



CITY OF SCRANTON

340 North Washington Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503 | (570) 348-4101 | www.scrantonpa.gov

March 3, 2025

Office of the President

The Pennsylvania State University

201 Old Main

University Park, PA 16802

Dear Dr. Neeli Bendapudi,

We are writing to express our strong support for preserving Penn State Scranton's presence in our community. Penn State Scranton has long been part of our community, providing access to higher education and workforce development. The presence is important to the success of students, businesses, and our city.

At the start of the Fall 2024 Semester, Penn State enrolled 827 students. Of those 827 students, 85% of them were from Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties. 451 students live in Lackawanna County representing 54% of the student body. More than 45% of Penn State Scranton students are the first in their families to attend college. For many students who are first-generation college students, it is a privilege to be the first in their families to attend college but for many who chose to attend Penn State Scranton being so close to home an even greater privilege.

Penn State Scranton employs many people in our region, including more than 200 faculty and staff. The alumni network has over 17,000 individuals, reflecting their role in shaping young professionals in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Additionally, the annual tuition rate is one of the lowest in the region, providing an affordable pathway to higher education.

Beyond education, the University contributes to our local economy. Students, faculty, and staff support our small business, housing, and other services in Scranton and Dunmore. The loss of the campus would not only impact the students, faculty, and staff but would also impact the broader community.

Scranton loves Penn State, and the local campus is a point of pride. We strongly urge you and the Penn State leadership to consider the impacts of this campus closing before you come to any decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paige Gebhardt Cognetti".

Paige Gebhardt Cognetti, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Smurl".

Gerald Smurl, Council President



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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark McAndrew".

Mark McAndrew, Council Vice President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William King".

William King, Council Member

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Rothchild".

Jessica Rothchild, Council Member

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Schuster".

Tom Schuster, Council Member