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Lackawanna College & Peirce College Enter Integration Phase Following Legal Merger

New Chapter Begins as Two Pennsylvania Premier Colleges Embark on Next Phase of Transformative Merger

Scranton, Pa., July 1, 2025 – Lackawanna College and Peirce College announced today that they have legally merged and are in the process of finalizing the requirements of the department of education to fully integrate into one singular institution under the Lackawanna College name. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education approved the merger effective June 30, 2025. The merger advances both organizations' shared commitment to providing accessible, affordable, high-quality education to help residents across Pennsylvania and beyond transform their lives.

"Today, we celebrate many months of hard work and a shared vision to bring together two likeminded institutions to better serve students looking to better their lives," said Dr. Jill Murray, President of Lackawanna College. "This merger expands Lackawanna's ability to advance our mission, and we're grateful to everyone who has helped make it a reality."

During the first phase of the integration, Peirce College will continue to operate in Philadelphia as Peirce at Lackawanna College. With final approval from the US Department of Education, it will become Lackawanna College - Philadelphia Center. Peirce's legacy will continue to be honored as the Peirce School of Online Education for all students who are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program and complete their courses 100% online.

"As the higher education landscape continues to change and student needs evolve, partnerships like this that are rooted in shared values and an unwavering commitment to supporting students from all walks of life are a vital tool for today's colleges and universities," said Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, President and CEO of Peirce College. "As we enter the integration phase, we remain focused on helping students learn and best prepare for what's next."

As integration activities continue, several members of Peirce College's Board of Trustees will join the Lackawanna Board of Trustees, helping to shape the future of the organization through the merger and beyond.

The merger solidifies Lackawanna's position as the largest open enrollment private, nonprofit institution in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the undergraduate level, with an expanded geographic and programmatic presence to serve over 8,000 students annually in eight locations and online. As integration progresses, the combined institution will enhance its capacity to serve a diverse student body,

combining Lackawanna's commitment to innovative learning experiences with Peirce's commitment to career-focused, flexible academic programs and student services designed for busy adults. For more information, visit [Lackawanna.edu](https://lackawanna.edu) and [Peirce.edu](https://peirce.edu).

About Lackawanna College

Founded in 1894, Lackawanna College is a private, non-profit institution offering 8 bachelor's degree programs and 25 associate degree programs, along with more than 30 Continuing Education and professional certificates. Along with its main Scranton campus, the college offers six other locations throughout northeastern and central Pennsylvania. In 2021, Lackawanna College was recognized as one of Fast Company's world's most innovative companies and also earned recognition as one of the Fastest Growing Colleges by The Chronicle of Higher Education. In 2023, Lackawanna College was awarded the classification of one of the Great Colleges to Work for by Modern Think.

About Peirce College

Established in 1865, Peirce College is Philadelphia's only college dedicated exclusively to serving adults and is a pioneer in online education and a leader in prior learning assessment. Today, Peirce continues its tradition of serving the unique needs of busy adults through career-focused programs that provide students with academic excellence, flexibility and personalized support. Peirce offers associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs and certificates taught by faculty who are leaders in their respective fields. In 2023 and 2024, Peirce was named a Best Bang for the Buck College by *Washington Monthly*. Learn more at www.peirce.edu.

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