

Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

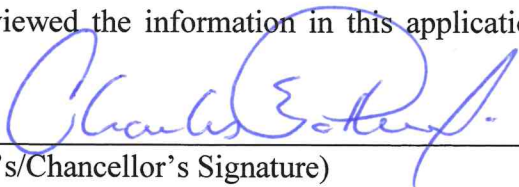
Name of President/Chancellor: **Charles E. Patterson, Ph.D.**

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., **Dr.**, Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: **Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania**

(As it should appear on an award)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



Date: **February 8, 2022**

(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety



requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Ms. Tamara E. PEffer

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Date: February 9, 2022

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: December 31, 2023

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

Shippensburg University Sustainability Achievements

Summary Narrative: An Overview of Work Encompassing All Three Pillars

Shippensburg University is one of the fourteen universities that make up the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). SU operates 2.4 million square feet of buildings on approximately 200 acres of land and serves 5,592 students (4,821 undergraduate students and 771 graduate students). A leader within PASSHE and region when it comes to sustainability initiatives, Shippensburg University has been focused on decreasing carbon emissions and energy usage for more than two decades. Over the past six years, the focus on sustainability has accelerated at the university, with major infrastructure upgrades, the revitalization of the Center for Land Use and Sustainability, and the 2020 signing of the Second Nature Climate Commitment. Through grant funding and the backing of the university, there is increased capacity and focus on sustainability initiatives, with a commitment to not only set a target for achieving carbon neutrality on campus, but also to work with the community to increase climate resilience.

On Campus

From facilities to curriculum, Shippensburg University is committed to creating a campus culture focused on [sustainability](#) and [environmental stewardship](#). Many projects, practices, events, and learning experiences contribute to these goals. Efforts include single-stream recycling, battery and electronic recycling, purchasing wind-generated electricity, reducing carbon dioxide emissions through server virtualization, a long standing commitment to improving energy efficiency, residence call item collection recycling, and the establishment of the Campus Farm and Community Garden.

In 2005, Shippensburg was the first Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) institution to conduct a GHG inventory. In 2015, Shippensburg University decommissioned the steam plant and transitioned to natural gas, reducing the overall greenhouse gas footprint by 29 percent.¹ These major infrastructure upgrades were the vision of the Facilities Department and coincided with increased sustainability initiatives by faculty, staff, and students to incorporate sustainability into curriculum, reduce waste, and practice “stewardSHIP.”

[The Shippensburg University Sustainability Pledge](#), a joint initiative by faculty and students, acknowledges the importance of stewardship for using resources wisely, protecting and conserving nature, as well as the physical, social, and economic environments. The Shippensburg campus community is encouraged to take action and learn how to be a better steward and engage more with the local community. Intended to be holistic, this pledge

¹ 2017. Barbuto, E. and E. Medina. Shippensburg University of PA. Sightlines Sustainability Solutions Presentation.

includes opportunities to spend more time outdoors and buy local and organic food among other positive choices. Hundreds of students sign this pledge every year, helping build shared action and understanding.

[Ship Dining](#) prides itself on offering sustainable options for students. A number of sustainability programs, including Project Clean Plate and Trayless Dining, led to recognition from the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium as a Pennsylvania Campus Sustainability Champion. Ship Dining has also received a grade A from PETA for the dining hall menu and vegan options. Dining services purchase seasonal produce from a number of local Pennsylvania farms and utilize produce from the Campus Farm.

Shippensburg University students enrolled in environmental and sustainability programs develop environmental literacy via courses and experiences across several departments and perspectives. Students develop interdisciplinary skills by taking courses from departments outside their major and have the opportunity to take courses specifically dedicated to sustainability issues, such as The Psychology of Sustainability, Environmental Economics, Environmental Communication, and Conservation Biology. In 2017, the university developed and launched a new [Sustainability major](#), combining a focus of sustainability with geotechnology and geographic information system. This new program has been one of the fastest growing majors at the university, with over 45 undergraduate majors by 2021. In 2021, Shippensburg University substantially revised and updated the Geoenvironmental Science curriculum to more fully integrate course and field experiences in climate science, sustainability, and geotechnology into the curriculum; the Master of Science (M.S.) degree program offered by the Geography-Earth Science Department was also restructured to include a greater integrative emphasis on sustainability.

There are many student-faculty research projects, service-learning opportunities and internships related to sustainability through Shippensburg as well. The university regularly pursues grant funding for learning-based sustainability efforts, participates in the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Coalition (PERC), is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), and just launched a sustainability research award to support student-faculty research..

In the Community

The university promotes sustainable land use, economic development, and cultural and natural resource management to communities at the local, regional, and global level. Ship makes a difference through volunteer and service opportunities like tree plantings and organized public space cleanups; community initiatives through the Campus Farm; the Center for Land Use and Sustainability, Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition, and Ship Dining's purchases from Pennsylvania farms

Shippensburg's commitment to the environment extends far beyond the borders of campus with the [Center for Land Use and Sustainability](#) (CLUS). For nearly two decades, CLUS has worked to foster healthy, vibrant, and sustainable communities through applied research, experiential learning opportunities for students and

interdisciplinary, cross-sector partnerships. The CLUS adds capacity to sustainability-focused initiatives on campus and within the community.

Through applied research, CLUS affiliate scholars and student fellows provide much needed data and tools to support sustainable solutions to interdisciplinary problems and informed decision-making. Recent grants awarded to the CLUS support student initiatives related to developing a composting program on campus and reducing food waste. Last year, the CLUS received a \$25,000 grant through Healing our Planet and another \$10,600 through the South Mountain Partnership to support ShipComposts. Along with individual donations and matching time from faculty and staff, these grants build capacity for student participation on the project, as well as provide much needed infrastructure for program development. This project will benefit the campus and the broader community through waste reduction, proving a sustainable source of compost production, and developing educational opportunities related to healthy eating, self-sufficiency, and stewardship of the environment.

The CLUS also partners with the [Shippensburg University Campus Farm](#) and supports the [Cumberland County Food System Alliance](#) (CCFSA). Both organizations are focused on supporting the local food system. The primary mission of the Campus Farm is to provide students with a hands-on learning environment where they can apply concepts learned in courses to practical situations that enable the campus and the community to improve sustainability and to provide fresh produce for campus dining services and community members in need. The Campus Farm donates half of all produce to Shippensburg Produce and Outreach (SPO), helping to combat food insecurity by providing healthy produce. The purpose of the CCFSA is to support a sustainable local food system that promotes economic vitality, increases food security, promotes wellness and advances community resilience in Cumberland County.

The [Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition](#) (SCRC) is a collaborative effort to provide quality social services and youth programs that are accessible and safe and that recognize the dignity and worth of each person. The goal of the SCRC is to help community members reach their full potential. The SCRC provides incredible value to the community through hands-on education and programming and access to resources. During the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the SCRC filled many gaps within the community from pursuing and administering grant funding to provide rental assistance or food to individuals in need to convening weekly community conference calls to address changes to programs, gaps in services, and other concerns. The purpose of these calls, an ongoing initiative, is to problem-solve as a community to address concerns and fill in those gaps.

Several service-learning and volunteer opportunities through the university engage students in the local community. ShipShape Day is an annual campus and community event focused on cleaning up the community, including the Burd Run stream.

All these programs contribute knowledge, resources, and tools to the local community while preparing the next generation of citizens.

Awards and Recognition

In 2016, the InTeGrate Grant Team at Shippensburg University was recognized by the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) as a [Campus Sustainability Champion](#). Individual faculty members have also been recognized for their sustainability related efforts: Dr. Sean Cornell (Geography-Earth Science) was recognized in 2015 as a [PERC Campus Sustainability Champion](#) and Dr. Claire Jantz was recognized as a [2020 Campus Sustainability Champion](#). The [Shippensburg University Campus Organic Farm](#) was recognized in 2013, the year after its formation.

Dr. Claire Jantz received the 9th [Spirit of South Mountain Award](#) in January 2021 through the South Mountain Partnership. Each year, this organization recognizes an individual, project, or organization that has made significant contributions to advancing a positive and sustainable future for the South Mountain landscape.

In 2021, Shippensburg University was named a [Green College by The Princeton Review](#), one of 420 schools across the nation, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt and Greece selected for this prestigious honor, based on a survey of institutions' commitments to the environment and sustainability.²

The CLUS received the visionary Joanne Denworth Founders Award during the 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania [2020 & 2021 VIRTUAL Commonwealth Awards](#). The Commonwealth Awards honor projects, plans and initiatives that demonstrate smart growth, community resilience, and equity principles in action. The awards recognize individuals, businesses and organizations with the vision to find new uses for vacant and underutilized land, increase opportunities and access for all in communities on the rise, and breathe new life into older neighborhoods.

Shippensburg University is a member of the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#) (AASHE) and has just been accepted into the 2022 AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) Cohort. The university is working toward an official rating through the program.

Pillar I: Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

For more than two decades, Shippensburg University has demonstrated a strong commitment to decrease energy use and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions. In 2005, Shippensburg was the first Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) institution to conduct a GHG inventory. In 2015, Shippensburg University decommissioned the steam plant and transitioned to natural gas, reducing the overall greenhouse gas footprint by

² The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2022 Edition. Accessed online 20 January 2022 at <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/green-guide>.

29 percent.³ Our university has been the lowest energy consumer across the fourteen-school system for the past five years.

The major infrastructure changes in 2015 reduced Scope 1 emissions by more than two thirds. These upgrades were the vision of the Facilities Department and funded through the Department of General Services. Building the chilled water plant and decommissioning the steam plant coincided with the purchase and installation of natural gas fired boilers, a system that exceeds more than 95 percent efficiency. The new infrastructure also centralizes cooling within the chilled water plant, rather than utilizing individual chillers in buildings. With new energy management protocols coming online in the next few months, the chilled water plant is expected to see an increase in energy efficiency of 5-15%.

[Sightlines](#) assessments in 2017 and 2018 showed that Shippensburg University spends 28 percent less on utilities than our peers.⁴ In addition to adopting more sustainable energy sources in 2015, the university has implemented smart infrastructure and educational initiatives to decrease overall energy usage. Through these efforts, the university has seen large decreases in energy consumption since 2003, with total utility consumption decreasing 7 percent more than peers from 2003-2018.

The recent signing of the Second Nature [Climate Commitment](#) in May 2020 commits the university to develop a Climate Action Plan by 2023; this comprehensive planning process will integrate carbon neutrality planning efforts on campus with building capacity for resilience planning in the community. As part of the Climate Commitment, conducting a GHG inventory is now an annual process. Based off historic inventories, the university has steadily decreased Greenhouse Gas Emissions from over 42,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCDE) in 2005 to under 19,000 MTCDE in 2020. Total emissions in 2020 were 18,611 MTCDE, with 27 percent from Scope 1, 36 percent from Scope 2, and 37 percent from Scope 3.⁵

Since the signing of the Climate Commitment, campus and community members have been meeting regularly to discuss ideas and opportunities to collaborate. The community focused Climate Action Plan will use the baseline GHG Inventory for carbon neutrality planning efforts, along with capacity-building in the community to promote regional resilience planning efforts. The plan will include setting a target date for achieving carbon neutrality on campus, identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and a resilience assessment to identify initial indicators and current areas of vulnerability in the community.

Water Quality

³ 2017. Barbuto, E. and E. Medina. Shippensburg University of PA. Sightlines Sustainability Solutions Presentation.

⁴ 2018. Barbuto, E. and B. Schroll. Shippensburg University. Sightlines Presentation. Accessed online 20 January, 2022 at https://www.ship.edu/globalassets/facilities/shippensburg_fy18_sightlines_report.pdf.

⁵ 2021. Hawkins, T. Shippensburg University's Climate Commitment and Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Accessed online 20 January 2022 at <https://youtu.be/mc3qGrOrLRU>.

Shippensburg University is committed to improving water quality in our region. From 2001-2002, Shippensburg University faculty and students worked adjacent to campus on the Burd Run Stream Channel, Floodplain, and Wetlands Restoration Project. Through this project, funded by the National Science Foundation, they restored over 400 meters of artificially straightened stream channel to a natural meandering course, restored hydrology to a 1.0-hectare wetland that had been ditched and drained, and planted over 3,000 trees to provide a riparian buffer along Burd Run through the park. The result of these efforts is [the removal of over 650 kg of nitrogen from the water every year](#), benefiting water quality locally and downstream throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Researchers within the Geography-Earth Science Department also work with local watershed organizations such as the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association and Middle Springs Watershed to monitor local water quality and identify source points for local water along South Mountain. Shippensburg students learn stewardship and best management practices by participating in clean-up activities along local streams and waterways. Shippensburg University faculty and students also have a long-standing relationship with municipal water providers in the region, contributing to source water protection and wellhead protection planning. Students have also conducted research to address sources of groundwater contamination in domestic wells.

Finally, multiple research studies through the [Center for Land Use and Sustainability](#) are focused on land use planning and decision support, supporting efforts to improve water quality within the Delaware River Basin and Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Waste Reduction

Shippensburg University is proud of the [recycling efforts](#) on campus, including single-stream recycling as well as recycling for batteries and electronics. In the past, the university has organized electronic recycling programs for the community, which have been well received and utilized.

The [Shippensburg University Campus Dining](#) program is a champion of sustainability initiatives. A few highlights include Project Clean Plate, dedicated to reducing waste, conserving energy, and education students about portion control; Trayless Dining to decrease wasted water and food going to landfills as well as chemical usage; and ShipComposts, a student initiative bridging issues related to food waste, food insecurity, and soil health. Shippensburg University Dining challenges all guests to participate in Project Clean Plate by selecting an amount of food appropriate to their hunger level. Since the program has been implemented, there have been significant reductions in food waste, some years as high as 10%. The Multicultural Student Association's Feed A Friend program receives the money saved. Since 2006, Professor Ben Culbertson of the Art Department has been collecting all waste vegetable oil from every dining facility on campus to make biodiesel. In 2010, Professor Culbertson embarked on a project with several ceramics students to design, build and test a biodiesel-fueled burner system to fire ceramics kilns. To date, they have successfully built and fired a 30 cubic foot kiln to 2,350°F using biodiesel. The work of Professor Culbertson saves money for the food service vendor, utilizes alternative energy, and reduces Shippensburg University's carbon footprint.

In 2021, Shippensburg University obtained grant funding to support a student-led initiative that bridges issues related to food waste, food insecurity, and soil health. The first grant is a \$25,000 community improvement grant from the [GIANT Company](#) and [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) in support of on-campus components of ShipComposts. The university was one of only 42 applicants from across the state selected to receive funding. The second grant of \$10,600 through the [South Mountain Partnership](#) will support community education components of this grant and further enhance program development. The ShipComposts concept was created by members of Enactus, a student organization focused on improving the world through entrepreneurship. Grant funding was secured in partnership with the Center for Land Use and Sustainability (CLUS), to benefit the Shippensburg University Campus Farm and Shippensburg Produce and Outreach (SPO).

Between 2015 and 2019, Shippensburg University produced more than 1,100 tons of organic food waste: approximately 22 tons of waste per month and a significant source of emissions not accounted for in standard GHG inventories. Through the current grants, the goal for the first year is to divert 25 percent of campus food waste to on-site compost production which will be used on campus and at the Shippensburg University Campus Farm. More than half of the produce from the farm is donated to Shippensburg Produce and Outreach, a community initiative delivering produce to food insecure families.

Alternative Transportation

Shippensburg University is a Bronze Level [Bicycle Friendly Campus](#), awarded by The League of American Bicyclists in 2018. Centrally located in the Cumberland Valley, students can bike to class, explore downtown Shippensburg, or enjoy the [Cumberland Valley Rail Trail](#). Shippensburg University has a free bike share program for students, 50 bike racks on campus, and two bicycle repair stations.

In partnership with Capital Area Transit, [Raider Regional Transit \(RRT\)](#) has been developed to serve Shippensburg University and the Shippensburg community. This local bus system is provided to students free of cost, with service Monday through Saturday during the regular academic year and a modified schedule during summer, fall, spring, and holiday breaks. Using this source of transportation, riders may go to local shopping areas as well as the regional Chambersburg Square.

In Fall 2021, Facilities secured a \$5,000 rebate to install an EV charging station by one of the dining halls. This is a pilot project, with the hope of adding more stations over time. The current EV charging station has the ability to charge two vehicles at once. The app “charge point” informs users when their battery is fully charged and can place limits on how long the station may be used. During the pilot phase of the project, Facilities will charge \$0.15/kWh to offset costs (\$0.07/kWh) and encourage individuals to move vehicles when they are done charging.

Energy-Efficient Facilities and Practices

Through renovations, Shippensburg University has been able to decrease the age of campus buildings by over 15 years. In 2021, the campus age profile of the institution was projected to include 39 percent of buildings under 10

years old, 28 percent aged 10-25 years, 9 percent aged 25 to 50 years, and 24 percent over 50 years old. This campus age profile is younger than PASSHE peers. Additionally, the university increased preventive maintenance investments by 55 percent from 2015 to 2018, making SU the top investor among peers.

Shippensburg University is proud to be the first PASSHE campus to obtain a certified green school building in Pennsylvania, for [the Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary School](#). In its construction and daily operation, it is designed to be an energy efficient and low environmental-impact building. It provides school districts in Pennsylvania with a model of an inviting, healthy, pleasant physical environment that was constructed at a reasonable cost.

To reduce energy usage, the Computing Technology Center (CTC) has adopted server virtualization which consolidates multiple physical servers into one virtual server. For each server virtualized, four tons of carbon dioxide emissions are reduced - the equivalent of taking 1.5 cars off the highway.

Finally, the Facilities Department has taken several steps over the years to decrease energy usage. They have installed smart thermostats and switches across the university and replaced incandescent bulbs with LED when they burn out. Recently, Facilities has been participating in conversations with other PASSHE institutions about transitioning to more sustainable energy suppliers (e.g., solar and wind); however, contracts with these renewable energy suppliers are not as competitive as fossil fuel sources. In addition, they require locking into contracts with higher rates, during a time when technology is advancing, and production levels are theoretical as plants are not yet operational.

Pillar 2: Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Policies, Facilities and Grounds

The mission of the Facilities Management and Planning Department is to provide a campus environment which is (1) conducive to learning, teaching, and research in an ever-changing, academic community; and (2) facilitating of the intellectual, physical, emotional, social, recreational, vocational, and cultural growth of students. Their vision is to maintain our status as a university renowned for top quality physical appearance and to continually improve our facilities maintenance, operations, repair, planning, design, and construction services to the level that we are unrivaled for providing top quality, competent customer service within the state system and surrounding universities. The [Facilities Department website](#) provides information on campus construction, the master plan, campus planning, and design. They strive to provide current information from Sightlines as well as the carbon footprint analysis. Design Guidelines are kept up-to date (last updated January 24, 2022) and outline safety and environmental health requirements related to the construction and finishing of campus buildings, moisture prevention, cleaning, HVAC, signage, lighting, handrails, maintenance, and more.⁶ The website provides information on the Facilities Department organization and function, including preventive painting and

⁶ <https://www.ship.edu/globalassets/facilities/su-design-guidelines.pdf>

maintenance, scheduled cleaning and refuse collection, integrated pest management, and other environmental health and safety concerns.⁷

The university police published a Campus Safety and Security/Fire Statistics 2021 report outlining campus policies and data from 2018-2020.⁸ The report covers safety applications, answers common safety related questions, and shares what security considerations the campus Facilities Department employ from replacing malfunctioning lights to resolving unsafe conditions to monitoring plant growth. The university maintains a surveillance system and conducts twice-monthly testing of emergency telephones on campus. In addition to physical infrastructure, a number of educational programs and campaigns help to create a safer working and learning environment; all staff are required to complete Title IX, active intruder, and antidiscrimination training. Shippensburg University is a member institution of the State University of New York (SUNY) Student Conduct Institute which has made available the following materials used to train all Student Conduct Board members and Title IX decision makers: <https://system.suny.edu/sci/postedtraining/>.

Shippensburg University is committed to providing safe facilities and grounds for faculty, staff, and students. Through renovations, Shippensburg University has been able to decrease the age of campus buildings by over 15 years. In 2021, the campus age profile of the institution was projected to include 39 percent of buildings under 10 years old, 28 percent aged 10-25 years, 9 percent aged 25 to 50 years, and 24 percent over 50 years old. This campus age profile is younger than PASSHE peers. Additionally, Shippensburg increased preventive maintenance investments by 55 percent from 2015 to 2018, reflecting top investing among peers.

Air Quality and COVID-19 Measures

Shippensburg University took immediate measures to ensure the safety of the community through the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The university hired a post-pandemic consultant and subject matter expert with extensive experience to assist working groups and develop a plan for the university during the pandemic. They created a [Raider Respect](#) campaign and webpage to encourage vaccinations and track COVID-19 cases on campus. Hand sanitizer and masks were provided to all members of the campus community. Testing was available to students, vaccination clinics were plentiful, and paid sick leave was provided to staff to take the time to get the vaccine. An educational campaign encouraged social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing. In the Spring 2022 semester, the university and SU Foundation launched an incentive program offering the chance to win \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$500 scholarship awards to students providing proof of vaccination.

Facilities also increased the make-up air supply to bring more fresh air into the buildings; all buildings are balanced for make-up air and exhaust to ensure good exchange. Temperature monitoring and hand sanitizing stations were installed throughout campus, along with signage to encourage social distancing, mask wearing and

⁷ Shippensburg University. 2019. Facilities Organization and Function. Accessed online 3 February 2022 at: https://www.ship.edu/about/offices/facilities/department_organization_and_function/.

⁸ 2021. University Police. Campus Safety and Security/Fire Statistics 2021. Shippensburg University. Accessed online 20 January 2022 at <https://www.ship.edu/globalassets/police/safety-and-security-report.pdf>.

vaccination. Infrastructure upgrades were made to monitor CO2 and capacity within rooms, and Facilities performs regular maintenance of air handling units and filtration systems. Additional safety precautions during COVID-19 included decreasing classroom size and transitioning to single occupancy in the residence halls.

WSCC Components

The CDC's Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) framework is targeted to K-12 schools, and so is not an explicit initiative at Shippensburg University. However, SU prides itself for being student-centered and focused on the local community. As such, many of our facilities and programs support WSCC standards.

The Grace B. Luhrs (Luhrs) University Elementary School is a laboratory school attached to the university's College of Education and Human Services. The cornerstone of teaching is the focus and commitment on the growth and development of the whole child; Luhrs provides a setting for university students from many majors to observe and participate in elementary school operations. In conjunction with the adjacent [Bartos Child and Family Center](#), university students majoring in education, early childhood, psychology, sociology, criminal justice, social work, and counseling can engage in the study of children from ages one to eleven. University students can observe classes from observation booths, tutor students in core content areas of reading, and math or participate in whole-class activities.

[Health and Wellness](#) are an integral part of the Shippensburg University experience. All ten components of the WSCC model are addressed within the excellent programs on campus; many facilities on campus are for the benefit of both the campus and broader community.

In terms of physical health, [ShipRec](#), the campus recreation center, provides: 45 cardiovascular machines, a stretching area, Cybex Eagle Circuit, Free Weights, and Power Lift Stations; 4 Multi-Purpose Courts & Elevated Running Track; 1,800 Sq Ft Group Fitness Studio; and Racquetball (2), Wallyball (2) and Squash (1) Courts. Average usage is reported over the course of the week and has been as high as 41 people utilizing strength, cardio, and stretching areas, 12 people using cardio machines, and 36 people using the arena.⁹ In addition to the Recreation Center, Shippensburg University offers 9 Group Fitness programs, 14 Club Sports, 8 Intramural Sports, a pool, Disc Golf, and ShipSHARE, a bike share program.¹⁰

Shippensburg University is a Bronze Level [Bicycle Friendly Campus](#) as awarded by The League of American Bicyclists in 2018. Centrally located in the Cumberland Valley on a 210-acre campus, there are countless places to bike at Shippensburg University and in the region. Students can bike to class, explore downtown Shippensburg, or enjoy the [Cumberland Valley Rail Trail](#), which extends from campus about 13 miles north past Newville, Pennsylvania. Off campus, individuals can discover trails in more than 250,000 acres of nearby state

⁹ ShipRec Average Usage. Accessed online 20 January 2022 at https://www.ship.edu/globalassets/recreation/usage_average_bar_graphs.pdf

¹⁰ 2021. Recreation brochure. Accessed online 20 January 2022 at <https://www.ship.edu/globalassets/recreation/rec--wellness-brochure-21.pdf>.

parks and forests. Shippensburg University welcomes bicyclists of all skill levels on campus and strives to provide access to a bike friendly campus. Shippensburg University has a free bike share program, 50 bike racks on campus, and two bicycle repair stations.

[Etter Health Center](#) is a collaboration with [Wellspan Health](#) and provides care for those who are sick or injured as well as encouraging good health and preventing illness. The [Connection AOD \(Alcohol and Other Drugs\) Program](#) cultivates a sense of personal accountability and empowerment within our students. It strives to educate, so students can make healthy choices and responsible decisions regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs. [Campus Dining](#) is focused on health and wellness, committed to empowering students to make healthy choices, and to lead a healthy life.

After many years of careful planning and consideration, the university recently launched the Raider Wellness Resource Center and recovery space. This center will offer a wide variety of wellness-based offerings focused on the 8 dimensions of wellness. The current workshops under development include nutrition, sleep, developing healthy relationships with food, mindfulness and meditation, and grief and loss. This program will also include an AmeriCorps Vista position that will be focused on diet, nutrition, and food insecurity.

The [University Counseling Center](#) provides individual, couples, and group counseling, crisis intervention and psychiatric services for undergraduate and graduate students. The center also provides prevention and consultation services for the entire university community. The Counseling Center and Human Resources used to run a wellness fair for staff and faculty that was extended to students; event coordination has now been moved to the Raider Wellness Resource Center (2022 will be the first year that the wellness program will coordinate the wellness fair). This event has 50 or more vendors and representatives from a wide variety of wellness-related organizations. Attendees usually include a few hundred students, faculty, and staff.

Additional wellness events include Fresh Check Day, a peer-to-peer fair designed to spread information, knowledge, and awareness about suicide and mental health; In 2021, over 300 students participated, and there were almost 30 tables. There were also four outdoor hiking events, and four grief and loss events (developed in collaboration with the [Drew Michael Taylor Foundation](#), a community-based grief and loss organization).

Shippensburg University is at the heart of the [community](#) and an economic engine of the Cumberland Valley. We are in service to our residents both on and off campus, and proud of our partnerships with local businesses and industries. Whether through volunteer or service-learning, research, internships, or supporting local business, students have numerous opportunities to [engage](#) with and give back to the community. Shippensburg University provides cultural resources through the [Luhrs Performing Arts Center](#) and the [Fashion Archives & Museum](#), contributes to economic prosperity through the [Small Business Development Center](#) and other centers, child wellness programs through the Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary School, Bartos Child and Family Center, and Headstart. The new [Centers for Excellence](#), home of the Charles H. Diller Jr. Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Innovation and the Center for Land Use & Sustainability, provides greater connections between campus and the local community. The University and community partner on a number of initiatives, such as the

Cumberland Valley Rail Trail and ShipShape Day. Numerous faculty, staff, and students serve the community by participating on committees and supporting local organizations. Finally, the [Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition](#) (SCRC) is a collaborative effort to provide quality social services and youth programs that are accessible, safe, and recognize the dignity and worth of each person. The goal of SCRC is to help community members reach their full potential.

Holistic View of Sustainability

[The Shippensburg University Sustainability Pledge](#) acknowledges the importance of stewardship by using resources wisely, protecting and conserving nature, as well as the physical, social, and economic environments. The Shippensburg campus community is encouraged to take action, learn how to be a better steward, and engage more with the local community. Intended to be holistic, this pledge includes opportunities to spend more time outdoors and buy local and organic food among other positive choices. Hundreds of students sign this pledge every year, helping build shared action and understanding throughout the campus community.

To combat food insecurity, there are a number of initiatives on campus. The [Shippensburg University Campus Farm](#) provides local produce for the dining halls while also offering an opportunity for students to learn how to grow their own food and participate in outdoor activities. A [community garden](#) is available to faculty and staff through the Human Resources department. Food pantries are available to students through the [Cora I. Grove Spiritual Center](#) and Mowery Hall. The Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition (SCRC) increases community access to food and other necessities. The CLUS oversees the [Cumberland County Food System Alliance](#) (CCFSA), which focuses on the regional food system and reducing waste.

[Raider Ready Professional Dress Closet](#) (RRPDC) is housed and managed by the [Career, Mentoring, and Professional Development Center](#) (CMPDC) and is operated collaboratively with the Women Leaders of the College of Business. The RRPDC offers wardrobe options to students as they prepare for professional meetings, such as interviews, internships, job shadow programs, career/job fairs, and more. The goal is to help students make the best possible impression and feel confident during a professional meeting without having to worry about how to afford business attire. Additional events organized through the [Academic Success Program](#) (ASP) develop and maintain a comprehensive academic co-curricular support system for the purpose of enhancing student persistence toward graduation. One initiative includes a lending library that is available through ACT 101 to support individual student success. These efforts reduce waste and spending while supporting student needs.

The Green League student group helps organize the annual Earth Day celebration, StewardSHIP week. Since 2016, StewardSHIP week has brought the campus community together for sustainability-focused programs and activities. For a number of years, the university also participated in the Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge, encouraging students to get outdoors in the fall and give back to the community.

Pillar 3: Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Environmental Literacy

Shippensburg University students enrolled in environmental and sustainability programs develop environmental literacy via courses and experiences across several departments and perspectives. For example, [Sustainability majors](#) take courses across biology, psychology, sociology, economics, English, and human communications to develop interdisciplinary skills. This includes several courses specifically dedicated to sustainability issues, such as The Psychology of Sustainability, Environmental Economics, Environmental Communication, and Conservation Biology. Similarly, [Geoenvironmental Science](#) students are required to complete courses in Biology, Chemistry, Human Geography, and Sustainability.

Sustainability in Curriculum

In 2016, Shippensburg University received a \$49,000 InTeGrate Teaching for a Sustainable Future in Undergraduate Courses grant through the Science Education Research Center at Carleton College, funded by the National Science Foundation. The grant engaged faculty to enhance and integrate active, high-impact strategies into courses from multiple disciplines to infuse sustainability in the context of societal issues across the undergraduate curriculum. The goal was to develop a citizenry and workforce that is knowledgeable of environmental and natural resource issues facing society today. Through this grant, the following events were provided:

- Campus-Community Sustainability Forum- open to the public, students, administrators, and faculty
- Sustainability Field Conference- open to faculty, staff and student leaders who are interested in learning more about sustainability in our region
- Faculty Curriculum Development Workshops
- Service-Learning Opportunities at the Campus Community Farm, the Food Recovery Network, ShipShape Day, and with other local and regional partners
- Sustainability Outdoor Film Festival
- Career Day Events

In total, 9 Shippensburg faculty developed or adapted materials for use in 8 courses on campus, 23 individuals participated in the Sustainability Field Conference, and dozens more participated in the Sustainability Forum.

[The Burd Run Interdisciplinary Watershed Research Laboratory](#) (BRIWRL) is a cooperative effort among faculty from the departments of Geography/Earth Science, Biology and Teacher Education. In 2001-2002, [a stream channel, floodplain, and wetland restoration project](#) was completed in the Shippensburg Township Park ([Brochure and Map](#)) to address stream bank erosion, poor aquatic habitat quality, and high nutrient concentrations in spring water and the stream. Restoration was designed by John Herrmann (1999 MS thesis, Geoenvironmental Studies) and funded by a Pennsylvania Growing Greener grant. **The Burd Run project:** restored over 400 meters of artificially straightened stream channel to a natural meandering course; restored hydrology to a 1.0-hectare wetland that had been ditched and drained; planted over 3,000 trees to provide a riparian buffer along Burd Run

through the park, [removes over 650 kg of nitrogen from the water every year](#), benefiting water quality locally and downstream throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Today, the BRIRL is widely utilized as an interdisciplinary teaching lab that supports individual course curriculums, undergraduate and graduate research, and faculty research.

In Fall 2021, through one of our climate commitment working groups, sustainability concepts were incorporated in [UNIV 101](#), a course required for all incoming undergraduate students.

Sustainability and Geoenvironmental Science Majors

In 2017, the university developed and launched a new [Sustainability major](#), combining a focus of sustainability with geotechnology and geographic information systems. This new program has been one of the fastest growing majors at the university, with over 45 undergraduate majors by 2021. The Sustainability program features a bachelor of science (B.S.) and a minor for students to focus on environmental, economic, and social sustainability to prepare for the growing job market in this dynamic and valuable multi-disciplinary career area.

In 2021, Shippensburg University substantially revised and updated the Geoenvironmental Science curriculum to more fully integrate course and field experiences in climate science, sustainability, and geotechnology into the curriculum. Two atmospheric science courses have been redeveloped to focus on human interaction with climate and climate change. Two core sustainability courses – one at the introductory level and one at the “complex systems” capstone level – have been added to the curriculum. A GIS course is now required of all students in this major, providing key skills in spatial analytical techniques applied to environmental science and socio-economic sustainability challenges.

Graduate Studies

In 2021, the Master of Science (M.S.) degree program offered by the Geography – Earth Science Department was restructured to include a greater integrative emphasis on sustainability. The redesigned program now offers an MS degree in Geoenvironmental Science and Sustainability. This major integrates physical sciences (climate, water, geology, soils), with social sciences (economics, planning) and technical skills (GIS, remote sensing, environmental assessment techniques).

Applied Student Experiences

Students across the university participate in service-learning events and opportunities, giving back to the community while integrating coursework with real-world experiences. In addition, every Shippensburg University student majoring in Sustainability or Geoenvironmental Science completes a professional internship. The Geography-Earth Science Department maintains a broad network of organizations that host student interns, focusing on experiences that develop applied skills in environmental management and building sustainable

systems. In addition, students are encouraged to develop independent research projects to expand hands-on learning.

Place-based learning is facilitated by our long-standing commitment to focused areas of teaching and learning. This includes a 20+ year history with the Burd Run Interdisciplinary Watershed Research Laboratory, that focuses on a local 20-square mile watershed and hands-on experiences with regional resources such as the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the South Mountain Partnership. The Center for Land Use and Sustainability has developed deep connections with many regional organizations that provide research and professional experiences to Shippensburg students.

Shippensburg University also participates in the Marine Science Consortium which maintains field and lab facilities at Chincoteague Bay Field Station. This provides hands-on, field-based student experiences in the coastal environment, such as monitoring sea level rise impacts on beach stability, saltwater marsh monitoring, mapping vegetation change, and collecting oceanographic data directly from boat cruises into the near-shore environment. Students benefit from both regular short-term field trips to the site as well as a suite of summer courses offered on-site and supported by dormitory and laboratory facilities.

The [Center for Land Use and Sustainability](#) (CLUS) has grown to become a key resource for collaborative research throughout central Pennsylvania and the northeast region. Leveraging a team of interdisciplinary scientists, the CLUS aims to promote sustainable land use, economic development, cultural and natural resource management, and multi-scale community support. As an academic institution, the CLUS is also able to provide valuable professional opportunities for student work and research. Founded in 2003 and revitalized in 2015, the CLUS has engaged 22 affiliate scholars across the university and more than 46 student fellows in 30 interdisciplinary collaborations. In addition to providing opportunities for students, the CLUS is committed to supporting public understanding of climate related issues, as seen by the development of a [Climate Series](#) in 2019 and [YouTube Channel](#) to share resources and information.

The [Shippensburg University Campus Farm](#) was established in August 2012. The primary mission of the Campus Farm is to provide students with a hands-on learning environment where they can apply concepts learned in courses to practical situations that enable the campus and the community to improve sustainability and to provide fresh produce for campus dining services and community members in need. The farm has been used for research and volunteer opportunities by the Biology, Geography/Earth Science, and Social Work departments, as well as the Shippensburg University Counseling Center, orientation groups, and Living Learning Communities within the dormitories. In addition to providing an outdoor educational experience for Shippensburg students, the farm has hosted volunteers from local elementary, middle and high schools, Girl Scout troops, and residents of a nearby independent living community.

Finally, the [Grace B. Luhrs University Elementary School](#) provides numerous opportunities to work across disciplines in a K-12 setting. Shippensburg is the only Pennsylvania university with an on-campus public elementary lab school.