



PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE SYSTEM *of* HIGHER EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Scott Martin  
Majority Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senate Box 203013  
281 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3013

The Honorable Vincent Hughes  
Minority Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senate Box 203007  
545 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007

The Honorable Jordan Harris  
Majority Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
512E Main Capitol Building  
PO Box 202186  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2186

The Honorable Jim Struzzi  
Minority Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
245 Main Capitol Building  
PO Box 202062  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2062

(Sent via email)

Dear Chairmen of the Appropriations Committees:

We are grateful for the state's continued investment in PASSHE universities, which helps sustain our commitment to affordability and accessibility. Working in partnership with the General Assembly and the Governor in recent years, our universities have reclaimed the affordability advantage. That is evidenced by: **increased enrollment of Pell-recipient students, increased enrollment of transfer students, increased enrollment of first-generation students, and record-high student retention.** Your investment is paying off.

We provide high-quality education that prepares the commonwealth's future workforce. Indeed, 90% of our students are from Pennsylvania, and about 80% will stay here to work, raise families, and contribute to their community. Without further investment, though, our universities' ability to modernize operations and innovate to keep pace with Pennsylvania's changing workforce needs is limited.

We are doing our part to find efficiencies and think creatively, and our [Annual Accountability Report](#) showcases the value of taxpayer investment. We take pride in accountability and transparency, and this report conveys the facts about the opportunities and challenges our universities face.

As Pennsylvania continues to rely on a skilled, educated workforce to drive economic growth, PASSHE universities are heeding the call. Since their inception more than a century ago, our universities have risen to every challenge. There are exciting and challenging times ahead for all of higher education, and I am optimistic that we can navigate them together.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)

Sincerely,

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

Chris Fiorentino, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

cc: Members of the Appropriations Committees

