

Hello. My name is Dr. Penny Sanders and I am the new Assistant Vice-President for Graduate Studies at Adams State University. I recently had the pleasure to sit down with Dr. James Basker, President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Dr. Beverlee McClure, President of Adams State University, and various other representatives from both institutions to discuss our collaborative relationship, including some of the successes and challenges that students have experienced during the past year.

First, let me say that it is our honor to be able to partner with a creative and progressive institution such as the Gilder Lehrman Institute. We are excited about the innovative courses that have been developed and we look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship going forward. That said, since I am now the person in charge of graduate programs at ASU, I want to acknowledge that there have been some recent issues that have caused confusion and consternation for students.

The issues discussed during our recent meeting with the Gilder Lehrman Institute included confusion regarding the name of the degree, problems with the registration process, questions about tuition and accreditation. The ASU degree is a Master's of Arts in Humanities with an emphasis in U. S. History. However, the initial agreement Adams State made with GLI in 2014 was for a Master's in History. Because the degree was approved through the state of Colorado and the Higher Learning Commission as an M.A. in Humanities with an emphasis in U. S. History, the M.A. in History did not come into being. We are aware that this caused confusion. We have agreed to look into the process for approving an M.A. in History as per the requirements of the state of Colorado and HLC; and we will continue to confer with GLI regarding this process.

Many of the issues with the spring 2017 registration process were due to new system changes at Adams State. We have addressed these issues and will make every effort to provide better information and instructions for the process including what students need to do to get on a course waiting list, beginning with the summer 2017 term. Also, we want to confirm that there will be no tuition increase this year, and we will continue to work hard to keep tuition as low as possible, currently \$600. Additionally, we are preparing for our HLC accreditation visit that takes place in November. We are addressing the issues of the probation and feel very confident that our accreditation will be fully restored. In the very unlikely case that we lose our accreditation, ASU is obligated to support the transition of all students to another accredited institution, so current students can rest assured they will be fine either way.

Finally, I want to make sure you know about the online student resources available through the Center for Graduate Studies (soon to be the Graduate Student Support Center). Available resources include online workshops on a variety of topics, including Academic Writing/APA Format; Blackboard/Technology Proficiency; Library Research/Information Literacy, just to name a few. You can access this information on our website: <http://adams.edu/graduate-center/http://adams.edu/graduate-center/>

Our association with the Gilder Lehrman Institute and with you is a source of pride. Thus, I want to assure you that we are committed to providing the best educational experience possible to the students who attend Adams State University through this program. Should you have any questions or concerns going forward, please don't hesitate to contact me directly: 719-587-8413; or [pennysanders@adams.edu](mailto:pennysanders@adams.edu)