



Student Affairs Impact Report

2025-2026

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Welcome from Dr. Segar

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am pleased to share the 2025–2026 Division of Student Affairs Impact Report.

This report highlights the meaningful work accomplished across our division during the past year and its positive impact on IUP students. The dedication, creativity, and care of our staff and student employees resonate throughout this report. Every day, members of the Division of Student Affairs work alongside students, colleagues, and partners to create environments and experiences to foster belonging, well-being, and student success.

Our vision is an IUP where every student finds their place, develops meaningful connections, and accomplishes their goals. We co-create environments and experiences that attract students to IUP and assist them throughout their journey—advancing their sense of belonging, well-being, and achievement along the way. The stories, initiatives, and outcomes included in this report realize that vision. They showcase the many ways we contribute to students' growth from the moment they consider IUP through graduation and beyond.

Throughout the year, the Division of Student Affairs remained focused on supporting the whole student. Whether through housing and dining, student engagement, health and well-being services, leadership development, financial assistance, advocacy, athletics, or crisis response – and more, our staff worked to ensure students had access to the resources and relationships necessary to thrive at IUP.

This report also highlights the power of collaboration. Our success is made possible through strong partnerships throughout the institution, in the community, and, most importantly, with our students. Together, we continue to build an inclusive and caring community that affirms the identities, experiences, and aspirations of those we serve.

As you review this report, I hope you will recognize not only the breadth of our work but also the impact it has on individual students and the entire IUP community. Student Affairs plays a central role in advancing the Strategic Plan and Presidential Goals through connecting, engaging, and serving students to ultimately transform their lives through their IUP experience.

Thank you to the dedicated members of the Division of Student Affairs for their commitment to our students and to IUP. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and excited about the opportunities ahead as we continue our work to facilitate student success and well-being.

We're all in this together, and I remain confident that the future of IUP is bright because of the students we serve and the colleagues who support them every day.

Dr. Thomas C. Segar
Vice President for Student Affairs



Admissions Operations

Focused on system modernization through Slate CRM, improving onboarding processes, reducing friction, and enhancing enrollment flow through clearer checklists, fraud prevention measures, and cross-campus integration.

Admissions Operations advanced enrollment infrastructure, data integrity, and student onboarding during the 2025–2026 academic year through strategic system enhancements and cross-campus collaboration. A major accomplishment was the expansion and stabilization of Slate as the university’s central application and communication platform, now supporting multiple applicant populations and creating a more consistent, scalable admissions experience.

The development of dynamic admitted and committed student checklists further strengthened the student transition process by personalizing next steps such as FAFSA completion, placement testing, housing, and orientation. These tools reduced uncertainty, improved clarity, and helped students progress toward enrollment with greater confidence and efficiency.

Admissions Operations also implemented proactive fraud prevention and identity verification workflows, protecting institutional data while ensuring legitimate applicants moved efficiently through the admissions pipeline. Additionally, the department supported strategic institutional growth by building admissions infrastructure for the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, expanding IUP’s capacity to serve new markets.

Collectively, these efforts reduced administrative friction, improved communication, and strengthened IUP’s ability to recruit, admit, and onboard students effectively in a complex and evolving enrollment landscape.

Admissions Operations has been a committed campus partner, working collaboratively across divisions to streamline enrollment procedures and remove process barriers for students.

Athletics

Enhanced student-athlete development, mental health support, and operational efficiency through improved onboarding and mentoring structures.

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics experienced a highly successful 2025–2026 academic year, achieving key academic, athletic, and engagement benchmarks while strengthening the overall student-athlete experience. The department met all major goals: IUP’s student athletes maintained a cumulative GPA above 3.25, securing top-tier national standing, while exceeding 3,000 hours of community service. Competitive success was evident across all programs, with every varsity team qualifying for postseason play and multiple teams advancing to NCAA regional and national competition levels.

Beyond competition, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics enhanced student development through intentional investment in student employment and leadership opportunities. Expanded work-study roles and streamlined onboarding processes increased access to meaningful campus employment while strengthening operational efficiency. Student employees received focused training and mentorship, contributing to a supportive environment that builds confidence, transferable skills, and a strong sense of belonging.

Collaborative initiatives, including improved coordination with club sports and the introduction of student-athlete well-being liaison roles, further advanced student support by addressing operational needs and promoting mental health resources. These initiatives fostered stronger community connections and elevated the student-athlete experience. Overall, members of the department contributed meaningfully to institutional goals by enhancing retention, strengthening campus culture, and elevating IUP’s regional and national reputation.



Seven IUP student-athletes were recognized for their accomplishments in the classroom and in competition, earning College Sports Communicators Academic All-District honors.

Guillermo Salazar (golf), Alexi Crosby (lacrosse), Rachel Knight (lacrosse), Devon Nee (lacrosse), Celeste Pagliaroli (field hockey), Sydney Schmouder (field hockey), and Mia Gerick (field hockey) all earned this distinction by maintaining a minimum 3.50 GPA through the spring 2026 semester and competing in at least 70% of their team’s competitions.



Care Team

Strengthened institutional capacity to respond to student crises and support persistence.

280 students
directly
supported

The **Care Team** played a critical role in advancing student well-being, retention, and institutional responsiveness during the 2025–2026 academic year through coordinated, student-centered intervention and support. The team directly assisted 280 students, an increase of 29% from the previous year, addressing a wide range of concerns including emotional distress, behavioral issues, and transitions following mental health crises. This individualized approach helped remove barriers to success, strengthen students' connection to campus, and support persistence toward degree completion.

Crisis response

A key strength of the Care Team is its collaborative, cross-campus structure, bringing together faculty, staff, and administrators to evaluate student concerns using research-based, objective practices. Through Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) meetings and coordinated case management, the team ensured timely and appropriate interventions while maintaining a focus on equity, inclusion, and student agency.

Research-based
interventions

The Care Team also expanded its impact through proactive training initiatives, including NABITA-informed workshops attended by faculty and staff. These efforts increased campus-wide awareness and confidence in responding to student concerns, contributing to a stronger culture of care and support.

These efforts enhanced student stability, reduced stigma around help-seeking, and reinforced IUP's commitment to a compassionate, student-centered campus environment.

Campus- Wide
Training

"Thanks to your help, I'm doing very well now. I'm able to focus more clearly on my classes and my work. You helped me so much and you didn't have to do that, but I'm grateful you did"

Community Standards

Meeting students where they are to help them get to where they want to be.

The Office of Community Standards played a critical role in fostering student accountability, support, and development during the 2025–2026 academic year. Through its adjudication processes and educational interventions, the office worked to balance accountability with student growth and community protection, ensuring that policies were enforced while also providing meaningful opportunities for reflection and positive development. Central to this work was collaboration with campus partners to connect students to supportive resources, including wellness services and coaching initiatives, which helped address underlying behaviors and promote long-term success.

The office also focused on streamlining processes and reducing barriers for students navigating the Community Standards system. Efforts to improve communication and clarify expectations helped students better understand procedures, contributing to a more transparent and student-centered experience. In addition, increased coordination with other Student Affairs and Academic Affairs units ensured that students received consistent support across departments.

These initiatives collectively advanced institutional goals related to retention, student well-being, and community responsibility by helping students remain engaged, learn from their experiences, and reconnect to the campus community. The Office of Community Standards continues to serve as a key contributor to a safe, supportive, and accountable learning environment at IUP.



"Today my group partner and I won a student conduct case study competition in Dr. Lowery's Higher Education Law class. The whole time we were preapring our response, I was thinking about everything I learned during my practicum experience in your office."

-Abigail Hancox, '24, M '26

Student Voices

"Community Standards, BASICS, and Wellness Coaching were instrumental in helping me make better choices... I gained confidence to advocate for myself and set new goals."

"By understanding the impact of alcohol and reflecting on my goals, I was able to make better choices and find friends who supported those decisions."

"This experience taught me how important it is to ensure students feel heard, valued, and respected."

877

Total cases

77%

Brief Alcohol Screening Intervention for College Students (BASICS) completion rate

Counseling Center

Strong integration of clinical services, crisis support, and training programs contributes directly to student retention and well-being.

The Counseling Center advanced student well-being and access to care during the 2025–2026 academic year by coordinating mental health support responding, increasing student acuity, and expanding collaborative systems of care. A primary accomplishment was strengthening access to psychiatric services and care coordination through continued partnership with Health Service, enabling students to more efficiently connect with medication management and ongoing support.

The Center also expanded partnerships with community providers, hospitals, and crisis resources to better support students requiring higher levels of care, including inpatient hospitalization and intensive outpatient treatment.

In response to a significant rise in crisis situations, staff focused on helping students navigate hospitalization, discharge planning, referral processes, and re-entry to the university, improving continuity of support and student re-engagement.

In addition, the Counseling Center advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives for students that fostered belonging, dialogue, and cultural awareness across the campus community. These efforts, alongside clinical services such as counseling, crisis intervention, and case management, supported students in developing coping skills, emotional regulation, and academic persistence.

These initiatives strengthened student support systems, reduced barriers to care, and reinforced IUP's commitment to a coordinated, student-centered approach to mental health and success.

74%
improved connection
to academic resources

81%
reported improved
academic outcomes

13.5%
of students utilized
services

“My counselor gave me emotional tools to help calm running emotions and thoughts and stay focused on major issues and learn how to work through them. I have felt a lot better emotionally, which has helped me a lot socially and academically.”

Dining

Focused on wellness, improved engagement, and enhanced the dining experience.

IUP Dining demonstrates a strong commitment to enhancing the student experience through wellness-focused initiatives, increased campus engagement, and sense of community through continuous improvements to dining services. A central component of the plan is promoting student health and well-being through nutrition education, collaboration with the campus dietitian, wellness programming, and expanded options for students with dietary restrictions and food allergies. Initiatives such as Healthy for Life®, Take15 stress-reduction programming, True Balance allergen-friendly dining, and regular health and wellness events support students' physical and emotional well-being.

Student engagement remains a significant priority. IUP Dining plans to continue offering a variety of themed meals, pop-up events, educational programs, bingo nights, craft activities, and special dining experiences designed to foster community and create meaningful connections among students. Social media outreach and student-centered promotions further strengthen communication and encourage participation in campus dining activities.

The IUP Dining strategic plan also outlines several enhancements aimed at improving the overall dining experience. Planned additions include expanded salad ingredients, more meal exchange options, self-service espresso machines, new dessert offerings, and grab-and-go products. These improvements build upon recent successes such as the Starbucks renovation, mobile ordering capabilities, and operational enhancements that have increased convenience and reduced wait times. Collectively, these efforts reflect a student-centered approach focused on satisfaction, accessibility, wellness, and a vibrant campus experience.



IUP Dining's social media team was recognized by Aramark Collegiate Hospitality for achieving the top social media performance among its collegiate dining accounts, based on exceptional year-over-year growth in audience engagement and digital reach.

Led by Kyle Kubicko (BA '22, MBA '23), Customer Engagement and Marketing Manager for Aramark, the team includes student interns who apply classroom learning in a real-world environment while developing valuable skills in marketing, communications, content creation, and digital engagement.

Financial Aid

Managed FAFSA disruptions and system transitions while maintaining strong student support.

The Office of Financial Aid played a critical role in supporting student access, persistence, and success during the 2025–2026 academic year by navigating significant federal, state, and institutional changes. A primary accomplishment was guiding students and families through FAFSA simplification changes, processing delays, and the implementation of Banner OneSIS. Staff maintained a strong student-centered approach through proactive communication, individualized counseling, and manual processing efforts, in the midst of system challenges and temporary disruptions, helping students remain enrolled during a complex transition.

10,000+
calls

The office also strengthened cross-campus collaboration with Admissions, Student Billing, the Registrar, IT Services, and the Navigators to improve the overall student financial experience. These partnerships supported timely issue resolution, improved financial aid processes, and enhanced outreach to students with incomplete requirements, reducing confusion and promoting enrollment stability.

3,200
in-person
interactions

High levels of student engagement further demonstrated the office's impact, with more than 10,000 phone calls, 8,600 emails, and more than 3,200 in-person interactions providing direct support for financial aid navigation and decision-making.

8,600
emails

Despite staffing limitations, the team demonstrated adaptability, collaboration, and commitment to service, reinforcing Financial Aid's essential role in reducing financial barriers and advancing student success.

The Financial Aid Office contributes to post-IUP success by promoting financial literacy, responsible borrowing, and entrance and exit loan counseling requirements. Students are educated on budgeting, understanding credit and loan repayment responsibilities, managing debt, and making informed financial decisions that support long-term personal and professional success after graduation

Folger Student Center

Transformed student engagement space with expanded programming and leadership opportunities.

The **Folger Student Center** experienced a transformational year in 2025–2026, strengthening its role as a central hub for student engagement, connection, and belonging. Strategic investments in new equipment, creative resources, gaming systems and programming infrastructure expanded access to inclusive, low-barrier opportunities for recreation, expression, and social interaction including events such as craft nights, casino nights, karaoke, and open mic nights, allowing students to engage in ways that reflect their interests and lived experiences.

Equally significant was the intentional elevation of student staff leadership. Student employees collaborated with professional staff to redesign programming and operational expectations, taking ownership of event planning, budgeting, and assessment. This shift strengthened students' leadership capacity, professional skill development, and sense of responsibility while maintaining a welcoming, student-centered environment.

Through everyday interactions, creative programming, and peer-led engagement, the Folger Student Center reduced barriers to participation and promoted consistent student connection. Students increasingly utilized the space as a “home base” on campus, fostering community, reducing isolation, and supporting overall well-being.

Collectively, these efforts reinforced the Folger Student Center's role in advancing student success, belonging, and a vibrant campus experience.

600+

students using Folger
during peak weekly use

3 to 6

events held per week
in Folger



Food Pantry and Help Center

Expanded basic-needs support and maintained Hunger-Free Campus designation.

The IUP Food Pantry and Help Center (FPHC) continued to serve as a critical resource for student well-being during the 2025–2026 academic year, demonstrating sustained impact through strong partnerships, consistent usage, and expanded services. Anchored in its mission to address food insecurity, the FPHC engaged a broad network of student organizations, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners to ensure students had reliable access to essential food and hygiene resources.

2,187
student visits

Student demand remained significant, with 2,187 total visits, underscoring the pantry's essential role in supporting students facing financial and food-related challenges. Institutional data further highlighted the urgency of this work, as nearly half of surveyed undergraduate students reported some level of basic needs insecurity, reinforcing the importance of continued investment in food security initiatives.

38%
food insecurity rate

The FPHC strengthened campus culture and support through collaborative initiatives, including a campus-wide food drive that generated more than 1,000 items and substantial financial contributions from campus groups and donors. The pantry also maintained its state designation as a Hunger-Free Campus, reflecting ongoing progress in expanding resources and partnerships. Collectively, these efforts advanced student success by reducing barriers to basic needs, while reinforcing a culture of care, access, and shared responsibility across the IUP community.

48%
overall basic-needs
insecurity



The Food Pantry received notable donations from the IUP Student Ambassadors (\$800 from their Homecoming Parade winnings), Student Association of Nutrition and Dietetics (\$750), IUP Police (over 500 resources and \$500), and Susan Storrick Timko (M.A. '91) donated her Ron Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award prize money of \$1,500.

Fraternity and Sorority Life

Strong student-led programming and leadership development initiatives.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) strengthened student engagement, leadership development, and community impact during the 2025–2026 academic year through collaborative programming and expanded outreach. A hallmark achievement was the success of Greek Week 2026, which raised more than \$2,800 for Make-A-Wish while fostering cross-council collaboration and meaningful community partnerships. This initiative not only increased student participation but also reinforced a culture of philanthropy and shared purpose within the fraternity and sorority community.

FSL also enhanced student connection and belonging through visible engagement efforts, including participation in fall move-in, where fraternity and sorority members welcomed incoming students and introduced opportunities for campus involvement. These efforts helped reduce barriers to engagement and positioned the community as an accessible entry point for new students.

Leadership development was further advanced through student participation in the Northeast Greek Leadership Association (NGLA) Conference, where students strengthened competencies in networking, communication, and critical thinking while representing the university with distinction.

These initiatives promoted student leadership, enhanced campus and community connections, and contributed to the continued growth and positive visibility of the fraternity and sorority community at IUP.



“My experience attending NGLA was incredibly meaningful and inspiring. Being surrounded by so many passionate leaders helped me grow both personally and professionally, and I loved learning new ways to strengthen my community and chapter. I’m so grateful for the opportunities Panhellenic provides our executive board with, and for the chance to bring back new ideas and perspectives to continue making a positive impact on our college campus.”

\$2,800

raised for Make-A-Wish

552

Students attended
anti-hazing presentation

Graduate Admissions

Improved enrollment forecasting and expanded access pathways.

Graduate Admissions advanced enrollment strategy, partnerships, and operational effectiveness during the 2025–2026 academic year through several key initiatives designed to strengthen recruitment and institutional positioning. One major accomplishment was the implementation of a graduate enrollment deposit, a long-standing priority that enhanced predictive enrollment analytics and enabled more targeted engagement with students most likely to enroll.

The development of the Triple Degree Program established an innovative pathway connecting community colleges with IUP through a streamlined process allowing students to earn associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in succession. This model strengthens external partnerships while expanding access and opportunity for students, with initial agreements underway with regional community colleges.

Graduate Admissions also addressed the growing national challenge of identity theft in higher education by developing institutional processes to identify and mitigate fraudulent applications, protecting both prospective students and university resources.

Additional efforts, including Graduate Open Houses and the Graduate Early Admission (GREA) program, continued to build enrollment pipelines through direct engagement and internal student pathways.

These initiatives improved enrollment management, expanded strategic partnerships, and reinforced IUP's commitment to innovation in graduate recruitment and student access.

Enrollment deposit
implementation

Triple Degree
Program pathway

Fraud prevention
strategies



Haven Project

Peer-led prevention program focused on sexual violence education and bystander intervention.

The Haven Project advanced campus safety and student engagement through a highly effective peer-led education model. Programming in sexual violence prevention, bystander intervention, and wellness was delivered authentically by student leaders, fostering meaningful engagement. Despite a mid-year leadership transition, the team maintained program continuity and impact. Signature events such as Take Back the Night and Green Dot trainings reached hundreds of students and promoted a shared culture of accountability and care. Trauma-informed practices and inclusive approaches ensured students felt safe and supported while engaging in dialogue.

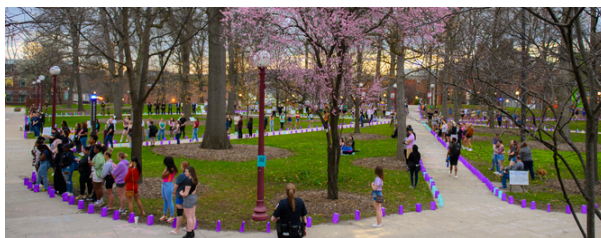
Collectively, these efforts empowered student leaders, strengthened campus culture, and reinforced IUP's commitment to prevention and belonging. The Haven Project advanced student well-being and campus culture during the 2025–2026 academic year through a highly effective peer-led prevention and education model. A core accomplishment was sustaining a robust team of peer educators, graduate students, and practicum students who designed and delivered programming focused on sexual violence prevention, bystander intervention, and sexual wellness. This student-centered approach fostered authentic engagement and strengthened IUP's commitment to creating a safe, supportive learning environment.

The team demonstrated notable resilience during a mid-year leadership transition, maintaining continuity in programming and mission delivery without disruption. Haven's programming reached students through workshops, trainings, and large-scale events, including Green Dot bystander intervention sessions and Take Back the Night, which drew more than 500 participants and provided meaningful opportunities for awareness, healing, and community connection.

A hallmark of the Haven Project is its commitment to inclusive, trauma-informed practices. Presentations incorporate content warnings and provide accessible on- and off-campus resources, ensuring students feel safe and supported while engaging in sensitive conversations.

These efforts strengthened campus engagement, empowered student leaders, and reinforced a culture of belonging, respect, and shared responsibility for preventing violence and supporting survivors.

500+
participants in Take
Back the Night



22
Green Dot trainings

Health Service

AAAHC-accredited healthcare provider delivering comprehensive clinical and preventive care.

Health Service advanced student health, access, and well-being during the 2025–2026 academic year by delivering high-quality, accredited care and expanding comprehensive medical services. As one of only six college health services in Pennsylvania accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), Health Service continues to uphold rigorous standards while supporting student success through accessible and reliable care.

Student engagement remained strong, with more than 5,700 visits spanning preventive care, illness and injury treatment, mental health support, and required health clearances. High-impact services included 492 TB tests, monthly STI screening clinics, flu vaccination initiatives, and 677 allergy injections, meeting diverse student health needs throughout the year. The department also addressed barriers to care through its transport program, providing over 1,000 rides to local medical providers, pharmacies, and hospitals.

Health Service strengthened student success through educational outreach, campus programming, and partnerships with key university and community stakeholders. Collaborative efforts with the Counseling Center, D2A2, Athletics, and external providers ensured coordinated physical and mental health support, while participation in initiatives such as LGBTQ+ suicide prevention research expanded the unit's impact.

These efforts enhanced student well-being, reduced barriers to care, and reinforced Health Service's essential role in promoting a healthy campus community.



When asked what could be done to improve the allergy clinic, students responded:

"Nothing!", "Absolutely nothing, it is amazing", "They do a great job, thank you!", "Nothing, I haven't had one issue, everything has been great", "Honestly, it's better than my allergy clinic back home"

Tara Higgins is an allergy clinic student and expressed her gratitude to Allergy Nurse, Sherry Vislosky, for the service.

492

Tuberculosis tests

1,052

transport rides

5,718

student visits

Marketing and Communications

Data-driven storytelling strengthens brand, engagement, and reputation.

The Office of Marketing and Communications (MarCom) strengthened institutional reputation, enrollment support, and engagement during the 2025–2026 academic year through an integrated, student-centered communications strategy. A major accomplishment was the launch of a comprehensive undergraduate and graduate marketing campaign in partnership with a new agency of record, aligning messaging across digital advertising, search, social media, and web platforms to better connect with prospective students and families.

The campaign generated more than 18.7 million impressions, while expanded in-house social media management significantly increased engagement, including growth in audience reach, video views, and overall interaction rates. Strategic storytelling efforts further elevated student and alumni voices through multimedia content, strengthening IUP's authentic narrative and institutional visibility.

MarCom also played a key role in supporting major institutional initiatives, including the College of Osteopathic Medicine launch and IUP's 150th anniversary, driving web traffic, event participation, and community engagement. Additionally, accessibility improvements and partnerships with nearly 140 campus units enhanced digital inclusion and user experience.

These efforts advanced enrollment, engagement, and reputation goals while demonstrating the impact of integrated marketing, authentic storytelling, and cross-campus collaboration.



18.7M

social media impressions

70%

engagement growth

9,000

files removed for
accessibility



"MarCom was an incredibly valuable part of my college experience, allowing me to develop strong skills in social media marketing, time management, organization, project management, and team collaboration. The experience and knowledge I gained helped me obtain a post-grad job in marketing, and I will forever be grateful for the team, opportunities, and professional growth that came from this role." -Skylar Stepien, BS '25, MBA '26, Marketing Coordinator at Aramark

Media Relations and Student Communications

Strengthens institutional visibility and supports crisis communication.

The Office of Media Relations and Student Communications

demonstrated strong institutional impact during the 2025–2026 academic year through expanded outreach, high-volume communication, and strategic storytelling. A total of 115 all-student emails were distributed across the year, delivering timely updates on campus operations, events, employment opportunities, and compliance mandates, helping ensure students remained informed and connected.

The office also strengthened engagement through digital platforms, including the Parent Portal, which produced 211 posts and more than 10,800 engagement interactions, reflecting sustained interest in student success content, campus updates, and institutional achievements. In addition, consistent newsletter distribution achieved strong open and click rates, demonstrating effective communication with families and stakeholders.

Media Relations significantly enhanced institutional visibility, generating hundreds of media placements and extensive audience reach through coordinated news releases and strategic media outreach. These efforts covered student achievements, academic programs, and major institutional initiatives, contributing to IUP's reputation and brand recognition.

Finally, the office played a critical leadership role in emergency communications, ensuring accurate, timely messaging during incidents and coordinating across platforms to support student safety and awareness.

Collectively, these initiatives advanced transparency, engagement, and institutional reputation while supporting student success and community trust.



Michelle Fryling received the 2026 University Senate Distinguished Staff Award for Service. Fryling has served the IUP community since 1992 as executive director of Media Relations and Communications, overseeing thousands of press releases, news stories, and internal communications. Her communications efforts have generated extensive local, national, and international media coverage. As a member of the Student Affairs senior leadership team, she also provides strategic communications counsel and leads emergency and community public information efforts.

23M+
audience reach

620+
media releases

115
all student emails

Military and Veterans Resource Center

MVRC serves as a critical retention, belonging, and transition hub for military-affiliated students at IUP

The **Military and Veterans Resource Center** (MVRC) advanced its role as a vital hub for military-affiliated students during the 2025–2026 academic year through strengthened programming, expanded partnerships, and enhanced student engagement. A key accomplishment was co-hosting the Veterans Day Dinner in collaboration with Theta Chi and ROTC, which elevated the visibility of the MVRC across campus and within the broader community while fostering meaningful connections among students, alumni, and military partners.

The MVRC also played an active role in planning and supporting Indiana County's first Veterans Expo and Stand Down, deepening relationships with regional veteran service providers and positioning the center as a trusted resource for both campus and community members. These efforts expanded access to services and reinforced the university's commitment to supporting military-connected populations.

Internally, the MVRC strengthened its operational capacity by recruiting and training student workers, creating opportunities for leadership development while improving office efficiency. Student employees contributed to both daily operations and long-term improvements, gaining transferable skills and professional experience.

These initiatives advanced student belonging, support, and success by removing barriers to engagement, amplifying student voice, and cultivating a connected, supportive environment for military-affiliated students at IUP.

IUP Earns Military Friendly Silver Status



IUP earned "Silver Status" in Military Friendly Magazine's 2026–27 rankings, securing its 11th consecutive Military Friendly designation. The award highlights the university's strong commitment to military-affiliated students, providing targeted support and career paths.

The silver distinction recognizes IUP's ongoing efforts to help veterans, service members, and their families succeed both in and out of the classroom.



Multicultural and LGBTQIA+ Student Support

Expanded identity-affirming programming.

The Office of Multicultural and LGBTQIA+ Student Support advanced inclusive engagement, student voice, and cultural affirmation during the 2025–2026 academic year through impactful programming and recognition initiatives. A key accomplishment was the implementation of *The Journey Continues...The Symposium*, which created a student-centered platform for dialogue on issues affecting women. Through student-led presentations and keynote insights, participants explored topics such as leadership, global education, and mental health while developing strategies to promote gender equity. The intentional use of inclusive language broadened participation, demonstrating how program design can remove barriers and enhance engagement across diverse student populations.

Other significant initiatives included Crimson Salute 2026, a longstanding tradition recognizing the achievements of multicultural graduates, and Lavender Graduation 2026, which marked its sixteenth year of celebrating the accomplishments of graduating students within the LGBTQIA+ community. These complementary recognition ceremonies provided opportunities to affirm students' identities, cultural backgrounds, and educational journeys. Within the context of a predominantly white institution, these celebrations fostered a greater sense of belonging, validation, and community while acknowledging the diverse experiences and contributions of graduating students.

Together, these efforts contributed to student persistence, engagement, and institutional reputation by centering lived experiences, promoting dialogue, and celebrating success. A key lesson learned was that intentional inclusivity and culturally affirming programming strengthen participation, deepen community connection, and create meaningful opportunities for learning and growth across the campus community.



“I appreciate that they include graduate women leaders in designing an academic conference.

The conference boosted my wellbeing and others as the female student leaders touched on topics concerning mental health, global education rights, leadership, community, burnout, and health disparities across women of color.”



Student Cooperative Association

Enhances co-curricular engagement and experiential learning.

The Student Cooperative Association (Co-op) significantly enhanced student engagement, access, and development during the 2025–2026 academic year through expanded programming, operational innovation, and experiential learning opportunities. A major accomplishment was the delivery of large-scale, accessible programming, with 12,800 student participants across free events and 1,704 programs hosted in the HUB, reinforcing its role as a central hub for connection, belonging, and co-curricular engagement.

Operational improvements further strengthened student support, including the implementation of the PNC Bank PayerExpress system, which modernized financial processes for student organizations, increased efficiency, and reduced administrative barriers. Additional cost-saving initiatives generated more than \$543,000 in savings, directly enhancing affordability for students and campus partners.

Student development remained a core priority, with more than 130 student employees gaining hands-on experience in leadership, program management, and financial operations. Complemented by robust Campus Recreation and co-curricular initiatives, these opportunities promoted career readiness while fostering health, well-being, and community connection.

Collectively, these efforts advanced institutional goals related to engagement, belonging, and affordability, while reinforcing IUP's commitment to providing a highly student-centered campus experience.

"One of the highlights of the Student Co-Op is how it provides students with opportunities for leadership and skill development while also contributing to positive change at IUP. Through my tenure as Editor-in-Chief of *The Penn*, I was given the opportunity to collaborate and interact with university leadership, cover important campus issues, highlight major campus events, and provide reliable news coverage to the IUP and Indiana communities. The Co-op continuously provides students with opportunities to shape their college experience, which I believe helps students feel better connected to their campus."

- Cleia Stern

12,800

Student participants in
Co-Op programs

1,704

HUB events

765

Group fitness classes

\$96,000

Saved by students
through book rental
program



Student Inclusion

Student-centered programs, innovative digital engagement, collaborative partnerships, and equity-focused leadership

The Office of Student Inclusion experienced a year of significant growth, innovation, and student-centered transformation during 2025–2026, advancing inclusion and student success through intentional co-creation, targeted support, and strategic partnerships. Key programs—including the Promising Scholars Program, Crimson Scholars Circle, and Peer Educators and Engagement Coordinators—played a central role in fostering belonging, leadership, and academic persistence among students from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

A major accomplishment was the expansion of digital engagement strategies, including the launch of a dedicated Promising Scholars Program Instagram account and the development of a commuter-focused website created in collaboration with non-residential students. These initiatives enhanced early connection, reduced access barriers, and elevated student voice by centering lived experiences in program design.

The department further strengthened its co-creation model by expanding student leadership roles across programming, social media storytelling, and assessment, ensuring that students were actively shaping their own experiences. Planning efforts also increased cross-divisional collaboration, particularly through the transition of Family Weekend into a shared departmental initiative.

The office's commitment to equity-centered practice and scholarship was recognized through a research award, reinforcing its impact on institutional reputation and its continued leadership in advancing inclusive excellence.



Student Voices

“I was searching for an environment in which I can connect with people from a variety of different backgrounds and life experiences. Being a part of PEEC has provided me the opportunity to speak with and engage with a lot of different individuals and allowed me to collaborate with them. What PEEC provides to the students here at IUP is irreplaceable and am excited to become more involved in the following years!”

“My work and time with PSP as a mentor has been great! My leadership skills sharpened professionally. I got better at learning to email my mentees. The work has helped me sharpen my intellect when it comes to working with a group of people from all different walks of life, and how to easily adapt to make things work. PSP has helped me to manage my workload and school load all under one clock. I've appreciated my time thus far and can't wait to see what's in store next!”

Student Leadership

Expanded leadership programming and civic engagement.

The Office of Student Leadership advanced student engagement, leadership development, and institutional visibility during the 2025–2026 academic year through targeted outreach, strategic partnerships, and expanded student-centered programming. A major accomplishment was the significant increase in event participation, with IUP Day reaching 1,201 attendees—the highest since fall 2022—driven by coordinated promotion through Student Connectors and multi-channel communication strategies including social media, tabling, and campus outreach.

Leadership development efforts were strengthened through expanded visibility initiatives, including presentations in first-year courses, leadership classes, and fraternity and sorority life programs. These efforts aligned with Crimson Core and National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) competencies while contributing to increased recognition of student achievement, as evidenced by a rise in Leadership Awards nominations.

The office also enhanced civic engagement and institutional reputation through collaboration with the Student Government Association, contributing to increased student election participation and generating media coverage that highlighted student service initiatives and community partnerships. Additionally, supporting students selected for the LeaderShape National Leadership Institute provided national-level recognition and leadership development opportunities.

These initiatives strengthened student belonging, leadership identity, and engagement while advancing institutional goals related to retention, visibility, and community connection.



“Working as a Student Connector within the Office of Student Leadership has been a transformational experience for me. I have had the opportunity to learn through hands-on planning how to create events that promote connections amongst the student body and was given the creative freedom to explore how to advertise these events in a more student-oriented approach. I have been challenged to grow as a leader through collaborative discussions with my peers within the Office of Student Leadership and have become a stronger leader as a result. The Office of Student Leadership has supported my growth as an individual and provided career development opportunities that I would not have thought possible.”

~ Liliana Myers

1,201

IUP Day
attendance



964%

Increase in
student
participation in
SGA elections



130

Requests for students
to meet with Student
Connectors

Student Wellness

The Office of Student Wellness (OSW) demonstrated resilience, growth, and innovation during the 2025–2026 academic year, successfully advancing student well-being despite significant leadership transition. Following the retirement of a long-standing leader and the onboarding of new leadership, the office maintained continuity in critical services while expanding its overall impact. A central accomplishment was the continued implementation of BASICS/CASICS intervention programming, which supports students with alcohol and drug policy violations by meeting them where they are and guiding them toward healthier behaviors. These efforts were strengthened by connections to Wellness Coaching, providing students with ongoing support to build sustainable habits that contribute to both academic success and long-term well-being.

Additionally, OSW secured and began managing multiple external grants, significantly increasing capacity for wellness education and prevention initiatives. Funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) enabled the expansion of Wellness Coaching, enhanced prevention programming, and the hiring of student workers to support these efforts.

These initiatives removed barriers to support, expanded access to resources, and positioned OSW to further enhance student well-being, engagement, and success across the IUP community.

\$170,600

Grant funding
received and
managed by OSW



Student Voices

"The program was very empowering and educational, it made me understand humanity better, and overall, this event taught me how to responsibly navigate recovery in all forms. It also taught me about tenacity and strength when faced with struggles in life."

"I appreciate that I could step away from my laptop and get involved in an activity that's actually fun. This event relaxed me, brought me joy, and gave me a chance to be with friends."

"The information about consent that was given may not be something that everyone knows about. The section about consent and how alcohol affects it, wasn't something that I really thought about before."

Technology

Major system upgrades and integrations improving efficiency.

The 2025–2026 academic year presented both significant challenges and valuable opportunities as the university transitioned from the on-premises Banner environment to the shared OneSIS platform and continued implementation of the Admissions Slate system. These initiatives required the redesign and migration of several student-facing processes while creating opportunities to enhance service delivery and improve the overall student experience.



As part of these system transitions, several functions previously managed through Banner Self-Service were moved to more specialized platforms. Mailbox assignment and tracking were migrated to StarRez, while Flex account additions were transitioned to Marketplace. These changes improved accessibility and convenience for students by placing services within systems they already use regularly. Additionally, the Marketplace implementation expanded functionality by allowing family members and supporters to add Flex funds directly to student accounts without requiring access to student login credentials, enhancing both usability and customer service.

Integration between StarRez and Slate was further strengthened through the development of automated daily data exports, enabling Admissions staff to identify students who had not yet completed housing applications and deliver targeted follow-up communications. In conjunction with these enhancements, data import processes between OneSIS and StarRez were refined and internal workflows were streamlined, significantly reducing the time required for new students to gain access to housing registration. Previously, students typically waited two business days between receiving their university account and becoming eligible to apply for housing. Through these process improvements, that timeframe was reduced to approximately one to two hours, accelerating student engagement and supporting enrollment objectives.

In preparation for the January 2027 end-of-support date for the cloud platform that manages Housing's current Bluetooth-enabled lock system, a cross-functional committee consisting of representatives from Housing, Information Technology, and Facilities Management was established and chaired to evaluate future electronic access solutions. Following a comprehensive review process, the committee identified a replacement based on functionality, reliability, and long-term sustainability. The hardware has since been received and is currently being configured within the university's access control system. Additionally, temporary proximity cards were purchased and are being programmed to support group access needs during the transition period.

Undergraduate Admissions

Strengthens enrollment pipeline through technology, programming, and student leadership.

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions demonstrated strong performance during the 2025–2026 recruitment cycle, achieving measurable growth across key enrollment indicators. Tuition deposits for new freshmen and transfer students increased significantly, alongside notable gains in high-demand academic programs such as Nursing and Medical Imaging. Application volume also rose, signaling sustained interest in the institution. Engagement initiatives further contributed to this momentum, with admitted student events seeing increased attendance and providing meaningful opportunities for students to connect with the campus community.

A central driver of this success has been the continued expansion and refinement of Slate, the institution’s customer relationship management system. Enhancements to communication workflows and the admitted student portal have streamlined the prospective student experience by clearly outlining next steps in the enrollment process. New features, such as two-way texting, have strengthened communication by meeting students through their preferred channels and encouraging timely completion of enrollment requirements.

Additionally, improved access to student engagement data has empowered admissions staff to deliver more responsive and personalized outreach. Ongoing professional development efforts, including participation in regional and national Slate training opportunities, reflect a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in recruitment practices, ensuring prospective students receive a clear, supportive, and engaging pathway to enrollment.



"I wanted to thank you for the exceptional experience you gave us. Your introduction to IUP was exactly right for us, engaging, thoughtful, and perfectly paced. Presenting so effectively to such a small group speaks volumes about your dedication and care. What stands out the most is the feeling IUP creates. There is a genuine warmth, authenticity, and sense of community that is hard to describe but immediately felt. Every person we encountered reflected that."

6.98%

Increase in deposits

13.4%

Increase in Experience
IUP Day participants

"You guys do a great job,
and everything was
beautiful and
impressive."

4.45%

Increase in applications

9,300+

Visitors served