As we all know within the next few weeks, the Pennsylvania General Assembly will adopt a budget for the 2012/13 fiscal year.

Funding for Clarion University and the 13 other Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is part of that budget.

We are competing with dozens of other programs and agencies for a limited amount of money.

Last year, in his initial budget, the governor recommended a 50 percent funding cut for Clarion University.

As a result of outreach by our students, their families, alumni and friends of Clarion University, the final budget contained an 18 percent cut or the restoration of almost $175 million dollars.

Working with the governor and the Assembly to more reasonably respond to the financial challenges of the commonwealth would not have happened without the help and support of the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Clarion University.

Current and future students of Clarion University continue to need the support of concerned alumni, friends and parents.

This year the governor has proposed a 20 percent reduction of state funding to Clarion University.

Again this year we ask to be fairly treated in that we understand the challenges to the
commonwealth and are working hard to make every dollar count.

Our faculty work very hard as dedicated teachers and researchers. Our staff work hard to provide the important services and programs which help student enter into and succeed at Clarion.

Every day Clarion University is the kind of place that provides transformative, lifelong learning opportunities through innovative, nationally recognized programs delivered in inclusive, student-centered environments.

To be sure the amount of state funding Clarion University receives directly impacts tuition rates.

We are proud to serve our students, their families and the commonwealth.

Go Eagles.

*The author is the president of Clarion University. Her column will appear on a periodic basis.*