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Programs

Slippery Rock University (Pa.)

- When a parent goes to prison, they are not the only person serving a sentence. So are their children, who have to cope with the stigma, separation and not having a personal connection with their parent. A program at Slippery Rock University (SRU) called "Read to Me" is hoping to change that equation by uniting children with their incarcerated parent through video and the power of literacy and storytelling. **Read more**
- The President's Commission for Veteran and Military Affairs at SRU, which was created last spring, expects to soon have many across campus standing at attention. The group, comprised of students, faculty, staff and administrators at SRU, was formed to advance the interests of student veterans and military members and their families, similar to how the six other existing president's commissions advocate for groups within SRU's diverse campus community. **Read more**
- Through a partnership with the United Way of Lawrence County, SRU's Language Center is training an English as a second language instructor and providing curriculum tailored for English-learning job seekers to ease the transition of Puerto Rican hurricane refugees who relocated to New Castle. **Read more**

State University of New York College at Oneonta

Over 90 State University of New York College at Oneonta students from the School of Economics and Business traveled to the Big Apple on Oct. 25 for the college's annual Backpacks to Briefcases alumni networking trip. Students visited 21 well-established alumni at their Manhattan offices and heard about their experiences going from students to top executives. The event is designed to inspire students to jumpstart their careers by beginning to build their professional networks. **Read more**

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Grants and Gifts

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University of Arkansas at Little Rock

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Arkansas State University

Directing his gift to assist with the university's renewed emphasis on student retention, alumnus Bill Zook of Surprise, Ariz., recently transferred stock to Arkansas State University and designated proceeds from the stock sale be used to create an endowment fund the chancellor can use to enhance the university's retention initiatives, including emergency grants to students. [Read more](#)

Black Hills State University (S.D.)

This summer, four Black Hills State University (BHSU) students and two local middle school teachers, who are also BHSU alums, traveled to China to participate in an international meeting on furthering germanium technology. While in China, the students and teachers toured the Chinese Jinping Underground Lab, which is the deepest in the world. The BHSU students and middle school teachers had this unique opportunity thanks to a National Science Foundation consortium award to further germanium research. [Read more](#)

California State University, Los Angeles

Cal State LA has been awarded a nearly \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to increase data accessibility and promote civic engagement among students and underserved communities in Los Angeles. The grant will establish a partnership between Cal State LA, the city of Los Angeles, Community Partners and the Social Equity Engagement geo-Data Scholars to increase access and use of the city's big data collection. [Read more](#)

Frostburg State University (Md.)

Frostburg State University's Dr. Wudyalew Wondmagegn and Dr. Howard Katz of Johns Hopkins University are embarking on collaborative research to improve organic semiconductor vapor sensor tech, supported by a three-year, \$438,463 NSF grant. That tech promises to make vapor sensors cheaper and more versatile, if researchers can solve some innate engineering issues. Wondmagegn, Katz and their students will explore potential solutions. [Read more](#)

Metropolitan State University of Denver (Colo.)

Metropolitan State University of Denver Associate Philosophy Professor Caleb Cahoe is one of four co-leaders of Philosophy as a Way of Life, a new project launched with an \$806,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Cahoe, Meghan Sullivan (University of Notre Dame), Stephen Grimm (Fordham University), and Steve Angle (Wesleyan University) will lead a collaboration to introduce students to philosophical traditions focused on thinking "more deeply and rigorously about the good life." [Read more](#)

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

- A University of Arkansas at Little Rock professor and doctoral student have received a \$20,000 Google AI research grant for their research in artificial intelligence and machine learning. Dr. Xiaowei Xu, professor of information science, and Tolgahan Cakaloglu, a doctoral candidate in computer science, received the grant for their project, "Contextual Advanced Text Representation via Improved Deep Language Model by Utilizing Side Information." [Read more](#)
- The BridgeWay, a mental health and substance abuse facility in North Little Rock, is partnering with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to provide students in the Department of Applied Communication with a unique opportunity to receive a scholarship and gain professional experience at the same time. [Read more](#)

University of Houston-Clear Lake (Texas)

- University of Houston-Clear Lake is training faculty, staff and students in Mental Health First Aid™ on what to look for and how to intervene properly. The courses are part of the Mental Health First Aid USA program, operated by the National Council for Behavioral Health in partnership with the Missouri Department of Mental Health. A three-year, \$375,000 community-preparedness grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration funds the trainings. [Read more](#)