



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.