

Letter from the Presidents

To our Lackawanna College and Peirce College Communities,

We are thrilled to announce an exciting milestone in the history of our institutions: Lackawanna and Peirce Colleges have signed a definitive agreement with the intent to merge. Following required regulatory, accreditation and other approvals, Peirce College will merge into and become part of Lackawanna College.

This merger is grounded in our foundational belief that both institutions are better and stronger together, and aptly positioned to help more residents of Pennsylvania transform their lives through education.

Coming together marks a significant step in redefining the landscape of higher education. As two of Pennsylvania's premier private, independent institutions with undergraduate *open enrollment*, both Lackawanna and Peirce believe that lifelong learning should be readily and fully accessible to all. Both colleges have long been dedicated to empowering individuals through flexible and accessible education that meets students where they are. That shared commitment and collective expertise gives us unique insight into the evolving needs of students and the demands of today's workforce. It drives our shared passion to innovate and collaborate in new ways.

Under the Lackawanna College name, the larger, more diversified and more robust institution will now feature master's, bachelor's, associate's, and certificate level programs at eight locations and online. This merger will not be merely a consolidation of two premier colleges with like-minded missions and visions. It will be a strategic reimagining of the future of higher education and career development.

Joining Forces on a Shared Mission

Through this merger, Peirce will become a school within Lackawanna College and combined, this merger will solidify Lackawanna's position as the largest open enrollment private, nonprofit institution in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the undergraduate level, expanding substantially, both geographically and programmatically.

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Our combined resources will create exciting opportunities to leverage our core competencies and expand our programs to better serve more students and increase the pipeline of diverse talent through education and workforce training. This offers tangible benefits to our current students and forges groundbreaking new pathways for our future students - individuals from all walks of life seeking to enrich their lives through higher education.

Our combined institution will empower learning at all stages of life, combining Lackawanna's dedication to degrees, certificates and innovative learning experiences with Peirce's commitment to career-focused, flexible academic programs and student services designed around the unique needs of busy adults. Together, we will expand our diverse portfolio of programs and services, including certificates, dual enrollment programs, undergraduate degree programs, bachelor-to-masters pathways, graduate programs and prior learning assessment opportunities.

What it Means for You

We understand that change can be daunting, especially for our students, faculty, and staff. However, we want to assure you that the merger and integration process will be conducted with transparency and the utmost care and consideration.

Following the finalization of the merger anticipated in summer of 2025, there will be a period of integration planning and activity to ensure a smooth transition for everyone involved and to obtain final approval required from the U.S. Department of Education

Rest assured, students enrolled at both institutions at the time of the merger will be able to continue their education without interruption and without additional costs.

We have developed FAQs designed to keep the community updated as we progress through this process. In the meantime, we encourage you to share any questions or concerns you may have. We are committed to answering any and all questions to ensure that you are as excited about this new development as we are. We look forward to sharing more details of our plans in the coming months.

As we embark on this journey, we are eager to explore the possibilities that lie ahead and know we are stronger and better together. By combining our strengths and resources, we can better serve our students, our communities, and our society as a whole.

Thank you for your continued support Of Peirce College and Lackawanna College

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Murray

Dr. Mary Ellen Caro