



Capability Statement

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania is a 4 year public institution and one of fourteen state universities that comprise the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). The university receives private, state and federal funding support.

Website: <http://www.cheyney.edu>
Accreditation: Middle States Commission on Higher Education
DUNS No: 10-380-2310 TPIN: 1998D273690 MPIN: 21230MES0 CAGE: 0MYD0
OPE ID: 331700 NAIC: 611310 SIC: 8221 FEIN: 23-2478688
Grants Point of Contact: Mae B. Stephens, Director, Title III and Grants Management
Academic Administration: Kizzy Morris, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Overview: Cheyney University was established on February 25, 1837, making it the first institution of higher learning for African Americans. The founding of Cheyney was made possible through the bequest of Richard Humphreys, who was born on a plantation in the West Indies. Humphrey had witnessed the struggles of African Americans competing unsuccessfully for jobs due to the influx of immigrants, became interested in their plight and charged thirteen fellow Quakers in his will to design an institution: “to instruct the descendants of the African Race in school learning, in various branches of the mechanic arts, trades and agriculture, in order to prepare and fit and qualify them to act as teachers...” At its founding, the University was named the African Institute. The name was changed several weeks later to the Institute for Colored Youth (ICY). In subsequent years, the University was renamed Cheyney Training School for Teachers (July 1914), Cheyney State Teacher’s College (1951), Cheyney State College (1959), and eventually Cheyney University of Pennsylvania (1983).

Cheyney has made a promise, an invitation and a call. Students here join the rich legacy and dynamic future of the nation’s first HBCU and one of its most prestigious members. Students here find their voice within a select community and develop the character, intellect and talent required to succeed. Students here discover how to leave their mark on the world by sharing an inherent sense of social responsibility and passion for excellence. Who can change “I wish” to “I can”? Cheyney can, because for over 180 years, Cheyney has!

Research Capabilities:

Biology

Dr. Adedoyin Adeyiga, Professor, Chair of Natural and Applied Sciences

Areas of Interest: Organic and Inorganic chemistry and physical chemistry.

Education: Ph.D., Inorganic Chemistry, Virginia Commonwealth. Email address: aadeyiga@cheyney.edu

Dr. Abedelaziz Bior, Professor Natural Sciences and Applied Sciences

Areas of Interest: Biology, biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics.

Education: Ph.D. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Oklahoma State University.
Email address: abior@cheyney.edu

Dr. Stephen Hughes, Professor, Natural and Applied Sciences

Areas of Interest: Animal nutrition, aquaculture, ichthyology, impact of water quality on fish growth, physiology and biomedical research. Education: Ph.D. Animal nutrition, Aquaculture, and Ichthyology, Cornell University. Email address: shughes@cheyney.edu.

Dr. Sakkar Eva, Professor Natural and Applied Sciences

Areas of Interest: Physics, effective teaching, astronomy, mathematics, climate science and physical science. Education: Ph.D. Physics, UCLA. Email address: seva@cheyney.edu

Dr. Nicole Santerre, Assistant Professor of Biology

Areas of Interest: Cell Biology, molecular biology, pharmacology, toxicology, drug discovery, pathology and cancer biology, signaling mechanisms required for cyclic GMP production, release and subsequent hepatoprotection in murine liver, subcellular signaling mechanisms that contribute to growth factor receptor-mediated induction of apoptosis in breast cancer. Education: Ph.D Pharmacology/Toxicology. Email address: nsanterre@cheyney.edu.

Dr. Fu Zhang, Professor Natural and Applied Sciences

Areas of Interest: Mathematics, computer science. Education: Ph. D. Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh. Email address: fzhang@cheyney.edu

Mathematics/Computer Science:

Dr. David Cooper, Assistant Professor, Natural and Applied Sciences

Areas of Interest: Emotional and cognitive models of human interaction, visual and auditory emotion recognition, sensor integration for computer awareness, biologically inspired computation, computational assistive technology, user modeling, transfer learning and machine learning. Education: Ph.D. Computer Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst Campus. Email address: dgcooper@cheyney.edu

Humanities (Fine Arts)

Associate Professor Marietta Dantonio Madsen, Chairperson, Humanities Department. Areas of Interest: Connection of spirituality, culture, and freedom in community healing arts projects, Indigenous Peoples and helping to restore and preserve their stories through art. Education: ABD Ed.D. Higher Education Leadership, Wilmington University. Email address: mdmadsen@cheyney.edu

Social Science

Dr. Virgilette H. Gaffin, Associate Professor, Chairperson Social and Behavioral Sciences. Area of Interest: Afrocentric paradigm as the foundation for examination of African and African American philosophical concepts for interdisciplinary studies. Education: Ph.D. African American Studies, Temple University. Email address: vgaffin@cheyney.edu

Education

Dr. Shelly Weeks Channel, Professor. Education Department. Areas of Interest: Teaching styles related to instructional model innovation. Other areas include millennials, empowerment/ resiliency of black males, and sociology of education. Education: Ph.D., Sociology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Email address: sweeks-channel@cheyney.edu

Facilities, Major and Specialized Instrumentation:

The university opened the doors to its State of The Art Science Center. The 40,000+ square foot, \$23 million project is the newest academic building constructed on Cheyney's campus in 30 years, and is home to Cheyney's greenhouse, chemistry, biology, physics and computer laboratories, and planetarium. The building's Green characteristics include a rain garden, a demonstration green roof, and utilizes an energy saving system for lighting! The flooring features linoleum tile and bamboo wainscoting. Cisterns collect rain water as part of the gray water function. 50% of the project's waste was recycled to minimize landfill waste. The building opened as LEED Silver Certified and is used as a tool to teach students sustainability, demonstrating Cheyney University's commitment to addressing the underrepresentation of minorities and women in the science, technology and mathematics fields.

Research Collaborations:

Howard University Pharmacology Project
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Greater Philadelphia Region with Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, Community College of Philadelphia, Lincoln University, University of Delaware, and Delaware State University
Brook Haven National Laboratory
Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium
West Chester University, Penn State University at Harrisburg and the University of Pennsylvania – Pharmacogenetics of Opioid Use Disorder
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture and Forest Services
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Partnerships:

Epcot Crenshaw
Starbucks Foundation
Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia
The Department of Defense, Fort Dietrich
Urban Farms LLC,
Robeson High School, Philadelphia
Octorara High School, Oxford
Saul High School, Philadelphia
Partnership for a Healthier America
CVS/American Cancer Society
Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems
Commonwealth Charter Academy, Harrisburg
Pennsylvania Department of Education