

**Senate & House Urban Affairs Committees Hearing**  
***Future of Pennsylvania's Cities, Large and Small***  
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**Testimony of:**  
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I want to thank the Senate and House Urban Affairs Committees for this opportunity to contribute to the discussion on this most important topic of 'Future of Pennsylvania's Cities, Large and Small'. We at the University of Pittsburgh believe that our role within the Pittsburgh region has been, and continues to be, one of facilitating the advancement of the City of Pittsburgh in numerous ways. The contributions of the higher education and healthcare sectors, commonly referred to as *the Eds and Meds*, to the renaissance and economic revitalization of this region has been well documented and acclaimed. This is a role we have embraced, and have made advancement of the community an integral part of our mission of education, research, and service.

Last year, we celebrated the 225th anniversary of the founding of the University of Pittsburgh, in a log cabin on what was then the edge of the western frontier. The pioneering people of Pittsburgh in constructing a log cabin academy as a centerpiece of the community reaffirmed the key role that education always has played, both in individual pursuit of the American dream and in our collective progress.

The type of work done by the University of Pittsburgh and other research universities has become even more critical to the stability of their home communities as we move further into the innovation economy of the 21st century. Consider the conclusions advanced by the Congressionally-requested report prepared by a blue-ribbon commission recently released by the National Research Council (NRC). It is entitled *Research Universities and the Future of America*, and this is part of what it said:

America is driven by innovation – advances in ideas, products, and processes that create new industries and jobs, contribute to our nation's health and security, and support a high standard of living. In the past half century, innovation itself has been increasingly driven by educated people and the knowledge they produce. Our nation's primary source of both new knowledge and graduates with advanced skills continues to be our research universities." The report also refers to research universities as "a major national asset – perhaps even its most potent one." The University of Pittsburgh is one such asset.

Pitt's more recent accomplishments were recognized by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education in its recently released re-accreditation report. The Middle States team praised the University of Pittsburgh as a "world-class research university" with an "unwavering commitment to excellence." The team recognized the University's extensive efforts to maximize operating efficiency, cut internal budgets, and implement efficiency and productivity measures throughout the institution, and echoed the concerns raised by the National Research Council Report – citing the even more significant role that strong research universities will play in creating and maintaining great cities – and using the relationship between Pitt and the transformed Pittsburgh economy as a key example.

As the University moves forward to meet the challenges that lie ahead, we can be inspired by the example of our pioneering predecessors – who, in the midst of their struggle for survival, built an academy at the edge of the American wilderness, clearly understanding that education was the key to both individual advancement and to community strength. In the words of Hugh Henry Brackenridge, a distinguished member of the Pennsylvania Legislature and of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and our founder: "We well know the strength of a state greatly consists in the superior mental powers of the inhabitants . . ."

At Pitt, we have been fortunate to see the remarkable impact that a top research university can make – in the lives of its students, in the economic growth of its home region, and in the health and strength of the larger society. Pitt is playing a key role in the growth and development of some of our country's most hard-working, high-potential students – positioning them to lead the lives of impact that have come to characterize Pitt graduates. In addition, the University's faculty members, across a range of disciplines, are engaged in some of the most impressive research work being done anywhere in the world.

What this also means is that Pitt has become a global powerhouse of pioneering research. Last fiscal year the University's research expenditures had reached \$780 million. What that huge number means, in the comparative sense, became clear recently when the National Science Foundation released its annual listing of American universities by total federal science and engineering research and development support. Pitt was in

the top five – along with Johns Hopkins and the Universities of Washington, Michigan and Penn. The next five universities were Stanford, the University of California at San Diego, Columbia, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

The research dollars alone support, directly and indirectly, some 28,000 local jobs. And Pitt sits at the heart of what the U.S. Department of Labor calls the education and health services “super-sector” which now is responsible for more than one in every five jobs in the Greater Pittsburgh region. The University’s impact reaches beyond the region and is felt across the Commonwealth. Pitt employees and students are a driving force in the fiscal well-being of our region. Consider the following:

- \$1.74 billion in total University-related spending;
- \$1.3 billion in personal income from 33,800 Pitt-supported jobs;
- \$145.2 million paid to local governments, including sales, wage, and real estate taxes;
- \$5.6 billion in earnings by nearly 74,800 Pitt alumni residing in Allegheny County;
- \$687 million spent by faculty and staff for goods, services, and rental payments;
- \$587 million in income for 19,140 jobs created through spending by members of the University community;
- \$513 million paid to local businesses for University goods and services;
- \$389 million spent by students for goods, services, and rental payments;
- \$151.7 million in expenditures associated with people visiting Pitt;
- \$140.7 million average annual investment on construction, generating more than 1,300 jobs in construction and related industries;
- More than 13,500 employees on five campuses: Pittsburgh, Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville;
- 49 new U.S. patents in FY 2012, bringing Pitt’s 16-year patent total to 490. Since FY 2003, Pitt technologies have formed the basis of 53 start-up companies.

In addition to the economic impact of its research and operations, community engagement is integrated throughout the University. The University provides many vital functions for the community that cannot always be quantified in dollars and cents. Pitt’s professional schools, research centers, and other academic units’ faculty, students, and staff regularly engage with an array of community partners throughout the city and region

to advance economic development, community revitalization, medical research, and social change around timely and important issues. In addition, the Institute of Politics serves as an excellent public policy forum and catalyst forum for elected officials and regional stakeholders to consider policies and issues that impact this region.

Both the University itself and the people of Pitt add vibrancy to each of our home communities and provide a range of opportunities for educational, cultural, and recreational enrichment. At the same time, the University is fortunate to have maintained a welcoming and engaged home in each of its five campus communities—Pittsburgh, Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville.

The current state of the U.S. economy makes the economic relationship between institutions of higher education and their local communities most important, and by this measure, the latest edition of "Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partnerships" (2009) ranked Pitt the nation's top-ranked public "Best Neighbor" educational institution. When ranked with all institutions of higher education, public and private, Pitt was tied for second place in the survey with the University of Dayton; the University of Pennsylvania and USC were tied for first place in the survey. Pitt is the only public institution among these four universities.

To enhance the public-service component of the University's tripartite mission of teaching, research, and service, the University established the Office of Community and Governmental Relations, reporting to the Office of the Chancellor. The University has worked diligently to partner and lead through its community engagement led by the Chancellor, who plays key roles in serving on or heading regional task forces addressing such issues as workforce development, accessibility for those with disabilities, efficiency and effectiveness in the City of Pittsburgh-Allegheny County governments, the enhancement of public schools, and his active membership in the Allegheny Conference for Community Development.

University-community discussions through institutionalized forums have helped advance the practice and recognition of community outreach and service learning throughout the campus. Long-standing programs

connect students to the community and its resources, forming connections between student living and learning experiences and leading regional efforts to advance service learning and community engagement.

The University's professional schools, research centers, and other academic units, faculty, students, and staff regularly engage with an array of community partners in the city and region to advance economic development, community revitalization, medical research, and social change. Through these initiatives, the University provides tangible organizational, community, and economic development and partners in shaping regional policy and programs. Many academic disciplines and professional schools at Pitt provide experiential learning opportunities in which students apply their knowledge and skills in real-world settings that directly and indirectly benefit the city and region. Some examples are:

- School of Social Work, whose students serve more than 300,000 internship hours in local human service, nonprofit, and community-based organizations and agencies each year;
- The School of Engineering's Freshman Honors Seminar engages 100 students in two terms of service learning with community partners that apply their learning to community engineering issues;
- Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, through the Johnston Center for Responsible Leadership, uses graduate students as consultants to provide technical assistance to local nonprofits;
- The School of Medicine's focuses its Medical Services to Underserved Populations efforts in supporting multidisciplinary health teams of student interns at its federal, low-income Matilda Theiss Health Center and through its summer research service-learning internship program, Bridging the Gaps;
- School of Dental Medicine, which has long operated its Dental Clinic, where students work with faculty to provide free or low-cost dental care to residents of the surrounding community who may otherwise be unable to afford good dental care;
- School of Pharmacy, which has made community engagement a priority and where faculty and students conduct educational outreach at senior centers through a medication-awareness program.

In addition, the University sustains many special community or population specific service initiatives, including: a Community Outreach Partnership Center in place since 2000; The School of Education's Community Leisure Learn Program for child and family fitness and wellness; The Homewood Children's Village (a school-community collaboration), and a Veterans Tutoring Program) These are just a few of the many community engagement and service-learning initiatives through the University's schools and research centers that are making a positive impact on social policies and programs.

Recognition of this work has become part of the fabric of the institution. Annually the Chancellor presents Distinguished Public Service Awards to faculty and staff members who continue to model civic engagement through such activities as the United Way Day of Caring (recognized in 2012 by a proclamation by the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh), a campus Christmas dinner for the homeless and disadvantaged individuals and families, and a major Partnership for Food program conducted each spring for the regional food bank network, as well as many other regular service opportunities.

Service has also been given a greater recognition within faculty teaching and research activities that are taken into account in tenure and promotion decisions. The Provost's Innovations in Teaching awards have supported service-learning courses, and the Office of Experiential Learning and the Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education have provided service-learning and applied research opportunities for students and faculty.

Students provide a tremendous resource through the Student Volunteer Outreach (SVO), with more than 4,000 students engaged in service projects annually. In 2012, Pitt's Office of Student Affairs' Pitt Make a Difference Day (recognized in 2012 by a proclamation by the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh) with over 3,000 students volunteering on one day in service projects throughout Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

Community outreach and civic engagement have enabled the University in ways that benefit our city and our region. This has provided institutionalized avenues for disseminating knowledge and creating engaged scholarship through research service learning.

Leveraging the presence of institutions of higher education and healthcare to drive regional growth and development is a proven strategy that has been successful in many urban areas in the US, including here in this region. The University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie-Mellon in Pittsburgh, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and Case Western Reserve in Cleveland are among the most vibrant hubs of education, research, and innovation in the US, while UPMC in Pittsburgh, the Cleveland Clinic, Buffalo's Roswell Park, and Baltimore's Johns Hopkins are worldwide leaders in medicine. The economic and community impact of Pennsylvania's public related

research universities – University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University and Temple University – has been well documented. The University of Pittsburgh will continue to play a major role in the economic revitalization of the city of Pittsburgh and beyond, and will do so in part because of investments made in higher education by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

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