s and women’s teams, 12 intercollegiate sports.

Nickname: The Rock.
SRU is continually recognized with awards, rankings and other accolades from the top national publications, websites and other organizations that evaluate institutions and their academic programs. Below are some of the recent honors received by the University.

“Best Colleges in the Northeast” by Princeton Review

Slippery Rock University has been recognized on the Princeton Review's "Best Northeastern" list of the top colleges and universities in the region. Each year, the Princeton Review publishes the top institutions by region and SRU was among the more than 650 schools listed on the website's "2022 Best Colleges: Region by Region."

One of the best national colleges and universities by Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education

For a sixth straight year, Slippery Rock University was ranked in The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings 2022. SRU was among 796 institutions ranked nationally by WSJ/THE, which started ranking colleges and universities in 2017 based on its four "pillars" of resources, engagement, outcomes and environment.

“Best Regional Universities” and “Top Public Schools – Regional Universities” by U.S. News and World Report

Slippery Rock University is ranked among the "Best Regional Universities - North" and "Top Public Schools - Regional Universities (North)" on The U.S. News & World Report’s 2022 Best Colleges rankings. SRU earned a spot on the publication's Best Regional Universities list for a 13th straight year in 2022.

For a full list of awards and rankings received by the University, visit: https://www.sru.edu/about/awards-and-rankings
With more than 150 undergraduate majors and minors, more than 40 graduate programs, certificates, and online degree completion programs, SRU offers a variety of areas of study designed to help students find their passion and achieve their dreams. Slippery Rock University is comprised of five colleges.

**College of Business**

The College of Business offers academic programs that provide opportunities for the personal and professional development of a diverse population and prepares individuals for careers in the public and private sectors, as well as for graduate education. These programs are intended to foster the knowledge and skills that are needed in a globally interdependent and technologically sophisticated marketplace. Learning occurs in an applied environment that enhances individual student development through working relationships with a community of scholars dedicated to teaching excellence, scholarship, and service.

**College of Education**

The College of Education prepares students for service in a diverse global community. Within the College of Education, teaching, scholarship, and service are viewed as a triad by providing high quality instruction through a mission of service that connects scholarship in traditional and non-traditional classrooms which is supported by technology initiatives enjoyed by both teachers and students alike.
College of Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts provides students with solid historical, cultural, and philosophical foundations in the humanities, fine and performing arts, and social sciences, while improving their capacity to think creatively, communicate effectively, and act with ethical and aesthetic awareness of the world. Through these programs, students gain an understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of the liberal arts, while provided the opportunity to explore new areas of knowledge.

College of Health Professions

Slippery Rock University created the College of Health Professions in 2021 to better organize health-related disciplines while promoting health professions. The new college will expand interprofessional education and training opportunities for health profession students and encourage interdisciplinary education and research. Additionally, the creation of the college will create career pathways for SRU undergraduate students, allowing them to enter graduate school for health disciplines.

College of Engineering and Science

Through integrated programs and research, the College of Engineering and Science offers a high-quality, personalized education. These programs model and teach scientific and quantitative reasoning, promote research and scholarship, and use faculty expertise to provide outreach and service to the surrounding community.
SRU’s campus covers 660 acres and contains more than 60 buildings and structures. For a full listing of the campus facilities, please visit http://rockpride.sru.edu/map to view an interactive campus map.

**Performing Arts Center**

SRU recently completed a $33-million renovation and expansion project that has been years in the making. Reopening in 2021, the Performing Arts Center now allows the dance and theatre departments to have facilities concentrated in one area which will support the sharing and collaboration of resources. Housed within the center is the Miller Auditorium which includes a 2,600-square-foot stage, seating for 753, and a 242-square-foot orchestra pit.

**Robert M. Smith Student Center**

The Smith Student Center is the hub of student activity, providing a multi-purpose space for university faculty, staff, students, and outside groups. Located within the building are several event spaces, including a 750-person lecture style ballroom, a luxury seated theater with in-house AV tech, and seven fully equipped conference rooms with technology and portable furniture. In addition to meeting spaces, the Student Center also offers plenty of space for students and guests to gather around in the fireplace or commuter lounge.
Aebersold Student Recreation Center (ARC)

The 84,000-square-foot Robert N. Aebersold Student Recreation Center, named for the former University president, offers a variety of indoor recreation opportunities for students, faculty, and community residents. The facility, commonly known as the "ARC," includes a swimming pool, track, basketball courts, climbing wall, gymnasiums, and a fitness center. Individual and family memberships are available. This is one of the most popular destinations on campus.

Swope Music Hall

Swope Music Hall houses the department of music, classrooms, a band room, and rehearsal studios. Constructed in 1977, the building is 40,957 square feet and includes an auditorium that seats 375 people. Students and guest artists perform regularly in Swope. The building is named for Clair Swope, who taught in the music department from 1946-1978.

James P. McFarland Recreational Sports Complex

The James P. McFarland Recreational Sports Complex is a 12-acre intramural sports complex that opened in 2010. It includes four multi-purpose fields, two softball fields, a disc golf course, rugby field, and exercise pathway. All six fields are lighted. More than 4,500 SRU students participate in intramural athletics every year. The fields honor the late James McFarland, SRU professor emeritus of parks and recreation. He joined SRU in 1974 and retired in 2001.
Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research

The Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research is the University's 83-acre environmental center. The facility promotes sustainability through demonstration, education, and research. The site includes the 3,000-square-foot Harmony House, which was remodeled in 2010 and provides a base for environmental workshops and activities, as well as a wind turbine that produces a small amount of clean energy.

Storm Harbor Equestrian Center

The Storm Harbor Equestrian Center opened in 2006 and provides students with professional preparation and research opportunities. The facility includes a barn, indoor riding arena, stalls for 18 horses, and 10 acres of pastures and riding trails. A soft matting on the floor of the indoor arena and a wheelchair lift support the facility’s mission of catering to riders with physical and mental disabilities. More than 100 individuals a week use the Storm Harbor facilities, including students, adults, and vets.

Bailey Library

The 100,874-square-foot Bailey Library has been serving the research needs of students and faculty since 1970. Its collection includes 517,000 print books and magazines and more than 10,000 audio-visual items. Bailey has access to more than 183,000 electronic books and more than 50,000 scholarly journals. During a typical school week, more than 26,000 people use the library. Residents living in the Slippery Rock zip code as well as teachers in the community can get a free borrower card. Additionally, Bailey Library is one of almost 1,400 federal depositories as well as a selective depository for PA state documents.
Slippery Rock University conducts classes at two other locations: one is its Harrisville campus, and the other is at the Regional Learning Alliance (RLA) which is a regional meeting and conference center.

Regional Learning Alliance
SRU offers a trio of graduate degree programs (MBA, education, and public health) and its doctoral degree in special education at the Regional Learning Alliance in nearby Cranberry Township. Opened in August 2004, the RLA is the region’s most modern technology-based conference and training center and a national model of excellence in collaborative learning, featuring an array of educational offerings from eight colleges and universities in one location. The RLA was created to help provide western Pennsylvania businesses with workforce training facilities and remains a unique operation and the largest such cooperative in the nation.

Harrisville Building
SRU’s Harrisville Building is home to the University’s physician assistant and occupational therapy doctoral programs. The facility houses 13 state-of-the-art labs and equipment that simulates real-time patient care, including an interactive mannequin that produces mock vital signs. Four exam rooms include cameras for professors to monitor student progress. The 24-month in-person PA program readies students to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment under the supervision of a doctor or surgeon. Unique to SRU’s program is the emphasis placed on special populations and healthcare disparities that is intentionally interwoven throughout the curriculum. SRU’s doctoral degree program in occupational therapy, which began in June 2018, was the first of its kind in the State System. The OT program is a challenging 36-month program where students receive training in advanced clinical, professional, and leadership skills.
Alongside excellent educational programs, SRU also provides a campus experience unlike any other. Life at SRU is rich with culture, diversity, community, and opportunity. From sports and entertainment to Greek life and the arts, there are always fun and exciting activities going on at SRU.

Arts & Culture

SRU is a vibrant hub of cultural activities. Entertainment opportunities include musical performances, dance, and theater productions. There is also an on-campus art gallery where works and exhibits from artists and students can be viewed.

Clubs & Organizations

SRU offers over 160 registered student organizations empowering students to explore a wide array of involvement opportunities revolving around advocacy, governance, media, marketing, culture, religion, service, arts, sports, and more. Organizations serve to enhance students’ education and offer a forum for leadership development, critical reflection, and civic engagement. Students who are involved in a student organization enhance their experience by meeting new people, developing leadership skills, pursuing their passions, gaining valuable knowledge, and contributing to the Slippery Rock University community and beyond.
Community Service & Service Learning

Slippery Rock University offers students a variety of opportunities to participate in community service that addresses critical needs in the local, national, and global communities. Service engages students to learn about social issues, implement collaborative problem-solving to address community needs, and leverage community assets to create positive social change. Service promotes student growth and development by providing a space to build relationships on- and off-campus, gain hands-on experience in their area of study, learn about themselves and their role as citizens, engage in critical self-reflection and discussion, and take on leadership positions on-campus and in the Western Pennsylvania community.

The Slippery Rock University Center for Community Engagement, Empowerment and Development (known as Butler SUCCEED), provides initiatives to improve the quality of life in the region and consequently encourage young people to reside in the county. Butler SUCCEED serves as an off-campus community gathering spot for organizations and community partners to collaborate. It's also part of the Institute for Nonprofit Leadership at SRU, which supports nonprofit professionals and their organizations throughout western Pennsylvania with professional development opportunities, research and technical assistance.
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

The University is committed to being an inclusive and equitable institution that empowers individuals, expands opportunities, and meaningfully honors all voices in order to cultivate a safe, diverse community and harness its power for change. Additionally, the Office for Inclusive Excellence, which houses the Women’s Center, Pride Center, and Vets’ Center, provides programs and events designed to enhance the college experience and educate the campus community. These programs promote diversity awareness and help expose students to new cultures and ideas.

Leadership Programs

The Office for Student Engagement and Leadership helps to connect students with a variety of leadership opportunities and programs that help to transform their leadership capacities. Through leadership development training and programs, students learn valuable knowledge and skills that will help them be a leader well beyond their time at SRU. Students also have the opportunity to participate in various domestic and international leadership programs to learn about and apply leadership knowledge and skills in a setting outside of the SRU community. The goal of the Leadership Abroad Program is for students to interact in a global society, explore and enhance their own leadership abilities, and apply their new learning once they return to SRU.
SRU ATHLETICS

Rock Athletics supports competitive intercollegiate play at the NCAA Division II level, fielding 17 teams across 12 sports (7 men’s and 10 women’s). An artificial turf football stadium seats 10,000 and serves five additional sports. The University is also home to a state-of-the-art baseball stadium.

Men’s Sports
• Baseball
• Basketball
• Cross Country
• Football
• Soccer
• Indoor Track
• Outdoor Track

Women’s Sports
• Basketball
• Cross Country
• Field Hockey
• Lacrosse
• Soccer
• Softball
• Tennis
• Indoor Track
• Outdoor Track
• Volleyball
Student Athletes

A total of 253 Slippery Rock University student-athletes have been recognized as Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Scholar-Athletes for maintaining a 3.25 or greater GPA during the 2021-22 academic year. Of those student-athletes, 42 recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA.

SRU student-athletes have earned 113 CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, which is the most among all schools in the Atlantic Region and ranks ninth among all NCAA Division II institutions.

Additionally, a total of 71 Rock student-athletes have earned the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference “Top 10 Awards” as one of the top five male or five female student-athletes in the conference. This marks the second highest total among all institutions in the 18-team PSAC.

SRU Football

The 2021 season marked the third straight season that SRU qualified for the NCAA Division II playoffs. The team has been in the playoffs in six of the last eight years and have won seven of the last 10 PSAC Western Division titles. SRU has reached the national semifinals twice, including most recently in 2019.

The Rock has had eight football players receive at least an invite to an NFL training camp since 2015. SRU had the 2019 National Player of the Year and Harlon Hill Trophy winner in quarterback Roland Rivers III and has had two finalists for the Campbell Trophy, known as the Academic Heisman, since 2017. No other school in the PSAC has ever had a finalist for the Campbell Trophy.
Athletic Facilities

SRU has several competition and training facilities available for student athletes.

- **Jack Critchfield Park** – one of the finest on-campus baseball facilities in the country and the home of the nationally recognized SRU baseball program. The park underwent a major renovation in the spring of 2020.

- **James Egli Field** – one of the best grass playing fields in western Pennsylvania that features a natural grass surface with underground drainage and irrigation systems. The field is solely for the use of SRU men's and women's soccer teams.

- **Lawrence County Fairgrounds XC Course** – home course for SRU cross country teams and includes a mix of open grassy areas and wooded areas with a spectator friendly start and finish area.

- **Mihalik-Thompson Stadium** – the home field for all SRU football, field hockey, and lacrosse games. Over the past 10 years the stadium has seen massive upgrades to make it one of the best facilities in western Pennsylvania.

- **William C. Lennox Track** – features an eight-lane all-weather surface, including runways facing both directions for pole vault, long and triple jump, high jump and the javelin.

- **Morrow Field House** – serves as the home court for the men's and women's basketball teams and the volleyball team. The court has a capacity of 3,000 with a basketball setup and roughly 2,000 with a volleyball setup.

- **SRU Softball Complex** – opened in 2004 and is one of the top school-specific softball complexes in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

- **SRU Tennis Courts** – the six lighted hard courts are only used by the varsity women’s tennis team, who annually rank among best in the region.

Mascot

While the nickname of SRU’s athletics teams is The Rock, the school’s mascot is a lion named Rocky. SRU has a rich tradition of pride (which is also the name of a family of lions) – pride in the University as a whole and particularly in its athletic traditions. With a new look adopted in 2008, Rocky provides SRU with an original mascot that encapsulates the pride, originality, and look of the University. Rocky was also named best mascot in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).
The 2020-2021 fiscal year total operational budget was $187.1 million, with tuition and fees totaling 64.3% of the total budget, while state appropriations totaled 26.5% of the budget.

As in most states, there is a downward trend of state support, from about 50 percent in the late 1990s. The 2020-2021 auxiliary budget, which covers food services, housing, the student center, and campus recreation, was $9.1 million.

In the past five years, to meet the enrollment and fiscal challenges brought on by declining state support and uncertain demographics, the University developed new academic programs, enhanced marketing and recruitment strategies and reduced the impact of increasing personnel costs. These actions have resulted in enrollment growth and fiscal stability.
The campus is situated in both the Slippery Rock borough and Slippery Rock Township in Butler County, Pennsylvania. Located in the rolling hills of western Pennsylvania, the 660-acre campus is less than an hour north of Pittsburgh, one hour south of Erie, and 45 minutes east of Youngstown, Ohio. Two major highways, I-79 and I-80, intersect within seven miles of the University, conveniently linking it to the entire Commonwealth and its contiguous regions.

Slippery Rock, PA is an ideal place to visit, live, and work. Housing is affordable, taxes are relatively low, and the educational system – from kindergarten through the university level – is excellent. People who come to the area will find a cozy community with friendly neighbors, easy access to shopping and health care, plus lively learning and recreational options.

Slippery Rock’s downtown area now has a picturesque new look. It’s still the same small, friendly town, but in the past few years, community leaders, artists, and developers have revitalized its appearance. As a result, downtown – now known as The Village at Slippery Rock – has new sidewalks, streetlights, benches, parking, and a Gazebo plus places to eat, drink, shop, and stay. Landscaping and art beautify the area with murals, sculptures, parks, and waterfalls. All of these improvements have revved up downtown business activity and enhanced its economic potential.
As the chief executive officer, the President provides leadership for all aspects of the University, including academics, finance, planning, student affairs, enrollment, advancement, human resources, athletics, and other key areas. The President works closely with the Council of Trustees, Cabinet, collective bargaining leadership, faculty, staff, and students to ensure that the strategic direction and policies of the University are aligned with its mission and honor its history to provide for the University's continued financial health. The President has principal responsibility for the planning, development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of all programs and policies, provides leadership for enhancing educational programs and services, and guides highly qualified and committed faculty and staff. Additionally, the President builds strategic, collaborative affiliations and serves as an engaged member of the off-campus community, including fundraising activities as well as developing partnerships and resources in support of the University’s mission. The university has an 11-member Council of Trustees with powers and duties outlined in statutes regarding the University and president. Additionally, the President is accountable to the system’s 20-member Board of Governors through the Chancellor and will contribute to systemwide innovation through collaborative engagement with PASSHE and leadership of institutions across the system.
The new president joins a University that is well-recognized nationally, as well as in the state, for its fiscal prudence and creative curricular initiatives. The next president must carefully guide the overall pace of change and set clear priorities for resource reinvestment. Therefore, the leadership agenda for the future is to:

**FUTURE GOALS FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT**

**Sustain the University’s Trajectory and Build on its Current Success**

Over recent years, strategic initiatives were developed to add advanced degree programs, enhance online opportunities, and expand the University’s recruiting footprint, both nationally and internationally. New and innovative undergraduate options were introduced, as well as strategic additions to the graduate programs. These new programs have helped to offset enrollment declines and provide financial stability. The new president will need to lead with the same level of commitment to innovative, future-focused planning to ensure the University’s continued financial strength. The ability to manage costs, develop a long-range strategic plan, and project the University’s financial picture into the future is critical.

**Develop a Culture of Philanthropy**

The new president will serve as the University’s chief fundraiser and will need to work with all constituencies, including the Foundation, to develop a culture of philanthropy. Whether focusing on the annual fund, cultivating prospects for major or planned gifts, or initiating a future capital campaign, SRU’s next president will need to engage internal and external constituencies. SRU operates in an increasingly competitive higher education market. Additional resources for academic infrastructure, financial aid, and a review of the University and Foundation’s roles and relationship will most likely be necessary for the president to significantly increase fundraising.
**Ensure a Culture of Openness and Transparency**

SRU wants a leader who is visible, accessible and transparent. Students and faculty refer to the “Cheers-like” environment of the campus, where friendliness is a valued tradition. They seek a president who will fully embrace this culture and be present and engaged in campus activities. The President will also need to regularly communicate with campus constituencies on matters of impact and importance in order to build morale. Open and continual communication is key to sustaining a collaborative culture. The ability to ask thoughtful and strategic questions, listen carefully, shape civil discourse, and lead the campus through points of conflict are key to being successful. Modeling and encouraging transparent decision-making will grow the sense of community and foster the collegiality that all desire.

**Model and Advocate for Diversity and Inclusion**

The president must be committed to promoting inclusion and diversity on campus and have the ability to work with diverse groups of people. Students, faculty and staff are particularly supportive of building an intentionally inclusive campus community that celebrates the belief that academic excellence and intellectual and personal growth will flourish in a truly inclusive environment that encourages the fullest possible range of ideas and expression.
Extend SRU’s Reach and Impact
The University has received an impressive array of national accolades; however, it is not as well-recognized as it could be in the region for the quality of education it provides. The next president will play a leading role in communicating this value proposition and become an advocate for SRU at the System level and in the region.

Develop the Campus Master Plan
With a history that dates back 128 years and a campus covering 650 acres, campus facilities are always a concern. The University is developing a campus master plan that will identify future opportunities for growth and renewal. Through this process, the next president will be able to address concerns about deferred maintenance, identify new opportunities to improve the sustainability of the campus and develop a timeline of future renovations that will work to provide all departments and programs the necessary space to fulfill their mission.

Enhance Retention Efforts
Currently, the University has an enviable record of freshman-to-sophomore year retention and four-year and six-year graduation rates. Going forward, attention must be paid to the retention and graduation rates of under-represented minorities. Additionally, today’s student population frequently seeks greater access to mental health services and career counseling. Student support services are in demand and require review and attention.
DESIRED PRESIDENTIAL ATTRIBUTES:

The University seeks a leader who will build on its current strengths and advance its mission. The ideal candidate for the Presidency will possess the following attributes:

- A documented history of significant and successful senior leadership experience in higher education with a demonstrated ability to act decisively and collaboratively to effect positive change.
- The financial acumen to lead the University in matching aspirations with finite resources while thinking creatively about growth opportunities.
- A data-driven strategic and innovative thinker who will value and enhance SRU’s culture of strategic planning and fiscal accountability.
- A clear commitment to diversity and inclusion in its many forms.
- A deep understanding of and appreciation for the role of faculty and what goes into excellent teaching, learning and scholarship at an institution that is committed to preparing students for a global economy.

The next president should also be:

- An eager fundraiser who has an aptitude and passion for building a culture of philanthropy.
- A visible, student-centered leader who actively engages campus constituents and enthusiastically participates in the SRU community.
- A communicator who fosters a culture of transparency and openness and comfortably interacts with the campus and the community.
- A team-builder who understands and respects the University’s commitment to collective bargaining and shared governance.
- An energetic, thoughtful, and ethical leader who demonstrates enthusiasm and dedication to the University.

An earned terminal degree or equivalent experience is preferred.
APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume/CV, and diversity statement to RPA Inc. at SlipperyRockPresident@rpainc.org. For a confidential discussion about this opportunity or to make a nomination, please contact Kendra Mozug, Search Consultant, or Dana John Cohick, President, at the email address above. The review of candidates will begin on August 31, 2022, and first-round interviews will commence thereafter.

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, religion, age, disability, or veteran status in its programs or activities in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies.