

## BC3, SRU add Homeland Security, Physical Education Teaching to agreements

December 15, 2016



(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College signed articulation agreements today with Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania that will enable BC3 students to seamlessly transfer credits toward Bachelor of Science degrees in Education in Health and Physical Education Teaching, and in Homeland Security - fields predicted to experience steady job growth in the next decade.

BC3 now has 21 program-to-program agreements with Slippery Rock University. Of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, only two - Butler and Delaware - are home to a community college and a State System of Higher Education institution.

"Butler County, or perhaps both institutions, might take for granted the excellent relationship that we've always had with Slippery Rock University," said Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3 president. Several years ago, he and Dr. Cheryl Norton, SRU president, "were even asked to present about this terrific collaboration that we have at a joint presidents' meeting at the state system offices. ... Community colleges are ultra-sensitive when it comes to this, however, we've always felt like an equal whenever we've worked with The Rock, and that has been absolutely across the board."

Norton praised Slippery Rock University's expanded collaboration with BC3.

"As the No. 1 community college in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it shows that when you are achieving excellence, people will come," Norton said, referencing BC3's ranking last December by Schools.com. "And people will come because they recognize that the opportunity

provided at BC3 and provided at Slippery Rock University will help them develop their career opportunities and support the workforce development in this area.”

### A short drive to an advanced degree

The convenience of pursuing a bachelor’s degree only 20 miles away will benefit BC3 students who attain an Associate in Science degree in Physical Education: Teacher Education or those who obtain an Associate of Applied Science degree in Homeland Security, said Bill Miller, BC3’s dean of humanities and social sciences who oversees the programs that have 20 students each.

“These are going to help both schools in enrollments, and there are going to be good promotional options,” Miller said. “There might be a lot of people in Butler County who don’t even know we have Homeland Security.”

BC3 created its 62-credit homeland security program in 2011 and expects its graduates to be able to identify the federal, state and local agencies involved in homeland security and summarize their roles and interactions, differentiate among types of terrorism, identify the major security problems linked to terrorism, and to be able to explain risk assessment principles in a real-world environment.

Fifty students are enrolled in Slippery Rock University’s Homeland Security bachelor’s degree program that debuted this fall, says Dr. Susan Lubinski, associate professor of criminology and security studies.

“After 9/11, we had the first generation of homeland security people learn on the job,” Lubinski said. “There wasn’t necessarily formal training in homeland security. So the degree is typically from an academic standpoint.”

### Survey: 400 homeland security jobs possible in Butler County

Butler County could see 400 new jobs in homeland security by 2025, according to Economic Modeling Specialists International. Average salaries nationwide range from \$43,000 for a property specialist to \$64,000 for a border patrol agent.

“The growth rate,” Lubinski said of the \$400 billion-a-year industry, “is tremendous.”

The transfer option to Slippery Rock, Miller said, “will be attractive for us to sell in that a student can come here for two years and get an associate degree or, if they want, they can go on and get a four-year degree.”

Seventy percent of BC3 students are enrolled in programs with the goal of transferring to a senior institution.

BC3 accounts for 45 percent of the 850 community college transfer students admitted to Slippery Rock University annually, said Dr. Amanda Yale, SRU's associate provost for enrollment services.

"BC3 is the largest feeder for Slippery Rock University for our transfer students," she said, adding that SRU is now devoting \$250,000 in scholarships to transfer students who have attained at least a 3.0 grade-point-average. More than 100 BC3 transfer students will receive a scholarship award from SRU.

"BC3 students are the ones who do reap a large, large percentage of that," she said.

The cost of tuition and fees for BC3 students pursuing up to 17 credits is \$2,393 for residents of Butler County and \$3,953 for residents of Pennsylvania's other 66 counties. The cost of tuition and fees for Pennsylvanians pursuing 17 credits at Slippery Rock University is \$4,956.

BC3 and Slippery Rock University "can be first-choice opportunities for education here in Western Pennsylvania," Norton said.

## Grads may fill dearth in teaching positions

As a result of the agreements, BC3 graduates can now pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in Health and Physical Education Teaching at Slippery Rock University. BC3 this year separated its 63-credit Associate in Science in Physical Education: Teacher Education program from the secondary education tract for marketing purposes, Miller said.

Students in BC3's program learn to teach K-12 students about the importance of physical activity and health by introducing children to fitness options and sports that can benefit them throughout their lives.

The state Department of Education reported this year that the number of instructional certificates issued in Pennsylvania has fallen from 21,294 in 2010-11 to 8,615 in 2014-15 – a decrease of 60 percent.

"And this bubble of a low number of people graduating and getting certified in all areas (of teaching) is really going to come to fruition here in terms of the shortages you will see shortly down the road here," said Dr. Keith Dils, dean of Slippery Rock University's College of Education. "That is what we are predicting. It's a good time to go into teaching for many different reasons, physical education especially."

Teaching jobs are available, said Dr. Kathy M. Wood, who attained a bachelor's degree in Physical Education at Slippery Rock University and is program coordinator for Health and Physical Education at BC3.

"Kids are saying there are jobs out there," she said. "And we know there are jobs out there."

Attending the articulation agreement signings from BC3 were Dr. Bruce Russell, interim vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Case Willoughby, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management; Stephen Shaffer, instructor in humanities and social sciences; Robert Morris, dean of admissions; Josh Novak, dean of student development; Kelly Flis, associate director of academic and career planning; and Neupauer, Miller and Wood.

Attending the articulation agreement signings from Slippery Rock University were Dr. Philip Way, provost for vice president for academic and student affairs; Dr. Randy Nichols, professor in physical and health education; Jennifer Keller, interim dean, College of Liberal Arts; Betsy Stevens, associate director of admissions and transfer articulation; and Norton, Yale, Dils and Lubinski.

For more information about the articulation agreement between BC3 and Slippery Rock University, contact BC3 Admissions at 724-284-8501 or [admissions@bc3.edu](mailto:admissions@bc3.edu).