



For Immediate Release:
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Salus University Becoming a Smoke-Free Campus Starting June 1

Elkins Park, Pa. – Salus University President Michael H. Mittelman announced that starting June 1, all Salus campuses and facilities will become 100 percent smoke-free and prohibit the use of e-cigarettes. There are 11 other smoke-free campuses in Pennsylvania, only four of which prohibit the use of e-cigarettes.

"The health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff is the highest priority for Salus University," said Dr. Mittelman. "Smoking inside and within certain distances of our buildings has been prohibited for quite some time now. The University is taking the next step to extend the smoke-free policy to include all facilities, grounds and parking areas on all campuses."

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. According to the 2012 Surgeon General Report, 99 percent of smokers begin doing so by age 26, which makes eliminating tobacco use on college campuses crucial. Secondhand smokers are exposed to 7,000 toxic chemicals that cause heart disease, lung cancer and stroke. In a 2011 to 2012 study using National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data, 25.3 percent of nonsmokers had cotinine in their blood, which is a result of the body breaking down nicotine.

As a globally recognized academic medical center committed to improving the health and welfare of the public worldwide, Salus is making wellness a priority by eliminating cigarette use on campus—helping to reduce the amount of people exposed to secondhand smoke. To maintain a respectful environment, the University policy will be self-enforced and rely on compliance of faculty and staff rather than using on-campus police to enforce the policy.

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About Salus University:

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Public Health, Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Biomedicine and Occupational Therapy. The University has more than 1,100 students, including PhD candidates, and more than 10,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.