

CLARION



2024 FALL COMMENCEMENT PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY Celebrating Graduates

MARWICK BOYD FINE ARTS CENTER
Saturday, December 14 • 10 a.m.

Dear graduates, families and friends,

Welcome to the Fall 2024 Commencement at Pennsylvania Western University – Clarion. Today, we gather to celebrate a truly remarkable milestone for each of you.

Graduates, this is your moment. Through hard work, resilience and an unyielding commitment to your goals, you've not only conquered academic challenges but also paved the way for a future filled with promise and possibility. We honor your journey and the countless hours of effort that brought you here.

As you prepare to cross this stage, know that you're stepping into a proud legacy. You now join a network of 203,000 PennWest alumni – trailblazers, innovators, and leaders making a difference around the globe. Together, you represent the spirit of perseverance and the boundless potential of this community.

Your time at PennWest has not only prepared you for success in your chosen fields but also for making meaningful contributions to the world around you. Wherever life takes you next, know that you carry the power of this university and its values with you.

Congratulations, Class of 2024! We are incredibly proud of you. As Golden Eagles now and forever, this will always be your home.

Sincerely,



Jon Anderson, Ph.D.

President

Pennsylvania Western University



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Pennsylvania Western University

MISSION

Through innovation, academic excellence, and empowering environments, Pennsylvania Western University provides accessible education that cultivates career-ready, life-long learners and leaders, who enrich and engage each other, their communities, the region, and beyond.

VISION

Pennsylvania Western University empowers students to achieve meaningful goals through a broad array of nationally accredited undergraduate and graduate programs, career-focused learning, and support systems to foster lifelong success.

2024 FALL COMMENCEMENT

PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Saturday, December 14 • 10 a.m.

PROCESSIONAL* “ <i>Pomp and Circumstance</i> ,” March No. 1 Edward Elgar “ <i>Procession of the Nobles</i> ” Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov	Ellen A. Foster, Ph.D. <i>Retired Faculty</i> <i>Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages</i> <i>Bearer of the Mace</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS* “ <i>THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER</i> ”* Francis Scott Key	Pennsylvania Western University – Slippery Rock Army ROTC Gianna Rylee Battaglia <i>Pennsylvania Western University – Clarion vocalist</i>
CONVOCATION / INTRODUCTION OF THE PLATFORM PARTY GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS	Craig Coleman, M.A. <i>Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Services</i> Neil Weaver, (Clarion 2000) <i>Vice Chair, University Success Committee</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT REMARKS TO THE GRADUATES <i>Trustee Greeting</i> <i>Student Speaker</i>	Jon Anderson, Ph.D. <i>President, Pennsylvania Western University</i> Kathy L. Pape, Esq., (Edinboro 1975) <i>Chair, Pennsylvania Western University Council of Trustees</i> Rachel Kister <i>Bachelor of Science, Communication</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES	Jesse Haight, D.Ed. <i>Professor and Assistant Chair, Department of Education</i> Paul Woodburne, Ph.D. <i>Professor, Department of Business, Economics and Communication</i> Juanice Vega, M.B.A. <i>Associate Dean, College of Science, Technology and Business</i>
CONFERRING OF DEGREES ALUMNI GREETING	Jon Anderson, Ph.D. Samantha (Noblit) Thauvette, (Clarion 2009) <i>President-elect, Clarion Alumni Association</i>
SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ALMA MATER* “RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS” RECESSIONAL* “ <i>Crown Imperial</i> ” William Walton	Craig Coleman, M.A. Gianna Rylee Battaglia Pennsylvania Western University – Slippery Rock Army ROTC Ellen A. Foster, Ph.D.

*Audience Stands



JON ANDERSON, PH.D.
President, Pennsylvania Western University

Dr. Jon Anderson began his term as the second president of Pennsylvania Western University on July 1, 2024, leading the institution into an exciting era of growth and innovation. As the second-largest public university in western Pennsylvania, PennWest serves 10,834 students and boasts a proud network of 203,000 alumni across its campuses.

A growth-oriented and collaborative academic leader, Anderson brings extensive experience in multi-campus leadership, prioritizing student success, streamlining budgets, optimizing enrollment, and fostering shared cultures. Before joining PennWest, he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Southern Utah University, a regional institution with more than 15,000 students. His career also includes leadership roles at Middle Georgia State University and the University of West Georgia, where he advanced academic initiatives and institutional success.

Under Anderson's leadership, PennWest has already achieved remarkable milestones, including an increase in retention, a 9.5% increase in online enrollment, and a 9.4% rise in new graduate enrollment during the fall 2024 semester. The university also secured a \$3.2 million gift for early childhood education and launched the PennWest Center for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging

Technologies, positioning itself at the forefront of innovation and community engagement.

An advocate for connection and dialogue, Anderson hosts The Power of PennWest podcast, where he engages with students, faculty, alumni, and staff to share stories and insights that shape the university.

Anderson holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Kentucky, a master's degree in Business Education from the University of West Georgia, a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Utah State University, and an associate's degree from Ricks College. Recognized as one of Pennsylvania's most influential leaders in City & State's 2024 PA Fifty Over 50, he is committed to empowering students and advancing PennWest's mission to serve its communities.

Residing in Clarion with his wife, Kristy, and their son Bryce, Dr. Anderson also spends time on the California and Edinboro campuses, embodying his hands-on leadership style. The Andersons are proud parents of seven children and grandparents to seven granddaughters.

Anderson was officially inaugurated on December 6, 2024, marking a new chapter in PennWest's legacy of transformation and excellence.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

Medallions, or chains of office, have served for centuries to commemorate special events or to recognize meritorious service or conduct. Chains of office are worn by a university president on ceremonial occasions as part of the regalia. The chains can be made of bronze, sterling silver or gold plate, and are usually anchored by a large medallion.

The University Seal forms the centerpiece medallion of the ceremonial chain that is worn by the president of Pennsylvania Western University.

The medallion pictured here was graciously given to University President Jonathan R. Anderson by the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University Foundation, Inc., and Edinboro University Foundation at President Anderson's inauguration on December 6, 2024.



THE CEREMONIAL MACE

PennWest Clarion's current mace, introduced in 1997, was designed and created by Ms. Kaersten Colvin-Woodruff, associate professor of art.

The shaft of the mace was crafted by university maintenance staff member Terry Byerly, while the production of ceramic molds for its head and its casting were done by Franklin Bronze of Franklin, Pa. The position of mace bearer is one of honor given to a senior member of the faculty.

Fashioned after Byzantine architecture, a style represented in some of the earliest institutions of learning, the head structure of the mace consists of three cupped units, each one raised slightly above the other. Each unit is made from a highly polished yellow brass alloy and is molded from various thin, randomly positioned brass leaves.

The individual brass leaves, which replicate leaves gathered on campus, symbolize the intellectual and cultural diversity of the university community, as well as the physical beauty of its campuses. The university's seal is embedded in the upper cupped unit.

The shaft of the mace is made of black cherry hardwood, which is native to western Pennsylvania. It, too, is finished with a brass ornament, creating a chromatically balanced piece.

The university mace is permanently displayed in Carlson Library.



ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The academic attire worn at university ceremonies today in the United States dates back in its essential features to the Middle Ages. The oldest universities of northern Europe, such as Paris and Oxford, grew out of church schools. Students and faculty wore clerical garb, largely borrowed from the monastic dress of their day.

The head-covering of the academic costume developed out of the skull cap worn by the clergy in cold weather. In the universities, this skull cap acquired a point on top that gradually evolved into a tassel. In this country, it has been replaced by the familiar mortarboard, which still retains the medieval tassel.

The hood originally was worn over the head and otherwise dropped onto the shoulders, like a cowl. Today, each college has its distinctive colored hood-lining by which its graduates may be recognized.

GOWNS

Although the gown is more frequently black, certain universities have authorized the use of colored gowns. The bachelor's and master's gowns are fashioned from black serge. The yoke for the bachelor's gown is designed to be worn closed and features long, flowing and pointed sleeves. The master's gown is designed to be worn open or closed. Its sleeves are very long with square ends, and the front part has an arc cut away. The arms protrude through a slit at the elbow. The gown for the doctorate has bell-shaped sleeves, with velvet facing down the front and on three bars across the sleeves. The facing and crossbars of velvet may be of the color distinctive of the field to which the degree pertains.

HOODS

The hood is usually worn only for the master's and the doctorate. The doctor's hood is longer than the master's hood and has distinguishing panels. The college or university granting the degree is indicated by the color of the hood lining. The velvet trim of the hood indicates the field in which the degree was granted; those colors are listed on the next page.

CAPS

The standard cap is the mortarboard, usually the color of the gown. The tassel is black for the baccalaureate and master's degree and is worn over the left front quarter of the cap. The doctoral cap is indicated by a tassel of gold thread. Undergraduates wear the tassel on the right side of the cap until the moment the degree is conferred.

COLORS DISTINCTIVE OF THE DISCIPLINES AND PROFESSIONS

Only a single degree from a single institution should ever be indicated by a single garment. For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctors' gowns, edgings of hoods, and tassels of caps, the colors associated with the different subjects are as follows:

Agriculture – <i>Maize</i>	Fine Arts – <i>Brown</i>	Philosophy – <i>Dark Blue</i>
Architecture/Planning – <i>Blue</i>	Foreign Affairs – <i>Aquamarine</i>	Physical Education – <i>Sage Green</i>
Arts, Letters, and Humanities – <i>White</i>	Forestry – <i>Russet</i>	Psychology – <i>Antique Gold</i>
Business – <i>Drab</i>	Journalism – <i>Crimson</i>	Public Administration – <i>Peacock Blue</i>
Criminal Justice – <i>Midnight Blue</i>	Law – <i>Purple</i>	Public Health – <i>Salmon Pink</i>
Chiropractic – <i>Silver</i>	Library Science – <i>Lemon</i>	Science – <i>Golden Yellow</i>
Dentistry – <i>Lilac</i>	Medicine – <i>Green</i>	Social Work/Social Science – <i>Citron</i>
Economics – <i>Copper</i>	Music – <i>Pink</i>	Theology – <i>Scarlet</i>
Education – <i>Light Blue</i>	Nursing – <i>Apricot</i>	Veterans – <i>Red, White and Blue</i>
Engineering – <i>Orange</i>	Oratory – <i>Silver Gray</i>	Veterinary Science – <i>Gray</i>
	Pharmacy – <i>Olive Green</i>	

HONORS DESIGNATIONS

Summa Cum Laude – <i>Gold Stoles</i>
Magna Cum Laude – <i>White Stoles</i>
Cum Laude – <i>Red Stoles</i>
Associate Degree with Distinction – <i>White Cords</i>
Pennsylvania Western University Honors Program – <i>Gold Medallions</i>

PHILANTHROPY RECOGNITION

Pennsylvania Western University Advancement recognizes students who demonstrate their generosity and commitment to their alma mater as they transition from student to engaged alumni. To earn this green and gold graduation cord, students must participate in their first alumni event by making a gift through the Clarion Gift Drive. The cord symbolizes the important role that our alumni serve in strengthening the university.

PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Tyler M. Derose

Brandon Eric Pierce

Lucas A. Santiago

HONORS

The following degree candidates have earned at least 30 credits as undergraduate students of Pennsylvania Western University and have attained the following cumulative averages: summa cum laude, 3.8 to 4.0; magna cum laude, 3.6 to 3.79; and cum laude, 3.4 to 3.59. Associate degree candidates graduating With Distinction have earned at least 15 credits as undergraduate students of Pennsylvania Western University and have attained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.4.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Dustin James Barnett
 Luke N. Barnitz
 Sarah Elizabeth Canobbio
 JoAnne Twila Case
 Grace Riley Dalton
 Addison Mackenzie Etling
 Sabrina Elizabeth Hepler
 Tara Renee Hinderliter

Alyssa Grace Horner
 Rachel Kister
 Janelle Frances Krug
 Gabrielle Rae Kutchma
 Kaarin Lauber
 Breanna Marie Marconi
 Sarah Luella Meaders
 Brandon Eric Pierce

Brianna May Richard
 Julianna C. Schloder
 Olivia Joan Smith
 Sophia Christine Sobina
 Vanessa Nicole Priestersbach
 Morgan Taylor Warrick

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Jesse Costanzo
 Samantha A. Felder
 Kennedy N. Heeter
 Jozlyn Rae Karichner

Rebecca Morgan Lander
 Lindsey R. Meyer
 Breanna N. Roberts
 Lucas A. Santiago

Sarah Renee Tovar
 Joshua Richard Wollerton

CUM LAUDE

Trenton Ryan Bowersox
 Tyler M. Derose
 Michaela Lynne Hinkson
 Savannah Grace Houk

Anna Katherine Kamats
 Elaina B. Miller
 Mia Rossi
 Cheyenne Marie Shields

Hunter Verge
 Jonathan Allan Wheeler Jr.
 John Worthing

ASSOCIATE DEGREE WITH DISTINCTION

Kaylin Elizabeth Bradley
 Austin Chapman
 Isabella M. D'Amico
 Julia Lynn Dellicarri
 Megan Victoria Eich

Elizabeth Anne Huber
 Kimberly Marie Kramer
 Kate Elizabeth Ogin
 Janey Mae Rominski
 Karlee P. Shoemaker

Shirley Mae Switzer
 Madison Elizabeth Trout
 Brooklynn Lee Veronesi
 Ciarra Layne Yarger

DOCTORAL DEGREES

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Jeanette Katherine Slimmer
*Medical Emergencies Occurring in School: A
 Scenario-Based Training Program for School Staff*
 Dr. Pamela Karg

Maggie O'Hara Dempsey
*Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines: Does
 Education to Healthcare Providers in an
 Outpatient Office Setting Increase Number of
 Screenings?*
 Dr. Kathleen Morouse

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Sheena M. Smelko [^]
*The Effect Professional Development
 Opportunities for School Transportation
 Personnel has on Student Bus Misconduct
 Referrals at the Elementary Level*
 Dr. Mary A. Wolf

GRADUATE DEGREES

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Miranda Nikole Basham
 Zachary Michael Boyd
 Heather Marie Daubenspeck
 Matthew James Puchalski
 Nolan Daniel Songer

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Joshua Eugene Bridge
 William Maxwell Campbell IV [^]
 Marissa Elizabeth Cotelesse
 Caitlin Jane Draushak
 Robin Anne Fanelli
 Olivia Garrett
 Mya Louise Grubbs
 Rachel Ann Holz
 William F. Kelley Jr. [^]
 Madison Constance Porter
 Amber Nicole Stull
 Casey Swatsworth
 Tavie L. Zerbe

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Abigail Lynn Adamski
 Joshua Blotzer
 Maura Elizabeth Blusius
 Taylor Adrianna Boots
 Haley Boyles
 Nathaniel Joseph Datko
 Caitlin Jane Draushak
 Nicholas Elfvin
 Steven John LaFrance
 Jason Marcus Lookenbill
 Abigail Jo Messett
 Corina Rose Paszek
 Matthew Charles Prebula
 Shaun Patrick Reynolds
 Lauren Marie Sandy
 Alyson Paige Schroeder
 Skylar Paige Shank
 Aly Lyn Yasenka

[^] Students who completed degree requirements during Summer 2024.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LIBRARY SCIENCE

Charles Clarke Abraham
Margot Sophia Accettura
Olivia Paige Backenstoos
Vincent Gerard Behe
Jeffrey Vance Blanc
Lorilie Elaine Blose
Taylor Madeline Bolinder
Christopher Kenneth Scott Borroughs
Gabriella Ann Cassidy
Nicole Maree Coleman
Jeremiah Forman Hunter Doyle +
Kalpani Natasha Eud
Kelly Audre Feathers
Malorie Fink
Victoria Rose Freeny
Erika Davis Frenzel
Sara Nicole Gareca
Richard Karl Girkin
Tracy D. Glover
Casey Jacqueline Heckman
Rachael Kathryn Jasitt
Rebekah Lynn Keim
Alyssa K. Khan
Abby Michelle Kutz
Graysen Jewell MacGregor
Meagan Danielle Mariotti
Stacey Kathleen Mooney
Ashley Elaine Morrison +
Thomas R. Oaks Jr. +
Donna Noelle Padilla +
Amanda Pena
Joshua Thomas Redd
Jessica Rodriguez
Jordan Rothschild
Renu Urvashi Sagreiya J.D.
Lindsay Marie Sawka
Pauline Vanessa Sealey +
Laura Elizabeth Spencer +
Kathryn Jean Stager +
Heather Ann Tomlinson
Sami Jo Trout
Gabriele Ulmer
Ethan Lee Van Gorden
Sunni Alicia Walker
Amy Louise Weiler
Adriana Liliana Wolf
Ramona Villa Yerkes
Julie Anne Zaebst
Elizabeth Ann Zern

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Breanna Elizabeth Cairns
 Jaiden Marie Carson [^]
 Anna Craig
 Christina Louise Davison
 Marissa Nicole Gardner
 Samuel James Hellhake
 Marijana Raulic
 Lucas A. Santiago
 Amber Marie Saylor
 Pauline Elizabeth Shaffer
 Olivia Joan Smith

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Brendan Charlie Winkles

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Greta W. Aldrich
 Dustin James Barnett
 Luke N. Barnitz
 Abigail Grace Bilger
 Ashley Renee Boyles +
 Sarah Elizabeth Canobbio
 Makayla Ranae Church
 Tyler M. Deroose
 Joshua Matthew Dozier
 Addison Mackenzie Etling
 Kyle William Fuller
 Jocelyn M Gordon
 Joseph E. Gunn
 Michaela Lynne Hinkson
 Alyssa Grace Horner
 Savannah Grace Houk
 Larry H Hull Jr.
 Jozlyn Rae Karichner
 Rachel Kister
 Gabrielle Rae Kutchma
 Kaarin Lauber +
 Rachel Renee Malvey

Breanna Marie Marconi
 Terrell Andre McCarter
 Elaina B. Miller
 Kaitlyn Paul
 Trevell Anthony Lee Pickens
 Brandon Eric Pierce
 Katelyn Cain Rhoads
 Breanna N. Roberts
 Samantha Laurel Robinson
 Mia Rossi
 Zachary James Ryan
 Pauline Santangelo
 Olivia Jo Schill

Jessica Christine Schloder
 Cheyenne Marie Shields
 Lauryn Elizabeth Showers
 Thomas William Simpson
 Brittany Andrea Smith
 Sophia Christine Sobina
 Sarah Renee Tovar
 Morgan Taylor Warrick
 Jonathan Allan Wheeler Jr.
 Jazmynn M. Whitney
 Lindsay Charlene Wilson
 Joshua Richard Wollerton
 Emily C. Wurster I
 Madison Zwisle

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Jonkai Patlin Brown
 Kayla M Butterfuss
 JoAnne Twila Case
 Izaiah David
 Samantha Kaye Dubrawka
 Samantha A. Felder
 Jordan Fend
 Alex Robert Finch
 Matthew Hahn

[^] Students who completed degree requirements during Summer 2024.

+ Students who will complete degree requirements during Winter 2024.

Shane N. Kemper
 Mason Bernard Kepler
 Elle Marie McMahon
 Brian E. Smith
 Vanessa Nicole Spriestersbach

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Trenton Ryan Bowersox
 Taylor Marie Craigie
 Grace Riley Dalton
 Madison Noelle Day
 Madelyn Marie Dunlap
 Matthew L Hamilton
 Kennedy N. Heeter
 Sabrina Elizabeth Hepler
 Kendall A. Herron
 Tara Renee Hinderliter
 Casper Anakin Hinklie
 Shamyia Jean Johnson +
 Anna Katherine Kamats

Jessica Lee Kennedy
 Janelle Frances Krug
 Rebecca Morgan Lander
 Jasmine Briane McFall
 Lindsey R. Meyer
 Kylee Grace Miller
 Brianna May Richard
 Hailey Rumpf
 Julianna C. Schloder
 Daniel James Thorwart
 Hunter Verge
 John Worthing

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Angelina Marie Boleen
 Ethan Ray Davie
 Justin Edward Gorman Sr.
 Sarah Luella Meaders
 Journey Ritscher

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

Kaylin Elizabeth Bradley +
 Edie Marie Caltagarone
 Austin Chapman +
 Isabella M. D'Amico +
 Julia Lynn Dellicarri +
 Jessica Noel Devita
 Megan Victoria Eich
 Elizabeth Anne Huber
 Kimberly Marie Kramer +
 Aliviah Skhye Messinger +
 Ariana Murrell
 Kate Elizabeth Ogin +
 Camie Marie Reese

Maija B. Rembold
 Katelyn Cain Rhoads
 Janey Mae Rominski
 Karlee P. Shoemaker
 Shirley Mae Switzer +
 Natalie Rose Thompson +
 Daniel James Thorwart
 Madison Elizabeth Trout +
 Brooklynn Lee Veronesi +
 Felicia Grace White
 Jamie Nicole Wilson
 Giarra Layne Yarger
 Madison Zwisle

Appearance of a name in this program is presumptive evidence of graduation. However, the list of graduates included in the program is not intended to be used as an official indication of graduation. The official transcript, issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sealed and signed by the proper authorities, is conclusive testimony to the possession of a degree.

+ Students who will complete degree requirements during Winter 2024.

ALMA MATER

Oh Clarion, dear Clarion, Oh college on the hill
To all the joys of student life, Our hearts will ever thrill,
Your silent winding river, It haunts me still.

Oh Clarion, dear Clarion, We pledge our faith to you,
With everlasting love and loyalty, In everything we do,
To you dear alma mater, We'll ever be true.

Gladys Rich (1892-1972)

**PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE SYSTEM
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D.

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Abigail Hancox

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Designee for Gov. Josh Shapiro, Secretary, PA Policy
and Planning

Mark-handy Phanor

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Ali Sina Sharifi

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PENNSYLVANIA WESTERN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Jonathan R. Anderson, Ph.D.

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Neil R. Weaver (Clarion 2000)

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Mohamed Yamba

Sonia Yost, *Edinboro Student Trustee*

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Interim Associate Provost

Roger Wolbert, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Provost

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Associate Vice President and University Registrar

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University Library Director

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*Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences
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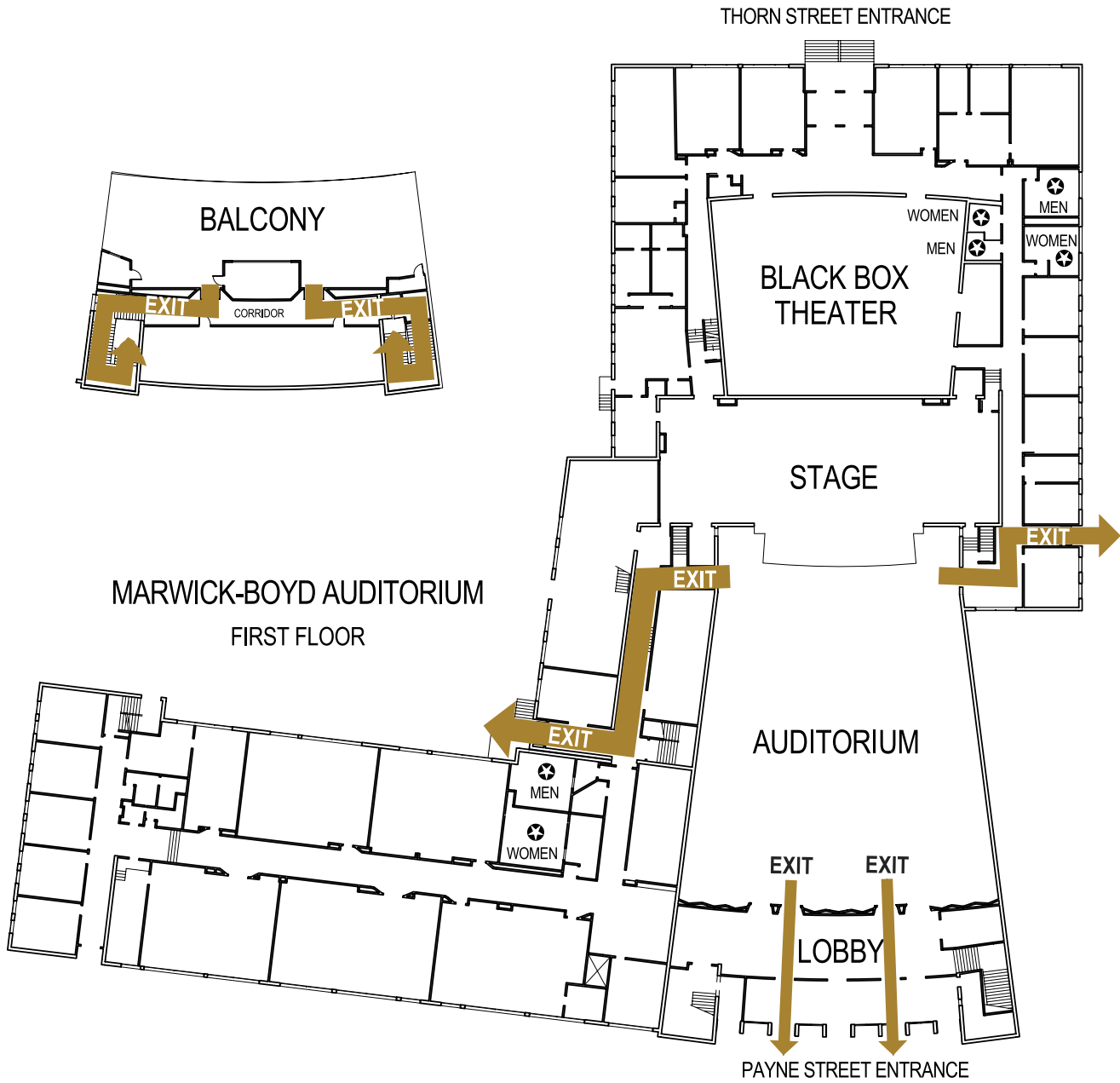
CLARION



Pennsylvania Western University is committed to providing equal access to all individuals and prohibiting any form of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, pregnancy, genetic information, disability, status as a veteran, or any other characteristic prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other pertinent state and federal laws and regulations.

Direct inquiries to the Title IX Coordinator, 423 Becht Hall Clarion Campus 16214-1232; email asalgiver@pennwest.edu or phone 814-393-2109. Inquiries may also be directed to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.

MARWICK BOYD FINE ARTS CENTER EMERGENCY EXITS MAP



PennWest CLARION

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