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Canisius College granted university status

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Joed Viera/Buffalo Business First

A view of Canisius College, which is now a university.

Canisius College is now Canisius University.

The school was granted university status Thursday from the New York State Education Department Board of Regents.

Canisius will make the transition over the summer along with the release of its first strategic plan as a university, according to a news release. The school also plans to rebrand in August.

“This achievement reflects the work of so many at Canisius to expand our academic programs and provide greater opportunities for students to access our transformative education,” Canisius President Steve Stoute said in the release. “We’re pleased that our name will more closely reflect how we view ourselves — as a comprehensive university with a breadth of excellent academic programs.”

It’s one of seven colleges in Western New York that has transitioned to universities since the state education department broadened its definition of a university in the beginning of 2022. In New York, a college must offer graduate programs registered in certain disciplines to receive university status.

The other schools that recently became universities are SUNY Buffalo State University, Houghton University, Medaille University, Daemen University, D’Youville University and SUNY Empire State College, which plans to change its name this year.

There are now 12 four-year universities in the region that offer graduate-level degrees or higher. Making the switch can impact an institution’s reputation, enrollment and revenue numbers.



Katie Anderson

Reporter - *Buffalo Business First*

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