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A WARM WELCOME



Siena Heights University students gather in Trinity Garden prior to commencement on May 6, 2023. PROVIDED BY LAURA HARVEY/SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

Ohio school offers credit transfer for displaced Siena Heights students

Corey J. Murray The Daily Telegram | USA TODAY NETWORK

Students enrolled at Siena Heights University in Adrian must determine the future of their post-secondary education in the wake of the school's announcement that classes will end following the upcoming academic year.

Ashland University, an Ohio-based school located halfway between Cleveland and Columbus, has announced it'll provide a full transfer of credits for students in good academic standing, according to a statement issued July 9. The school will also offer financial aid assistance and transfer support.

"We empathize with the challenging situation Siena Heights students find themselves in, and would happily welcome them to Ashland," AU President Jon Parrish Peede wrote in the statement. "As an institution in a similar geographic setting, with many comparable academic programs and an emphasis on Christian values, we feel the transition from Siena Heights to Ashland would be a smooth one."

Siena Heights students interested in transferring to Ashland can visit ashland.edu/transfer-students.

SHU, a Catholic institution, was founded in 1919 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. University President

"We empathize with the challenging situation Siena Heights students find themselves in, and would happily welcome them to Ashland. As an institution in a similar geographic setting, with many comparable academic programs and an emphasis on Christian values, we feel the transition from Siena Heights to Ashland would be a smooth one."

President Jon Parrish Peede, Ashland University

Douglas Palmer announced the school would close in a letter June 30, citing "shifts in demographics, declining enrollment, and rising costs."

"For 105 years, Siena Heights University has been a beacon of light in a world sometimes cast in darkness," Palmer wrote. "The spirit of Siena Heights will continue long after the institution itself closes its doors because it lives in every graduate, faculty member, and staff person who has been on campus — whether in-person or online."

— Contact reporter Corey Murray at cmurray@lenconnect.com or follow him on X, formerly Twitter, at @cmurrayhdn.

As closure looms at SHU, Kesterke heads to Adrian College

Janis Reeser Reporter Assisted by AI The Daily Telegram | USA TODAY NETWORK

Dan Kesterke is the new director of bands at Adrian College.

Kesterke has served as director of bands at Siena Heights University since 2018, where he also chaired the music department. He led the marching band, concert band, pep band, percussion ensemble, brass ensemble and woodwind ensemble, according to an announcement from Adrian College.

Before joining Siena Heights, Kesterke served as band director for Adrian Public Schools from 2008 to 2018. He teaches courses like music theory fundamentals, music technology and advanced conducting.

Kesterke said he decided to take the position at Adrian College because he's lived in Lenawee County for 23 years and has deep roots in the area. His wife teaches at Adrian Public Schools, and his children attend school there.

"It gave me a reason to stay here," Kesterke said, referencing the impending closure of SHU. "If this is a good fit, it'll benefit everybody."

Kesterke plans to collect input from current band members as soon as possible.

"I'd like to hear what changes they'd like to see," he said. "It's about understanding who's here, assessing the condition of the instruments and facilities, creating a list of priorities, and working through it."

His position at Adrian College will be split between leading the bands and teaching classes.

"We're excited to add (Kesterke's) talent and specialized leadership to our talented music department and to begin a new era for the marching band at Adrian College," wrote Adrian College VP of Admissions and Student Affairs Frank in an announcement.

This story was created by Janis Reeser, jreeser@gannett.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.



Dan Kesterke is the new director of bands at Adrian College. PROVIDED BY MICKEY ALVARADO/ADRIAN COLLEGE

Another forecasting tool is scrapped

Dinah Voyles Pulver USA TODAY

The heart-wrenching July 4 flooding in Texas served as a stark reminder of the importance of accurate and timely weather forecasts.

As extreme rainfall events grow more intense, such tragedies are expected to increase. Further improvement to forecasts is critical, but meteorologists worry that with the additional cuts planned by the Trump administration, the nation's weather and climate research programs won't be able to keep up.

The latest blow was the announcement by the U.S.

Navy that it would no longer transmit data from aging satellites past June 30, roughly 15 months earlier than expected. Later, the department extended the deadline to July 31.

Without those satellite images, hurricane forecast accuracy could be compromised, say current and former scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Polar researchers, who use the images to measure the extent of sea ice, hope to acquire the same data through a Japanese government satellite instead.

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