

## **WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY: A BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

William Paterson University is a public university with more than 10,000 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by five academic colleges: Arts and Communication, the Cotsakos College of Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Science and Health.

William Paterson was founded in 1855 as an institution dedicated to the professional preparation of teachers. The University moved from Paterson, New Jersey, to its current campus in suburban Wayne in 1951. The institution now provides courses of study in a wide range of undergraduate and graduate academic programs, including a number of programs leading to endorsement for teacher certification and other professional licensing qualifications, as well as two professional doctoral programs.

The University offers learning opportunities in its classrooms, laboratories, studios, and throughout the campus, as well as at various off-campus locations. William Paterson's faculty members provide a valuable blend of accomplished scholarship and practical, applied experience. Among the University's faculty are more than 40 Fulbright scholars and recipients of numerous other awards, grants, and fellowships. Students benefit from individualized attention from faculty mentors, small class sizes, and numerous research, internship, and clinical experiences.

Located on an approximately 370-acre hilly, wooded campus, the University offers the best of all worlds—bordering on High Mountain Park Preserve, nearly 1,200 acres of wetlands and woodlands, it is just three miles from the historic Great Falls in Paterson, yet just 20 miles from the rich cultural, artistic and commercial life of New York City.

The University's facilities provide students with a variety of opportunities for real-world experience, including TV and radio broadcast studios, sound engineering facilities, the Russ Berrie Professional Sales Laboratory, the Financial Learning Center, and the Nel Bolger, RN, Nursing Laboratory, among others. The Science Complex provides state-of-the-art classrooms and research facilities, allowing for enhanced opportunities for research collaboration among faculty and students. The University Commons, including the John Victor Machuga Student Center, is the hub of campus life. University Hall, a new academic building focused on programs in the health sciences, opened in 2016.

An active campus life includes residential housing for nearly 2,600 students. Social, cultural, and recreational activities include more than 115 campus clubs and organizations, and 13 intercollegiate sports teams. Cultural events take place throughout the year, featuring both William Paterson's own talent and renowned professional artists. Among the programs are concerts presenting jazz, classical, and contemporary music; theater productions; gallery exhibits; and the acclaimed Distinguished Lecturer Series, now in its 40th season.

### **ALMANAC OF HISTORICAL FACTS**

- 1855 Paterson City Normal School established.
- 1923 Became New Jersey State Normal School at Paterson.
- 1935 General education courses added to curriculum.
- 1937 Name changed to New Jersey State Teacher's College at Paterson.
- 1951 Moved to present location in Wayne.
- 1955 First graduate program offered.
- 1958 Name changed to Paterson State College; initial accreditation granted by Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1962 First student residence hall opened.
- 1966 Degree programs in fields other than education offered.
- 1967 Transformed into a liberal arts institution.
- 1971 Name changed to The William Paterson College of New Jersey.
- 1987 Awarded a \$4.3 million Governor's Challenge Grant for science and communication programs.
- 1997 Granted university status by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. Name changed to The William Paterson University of New Jersey.
- 1998 New Mission Statement adopted.
- 2005 University celebrated 150th anniversary.
- 2010 Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) offered.
- 2011 Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed the University's accreditation.
- 2012 Adoption of the William Paterson University Strategic Plan 2012-22, including revised mission and vision statements and a set of five core values.
- 2015 Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) offered.
- 2016 Periodic Program Review Report.
- 2018 Richard J. Helldobler, Ph.D, invested as the eighth president of William Paterson University.

Source: Public Relations  
12/4/2018