

ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF CAMPUS LIFE

July 27, 2022

Dear Students,

I hope you are enjoying a fun and relaxing summer. There have been a number of exciting developments on campus that I'd like to share in preparation for your return to campus next month.

- At this time, we do not anticipate any restrictive COVID-19 guidelines or sanctions for Term I. However, all **residential and commuter students will be required to get a COVID test within five days prior to your return to campus**. The test results must be uploaded to the student health portal prior to your return, and home tests will not be accepted. More information will be shared with you in a few weeks, but please plan accordingly.
- The new chiller is installed in the Campus Center and the air conditioning is working properly (truth be told, I'm freezing in my office, but I won't complain)! A new chiller is being ordered for the Gannett-Tripp Library, but the process will take a while to complete.
- Our new Director of DEI, Larry Parker, has been working diligently to transform the Munnings IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Access) Center, formerly the Multicultural Center, into a comfortable space where students will enjoy spending time and gathering together. Many thanks go to Dr. Harold Munnings and Moneira Ferguson-Munnings '91 from Nassau, Bahamas for providing the resources needed for this project. Watch for future emails announcing a grand opening celebration!



- On October 20, the College will host a special guest speaker, Hala Taha. Ms. Taha is the host of the Young and Profiting Podcast, which is frequently ranked the #1 Educational Podcast across all apps. She is also the CEO of YAP Media, a podcast marketing agency, in addition to her former experience working at HOT97 Radio and her corporate marketing experience working for Disney. To learn more, click [here](#).
- The Towers parking lots have been redesigned and completely repaved! All handicapped parking spaces have been moved to the lot next to the building, which frees up more spaces in the lot. Parking next to the building consists of all reserved spaces now. The redesign added more than 20 spaces to the lot. The stairways (landings and stair treads) in Towers are also getting a makeover during the summer months! The parking lots at Harris/Watson Halls were also repaved, and the lots at the Murray Athletic Center were re-milled and repainted. The entire walkway at the MAC was also replaced. Below are some pictures of the Towers lots.



- During the student focus group sessions, it was mentioned that there were too many reserved parking spots around campus. I'm happy to let you know that we have eliminated 20 reserved spaces and actually created another 30 parking spaces across campus by redesigning the layout of the lots.
- In addition to our returning Community Coordinator, Grace Sullivan, who will be the Residence Life professional staff member overseeing Towers, Perry Hall, and Tompkins Hall, we are welcoming two new Community Coordinators. Sydney Coleman will be overseeing Meier Hall and Cottages. Sydney graduated in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) from Adelphi University, and has worked as a crisis counselor and outreach worker for New York Project Hope since 2021. Kaitlin Gandy will be the Community Coordinator for Anderson and Columbia Halls. Kaitlin graduated in May 2022 from Kalamazoo College with a bachelor's degree in Studio Art, and was a senior resident assistant during her senior year. We wish the best to our departing professional staff members, Molly Sullivan, Ashley Span, and Liberty Hager '20.
- A new residence hall guest policy requires that all overnight visitors must be pre-registered with the Office of Residence Life to create a safer environment in the residence halls. The new policy will be included in the updated Student Code of Conduct for 2022-2023 and will be posted on [MyEC](#) prior to the start of Term I.
- The Dining Hall will have a new station for Term I. "Inspired Eats" utilizes specific recipes that are completely free of gluten and all of the top eight allergens: dairy, egg, peanut, seafood, shellfish, soy, tree nuts, and wheat.
- Given that college is one of the most expensive investments in most people's lives, you now have the ability to **opt into** a tuition insurance plan through GradGuard. (Previously, you had to opt out of tuition insurance through Liberty Mutual.) The information for opting into the plan is listed on [MyEC](#). You cannot predict if you will need to withdraw or take a leave due to a health issue during the term. The EC refund policy only covers the first four weeks, so if you want to protect your investment for up to a 100% refund for the entire term, you are highly encouraged to opt into this plan. The deadline for opting in for Term I is Friday, August 26, 2022. To learn more, visit <https://gradguard.com/tuition/elmira>.

Students, you spoke, and we listened. Many of these changes are things that you said that you wanted through Pizza with the Veep and the focus groups this past year. There are so many positive things happening on campus, I want to keep you updated. Some things to look forward to soon are a renovated terrace-level lounge in Towers, a new fire pit gathering area in the center of campus, a new lounge in Watson, and the reopening of the student space in Harris Hall, which was formerly the Harris Café. The space in Harris Hall will have vending machines, high-top tables, a microwave, and a Keurig to provide an additional social space on the "academic" side of campus. Of course, we are working on some fun and engaging events and activities throughout Term I as well, including Welcome Week, Mountain Day, Family Weekend, Octagon Fair, Holiday Banquet, and Midnight Breakfast.

Although it is quiet on campus right now, especially since new student orientations are now over, it will soon be full of activity. I hope you will join me in welcoming the Ascendant Class of 2026 to the EC campus next month. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I will be in touch soon with more information.

My best regards,
Liz

Dr. Elizabeth A. Lambert
She, Her, Hers / I am First Generation
Vice President of Campus Life
Dean of Students