“This report provides a sampling of the initiatives that harness the University’s teaching and research to be of service to our broader community. Because we know there’s much more to be done, we offer these stories as inspiration and as a spark for new community conversations that plant the seeds of future collaborations.”

—Lina Dostilio, Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement
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—Lina Dostilio, Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement
Pitt aspires to be a university that strengthens our communities—from the Pitt community to our region and the world around us—by expanding engagements, supporting collaborations, and embracing a global perspective with the aim of fostering a culture of civic engagement in order to increase societal impact. Community engagement represents a foundational pillar of the University’s mission.

The University’s community activities are broad based and wide ranging, but they all share a common mission: This work brings together the best of education and research with the strengths, assets, and agendas of our communities to ensure that the benefits of this great university are enjoyed by all.

The University has strengthened its commitment to our communities with long-term investments in infrastructure, staff, and programs. Notably, this includes the inception of Community Engagement Centers. A new model for university-community collaborations nationally, these spaces within our surrounding neighborhoods are the catalyst for exciting new work.

The University’s community partnerships have led to many innovative efforts, a number of which were firsts in the nation. Every academic unit participates in community engagement activities, and many projects involve the collaboration of disciplines and fields from across our campus. Pitt students are a vital part of the University’s community projects and initiatives. Last year, in fact, Pitt students on the Pittsburgh campus contributed more than 460,000 hours of service to our city, the region, and the world.

The outcomes speak for themselves. New cases of AIDS in Allegheny County have declined 30 percent due in part to the AIDS Free Pittsburgh partnership. Ninety-five percent of those trained at the Manufacturing Assistance Center in Homewood have found meaningful work. Five hundred individuals, primarily low-income residents of Allegheny County, gained access to legal representation last year because of the School of Law’s legal clinics, and that’s only the beginning.

The collective impact of these activities is shared with the many partners responsible for these efforts, including community partners, student volunteers, and faculty researchers, as well as government officials and legislators who support and advocate for the necessary resources.

I hope that these highlights inspire you to join with the University of Pittsburgh in deepening your commitment to a bright future for all of our neighbors.

Kathy W. Humphrey
Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement
and Secretary of the Board of Trustees
The following programs are a small selection of the University’s many long-standing community partnerships, some of which extend back more than half a century.

1969
Community Leisure-Learn Program
Leisure-Learn offers facilities and programs designed to improve the health and physical well-being of local residents of all ages.

1970
Jazz Seminar and Concert
The first academic event of its kind in the United States, the seminar brings international artists to a jazz-rich city to lecture and perform with the audience with events held on campus and at the Elsie H. Hillman Auditorium at the Kaufman Center in the Hill District.

1986
Office of Child Development
This University-community partnership turns knowledge into action and responds creatively and collaboratively to challenges facing children in Pittsburgh and around the world.

1994
Forum for Western Pennsylvania School Superintendents
The forum’s twice-annual retreats—the first of their kind in the nation—promote creativity and imagination in the advocacy of children and youths.

1994
Birmingham Free Clinic
The School of Pharmacy established a partnership that led to the creation of the clinic. Clinicians from across the disciplines at Pitt provide a range of services on a volunteer basis to the uninsured.

1994
Alma Ilery Medical Center
The School of Pharmacy began a partnership to offer pharmacy services designed to address the medical needs of multicultural, predominantly low-income families regardless of their ability to pay. The Department of Family Medicine also provides women’s health services through the center.

2000
Nonprofit Clinic
Students of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs provide management consulting services to local charitable organizations. Over 100 professional-quality projects (valued at nearly $750,000) have been completed in the last ten years.

2001
Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC)
The Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and School of Social Work, with grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, worked with the Oakland and Hazelwood neighborhoods on community-led revitalization. COPC paved the way for today’s community engagement centers.

2001
Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
Launched by the School of Social Work in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators, the center is a national leader in advocating for an enhanced quality of life for Pennsylvania’s children, youths, and families.

2001
Family Medicine at the UPMC Matilda Theiss Health Center
The Department of Family Medicine provides health care for people of all ages, including the medically underserved and uninsured.
The University's support of community engagement activities includes significant long-term investments in University-wide initiatives, centers, and institutes and staff who are dedicated to these efforts. In the last fiscal year, the University spent $16.8 million on community engagement activities, which included support for civic engagement opportunities for students as well as funds that advance outstanding University-community partnerships.
Many people, offices, and programs make Pitt’s community engagement possible.

Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement

Director, Educational Outreach and Community Engagement, Swanson School of Engineering

Community Engagement Advisor, University Honors College

Community Leisure Learn Director, Healthy Lifestyle Institute

Associate Dean for Equity and Justice, School of Education

Associate Dean for Community Partnerships, School of Pharmacy

Executive Director for Internal and External Relations, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Associate Dean for Dental Public Health and Outreach, School of Dental Medicine

Associate Dean for Public Health and Outreach, School of Medicine

Pitt Bio Outreach

Office of Child Development

Clinical and Translational Science Institute Community PARTners Core

Center for Health Equity

Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs

University Center for Social and Urban Research

School of Law Clinics

Institute of Politics

Office of Community Partnerships, School of Nursing

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), College of General Studies

Community Leadership and Innovation in Practice Center, School of Pharmacy

Center for Urban Education

Pitt-Assisted Communities & Schools, School of Social Work

Pitt Global Programs

INVESTING NOW, Swanson School of Engineering

Community Research Advisory Board

Evaluation Institute for Public Health

Community Engaged Scholarship Forum

Wellness Pavilion Committee, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Bridging the Gaps—Pittsburgh
There are no borders or boundaries when it comes to learning from each other and using that knowledge to its fullest in addressing the challenges faced by our communities.

Find Pitt in your community by searching the interactive map at engagementmap.pitt.edu.
Pitt has 176 active international agreements with institutions in 45 countries. Pitt convenes bright minds to explore and address issues that improve life in the world’s local communities. By engaging in research, policies, partnerships, and the study of languages and cultures, the University opens the door to global citizenship for all.

The University Center for International Studies advances Pitt’s role as a global university through hundreds of programs and projects.

**Water Resources in Central Eurasia**
The Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies virtually connects students from Pitt and Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan to develop case studies of water problems and solutions in local communities.

**Health Care Delivery in India**
Pitt partners with Share India and MediCiti, an undergraduate medical college and hospital in Hyderabad, India, to improve medical training, health care delivery, and public health intervention in rural communities.

**Studying in the Amazon Rain Forest**
Pitt partners with the Andes and Amazon Field School, located along the Napo River in Ecuador, to develop student research opportunities in preserving biodiversity and developing sustainability of indigenous communities.

**Pitt to You in China**
The Asian Studies Center organizes an outreach program that sends Pitt undergraduate students to Beijing and Shanghai to meet incoming Chinese students in their own communities.

**Bridging the Past and the Future**
Pitt and Newcastle University in the United Kingdom are organizing a series of conferences on global universities as good neighbors in changing cities and communities.

**Pitt Global in K-12 Schools**
Pitt Global programs serve as a major resource for K-12 schools in effectively incorporating international content into curricula. Each year, Pitt Global programs reach more than 100,000 K-12 teachers and students.
Grins weren’t always plentiful for Amani and Ruth, two children who are part of Pittsburgh’s refugee and immigrant community. Imagine being driven out of your war-torn country as a child, living in a refugee camp for years, and waiting for clearances that will one day allow you to legally resettle in the United States with the promise of a better life. Except, when that day comes, the promise seems broken.

As Jenna Baron puts it, “You have to take a crash course in a new environment. You aren’t from here. You don’t speak English. You watch your parents—people who are incredibly courageous—getting lost downtown because they don’t know enough English to catch a bus.”

Baron is executive director of the Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education (ARYSE), a nonprofit she helped to develop after tutoring refugee children as an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh.

ARYSE’s goal is to help today’s refugee and immigrant children become “engaged, confident, and celebrated members of our community.” She accomplishes that, in part, through the twice-a-week after-school program for refugee and immigrant students of all ages.

“The after-school club is a safe and fun space for the boys and girls to receive homework help, tutoring, mentoring, and enrichment,” says Baron. In addition to the one-on-one support, the students take part in creative expression workshops and team-building activities. Another important part of ARYSE’s vision is its Pittsburgh Refugee Youth Summer Enrichment (PRYSE) Academy. Through engaging academic curricula, field trips, and soccer programming, PRYSE Academy helps the summer campers to develop literacy skills, build personal confidence, prepare for the school year, and deepen their sense of belonging. ARYSE’s programming now annually nurtures more than 100 youths who have come from Afghanistan, Brazil, Burma, Congo, Eritrea, Guatemala, Iraq, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, and Uzbekistan.

This story is adapted from an article in the fall 2019 edition of Pitt Magazine written by Cristina Rouvalis.
NEW FRONT DOORS

The new Community Engagement Centers (CECs) in Homewood and the Hill District serve as front doors to the University of Pittsburgh right in the heart of its surrounding neighborhoods. They activate broader and deeper interactions with community members.

The programs offered through the CECs cover health and wellness, career skills and training, educational opportunities, and arts and culture as well as programs for businesses and nonprofits. It’s a new model for community engagement nationally and one that is perfect for the University of Pittsburgh to lead. Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, who spoke at the opening of the CEC in Homewood, sees this as the beginning of a new era in which the University’s “core mission of teaching, learning, and doing service are as much a part of the community as they are of the campus.”

“We are a city of a neighborhoods. Let’s create an extension of the University right in the neighborhood and make that be a place where this interaction could happen so we have deeper and broader relationships in our communities.”

—Chancellor Patrick Gallagher
Office of Community and Governmental Relations

The University of Pittsburgh Office of Community and Governmental Relations (CGR) maintains relationships with all levels of government—federal, commonwealth, county, and city—while also leading Pitt’s community-facing work through collaboration, communication, and facilitation of University engagement with its broader communities. CGR is responsive, bringing neighborhood voices, policy awareness, and issue-based activity together by bridging internal and external stakeholders to forge new collaborations. As part of this effort, CGR leads Pitt’s Neighborhood Commitments, which are long-term commitments of investment, infrastructure, programming, and dedicated staff in the neighborhoods of Oakland as well as the Hill District and Homewood, in which Pitt’s Community Engagement Centers are located. These commitments are grounded in mutually beneficial relationships that support the neighborhood’s agenda while strengthening the University’s mission of teaching, research, and service.

Be a Good Neighbor Program

The University of Pittsburgh works closely with students, local residents, and community-based organizations to ensure that Pitt and its students are good neighbors within the communities closest to campus. The campaign educates students about the importance of being a good neighbor, helps to build relationships between local residents and students, and encourages responsible behavior by students on and off campus. Events and activities include an annual student guide, back-to-school block parties, tenant workshops, and neighbor-to-neighbor updates at monthly community meetings. As part of the Be a Good Neighbor program, Pitt involves faculty, staff, and students across the entire campus in significant days of service supporting community organizations and resident associations adjacent to campus.
These are the ways that the broader community guides the University’s work.

**Community Relations Committee of the University Senate**

This committee, which includes community organization representatives as pro tem members, is the primary shared governance body that provides a monthly University forum on campus community relations. This committee works on projects of common interest such as pedestrian safety, community engagement, environmental health, and accessibility for those with disabilities.

**Community Engagement Center Neighborhood Advisory Councils**

The Neighborhood Advisory Councils ensure that the CECs are mutually beneficial to the community and the University. They act as a consultative body to faculty, staff, and students who wish to engage in the neighborhood. They review and guide the program plans of each CEC. The Homewood Advisory Council is composed of more than 30 members; the Hill District Advisory Council has 25 members. Half of each council consists of residents, with the balance made up of community organization leaders, business owners, faith leaders, and elected officials. Each council meets monthly.

**Community Conversations**

Monthly forums provide opportunities for our closest neighbors to discuss matters of concern as residents who live in neighborhoods that share borders with the University.

**Community Research Advisory Board**

The Community Research Advisory Board was established in 2001 to advise researchers on how best to engage underrepresented groups in research and to foster collaborations that address health disparities.

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**A Principled Approach**

To set foundational expectations for the ways in which Pitt students, faculty, and staff would engage with the community through the CECs, School of Social Work Associate Professor Mary Ohmer and students in her community-based participatory research class partnered with each of the Neighborhood Advisory Councils to develop an interview project that identified the qualities of effective and respectful engagement in Homewood and the Hill District. The students interviewed numerous community residents and stakeholders. From the voices of our neighbors came guiding principles that faculty, staff, and students working at the CECs agree to uphold.

From their work has come a series of orientation materials that familiarize Pitt with the guiding principles and that help to prepare faculty, staff, and students for respectful and effective engagement.

“With our work on equitable development in Homewood, we’re forging a new model for coleading research with the community. I am working alongside Shannah Tharp-Gilliam from the Homewood Children’s Village, the coinvestigator on our grant, to engage youth and adult residents in the community-identified issue of neighborhood change and gentrification. We hired a community researcher from Homewood, Donnell Pearl, and formed a resident advisory board that guides our research for equity and power project. The outcomes of this work will include an equitable development playbook and a citizen training academy designed to help residents influence the future of the community.”

—Mary Ohmer
“A university is part of the community, and what we’re doing here today is reminding everybody in the community and in the University that we belong together working on the great challenges we face. Our mission, after all, as a university is to make the world better through knowledge and learning.”

— Chancellor Patrick Gallagher at the 2018 opening of the CEC in Homewood
PATHWAYS OF INVOLVEMENT
FOR THE CIVIC MINDED

The University provides students with many ways to nurture an interest in community engagement. Pathways are designed to enable students to connect with the kind of community engagement they find most meaningful.

Social Entrepreneurship and Corporate Responsibility
Policy and Governance
Philanthropy
Community-engaged Learning and Research
Direct Service
Community Organizing and Activism

These are just some examples of the opportunities for student civic engagement at Pitt. View the complete list at www.personaled.pitt.edu/civic-engagement-opportunities

Community Research Fellowship
Students pursue independent community-based research projects under the guidance of a faculty mentor and a community partner and participate in weekly seminars.

Elsie Hillman Honors Scholars Program
Undergraduate students develop a community-based civic project in collaboration with a community partner and participate in a biweekly seminar that provides project development guidance and guided reflection.

Browne Leadership Fellows Program
This interdisciplinary fellowship prepares students to be engaged civic leaders working for economic and social justice. Fellows are placed in one of four Pittsburgh-area communities with a community organization and engage in service and social change to build community capacity.

Community Assistants Program
Community assistants work on projects selected by community-based organizations in Homewood and the Hill District. The projects of community assistants enhance the capacity of the organizations while providing the students with real-world experience that matches their interests and educational goals.

Bridging the Gaps
Graduate students in medicine, public health, nursing, and pharmacy work in a paid full-time summer community health internship program and participate in a weekly seminar. Under the guidance of community and faculty mentors, interns design projects with tangible products that benefit their host organizations.

Office of PittServes
This office engages students in meaningful and ethical service to the community locally, nationally, and internationally within three focus areas: sustainability, education, and community development. Through PittServes, students participate in service learning trips ranging from weeklong service experiences in the Hill District and East Liberty neighborhoods to 10-day international alternative break trips.
Giving back is part of the culture of the Pitt Department of Athletics, and student-athletes bring their best game to diverse community events. Since 2017, all 19 teams have participated in at least one charitable event, assisting more than 80 community organizations in raising more than $221,000 for philanthropic causes. Community involvement spans clinics for children that cover the fundamentals of soccer and leadership, programs that build girls’ self-esteem, and events where the fighting spirit of the women’s basketball team uplifts those receiving chemotherapy at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.
460,000 HOURS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTED BY STUDENTS ON THE PITTSBURGH CAMPUS
TINY BOTS,  
BIG DIFFERENCE

Two first graders watch the tiny crawler that moves along brightly colored bands in the shape of a snake. Cedric Humphrey, a political science major at the University of Pittsburgh and a community assistant in Pittsburgh’s Hill District, uses the palm-sized bots for a logistical and technology skills lesson at the Center That CARES (Children/Adults Recreational and Educational Services).

Close-knit communities such as this one within a major city took Humphrey, who is a native of Harrisburg, Pa., by surprise. “Anyone is free to walk in. CARES is an open door for children in the community, and it empowers them. It surprised me that you could do that in a big city,” Humphrey says. While teaching the school-age children there, Humphrey says that he learned lessons he won’t soon forget as he pursues a career in law and public service. He adds, “Through this program, I think we’ve all been transformed into culturally aware, community-minded individuals, and that will stick with us for way longer after this program is over.”
Fifty of the University’s active National Science Foundation grants intentionally integrate broadening the participation of underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. This work takes on a variety of forms, ranging from connecting rural communities with the University and with science learning communities to involving students from high-need high schools in research experiences related to innovative assistive technologies for those with disabilities.

**University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR)**

The mission of UCSUR is to work collaboratively to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves communities and addresses social, economic, health, and policy issues most relevant to society.

**CTSI Community PARTners Core**

A program of the University’s Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), the Community PARTners Core supports nearly 200 ongoing member and organizational partnerships that encourage scientific findings that bring about better physical and mental health. These relationships bring people together to collaborate, foster public trust, and ultimately promote health equity.

**Center for Health Equity**

The Graduate School of Public Health and its Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences established the center, which aims to understand and reduce health disparities in underserved populations, particularly those in Western Pennsylvania. With the goal of lowering premature deaths in populations with health inequities, the center addresses issues that include infant mortality, community violence, and cardiovascular health.

**Partners for a Healthy Community**

A collaboration among the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the Healthy Lifestyle Institute, the community of Homewood, and other partners, Partners for a Healthy Community works to better understand the health needs of residents and determine how to improve their well-being and health.

**Just Discipline Project**

School of Social Work researchers, in collaboration with the Woodland Hills School District, reduced suspension rates by 28 percent and addressed racial inequity by creating a comprehensive and equitable approach to school climate and discipline.

**Pittsburgh Promise Research and Evaluation Project**

A collaboration that provides rigorous, ongoing analysis of the Pittsburgh Promise, the Learning Research and Development Center’s Pittsburgh Promise Research and Evaluation Project supports college access, K-12 educational reform, and regional workforce development and has produced significant scholarship on geographically based scholarship programs. The Pittsburgh Promise provides postsecondary scholarships to students who meet GPA, attendance, and residency requirements.

**Center for Interventions to Enhance Community Health (CiTECH)**

The first-of-its-kind collaboration between a school of social work and a department of psychiatry, CiTECH integrates research and practice through innovative community-based interventions that enhance the quality and length of life of individuals living with behavioral health conditions.
“We want to be sure that the new knowledge that is being generated is meaningful for everyone.”
—Elizabeth Miller, Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Community PARTners Core

imHealthy and Trauma-informed Community Development
A comprehensive health status evaluation system that includes a mobile app, the imHealthy program helps the Center for Neighborhood Resilience, formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh, to better serve the needs of trauma-affected communities. Created by the Department of Health Information Management in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the system allows the organization to manage, access, and analyze data related to quality of life and wellness, with the goal of helping those who have experienced trauma, are uninsured, or face multiple health challenges.
Alana G. participated in the six-week Positive Racial Identity Development in Early Education (P.R.I.D.E.) curriculum with her two sons, ages 5 and 7.
THE DRUMBEAT
OF COMMUNITY

A man in a black and gold Steelers T-shirt sways back and forth, tapping the djembe drum’s edge and breaking into a smile. A woman plays a quick beat before wrapping her arms around the drum, laughing gleefully. A toddler places his little hands on top of the drum, steadying himself. In this class, parents and their children are learning about the significance of drums to community life around the world, including the wooden djembe drum used in West African countries as a conduit for storytelling, celebration, and communication across a distance.

The lesson is part of the six-week Positive Racial Identity Development in Early Education, or P.R.I.D.E., curriculum developed by the School of Education’s Office of Childhood Development and offered in the Hill District, Homewood, and East Liberty. “It was so much fun because the kids really enjoyed it,” recalls Alana G., who participated in a similar lesson with her two boys ages 5 and 7.

“I think it opened their eyes a little more, helped to get them talking a little more about themselves and self-pride and embracing their color and being more confident.”
— Alana G.

The program is based on early childhood education research and a key finding that while teachers and parents are generally concerned about social equity, adults aren’t always sure how to address children’s race-related questions. Alana says that books and activities from P.R.I.D.E. have encouraged discussions at home with her two sons and her 7-year-old’s interest in learning about prominent Black leaders, including Marcus Garvey. “I think it opened their eyes a little more, helped to get them talking a little more about themselves and self-pride and embracing their color and being more confident.” The P.R.I.D.E. program also organizes some of the few pop-up mini art festivals in the nation focused on positive racial identity in Black youths during the summer and fall. One of the festival’s young attendees summed up her experience this way: “This festival makes me feel appreciated, and it makes me feel proud of who I am and where I come from.”
With a 95 percent job placement rate, Pitt’s Manufacturing Assistance Center (MAC) has connected thousands of people with meaningful careers through quality training.

**WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE**

Part of the Department of Industrial Engineering in the Swanson School of Engineering, MAC relocated to a state-of-the-art facility in Homewood in 2017. In addition to providing technical education, MAC operates a maker space for the community, offering programming for schools and small businesses. The MAC maker space encourages all ages to be creative through new and emerging technology.

**All In Pittsburgh Steering Committee**

The University is part of the leadership of All In Pittsburgh, which develops strategies for ensuring that new development and the benefits of the region’s economic transformation are experienced by all neighborhoods, including those that are home to communities of color.

**Community Power to Prosper Program**

The University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE) offers a six-month education program designed to address the needs and challenges of area small business owners in Pittsburgh’s urban communities. Last fiscal year, IEE, which provides networking, education, and consulting services, worked with more than 1,200 local businesses. Through the David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration students provide consulting services to Power to Prosper Program participants.
Construction Management Training Program
This program offers training and education for small business owners with a focus on minority- and veteran-owned companies, covering topics such as doing business with the University, Pennsylvania State University, and UPMC; working with construction managers; Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines; accounting; and project management.

Doing Business with Pitt Program
This program is designed to increase the volume of business the University does with local and minority-owned suppliers. Business owners are regularly invited to campus to understand Pitt’s overall purchasing process, learn how to qualify to become a potential supplier to the University, and create awareness of how to market and sell within the University community. Representatives from a variety of Pitt’s purchasing departments attend.

Innovation Practice Institute (IPI)
IPI is a cocurricular program that prepares law students to be and to serve innovators and entrepreneurs. Over the past six years, IPI has provided legal seminars and workshops to more than 700 law students and more than 1,400 innovators and entrepreneurs in the Pittsburgh region.

Institutional Investments in Community and Economic Development
Pitt’s investments in neighborhood development have financially supported an array of community and economic development initiatives, including by assisting the Oakland Community Land Trust, equipping the Jeron X. Grayson Community Center’s technology room, and launching the Oakland Business Improvement District.
QUALITY OF LIFE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

SERVING THE UNDERREPRESENTED

Pitt School of Law students and faculty represented more than 500 people during the 2017-18 academic year in Allegheny County and beyond through its seven in-house community clinics.

The clinics are dedicated to working with low-income individuals and have long-established partnerships within the legal community. In-house clinics handle many legal issues involving family law and custody, immigration, federal tax issues, health care, and the environment. The Black Law Students Association, in collaboration with the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, provides all-day, on-the-spot legal assistance in communities that lack access to representation. Named after the Pittsburgh native and civil rights lawyer and legal scholar, the Derrick Bell Community Legal Clinic is held annually at different locations. Pitt Law students and faculty also helped to establish a community land trust in the Hill District. By working with prospective entrepreneurs and residents to purchase properties for a share of the equity over time, the trust helps to address the lack of affordable housing in the Hill District. An affordable housing and inclusive zoning policy expert, Assistant Professor of Law Gerald Dickinson, is leading the project.
The abrupt disappearance of Pittsburgh’s steel mills—its core economic industry—in the early 1980s hit the region and communities, including Homewood, hard.

John Wallace Jr., who grew up in Homewood and joined the University of Pittsburgh as a professor of social work in 2004, responded by partnering with community leaders and leveraging the University’s faculty and student resources. These efforts became the Comm-Univer-City of Pittsburgh project, which integrates the School of Social Work’s research, service, and teaching missions into the investigations of social programs, with a particular focus on Homewood. This work led to the creation of the Homewood Children’s Village, a community organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families.

**Pitt Prison Education Project**

Pitt students take college classes alongside incarcerated students, providing a unique experiential learning environment that benefits both groups of students.

**Family Check-up**

This service promotes positive parenting strategies and child well-being for children and adolescents beginning at birth, especially for those families facing the challenging stressors associated with living in poverty.

**Violence Prevention Project**

This project provides training, data collection, and outreach efforts to community organizations and police departments across Pennsylvania.

**Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT)**

This effort brings together the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities to identify common public policy challenges and to advocate for collective change on behalf of Allegheny County’s urban core.

**P.R.I.D.E Parent Village**

This program offers a six-session curriculum designed to support parents in helping their children in the development of a positive racial identity.

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program**

In 2019, Pitt accounting students helped senior citizens and low-income residents in Oakland generate $100,000 in tax refunds while gaining valuable experience. The program, sponsored by the David Berg Center for Ethics and Leadership at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and College of Business Administration, is in collaboration with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.
The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy made a bold move during the 1990s. While most pharmacy schools across the nation focused faculty practices and curricula exclusively on patient care in hospital settings, Pitt Pharmacy adopted a groundbreaking community-directed model to address access to medications and associated care for the medically underserved, including uninsured, underinsured, and homeless individuals.

For 24 years, the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program for the underserved has provided pharmacy services through community-based clinics, reaching more than 9,000 people annually through the Birmingham Free Clinic, Northside Christian Health Center, and others. In addition, 250 senior citizens in the region benefit each year from comprehensive medication reviews through the SilverScripts program, which is a collaboration with the Pittsburgh Citiparks Senior Community Centers and other area senior centers. Recently, the school partnered with the Allegheny County Health Department and the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy to support immunization, opioid addiction prevention, and medication use education programs.
Student Community Outreach Program and Education
This project gives students at the School of Dental Medicine nondental and clinical community-based service experience.

Take a Health Professional to the People Day
This annual event brings health professionals from the University to locations throughout the city, including local barbershops, to provide free health screenings and resources.

Health Care for the Homeless
This project involves University students and faculty in providing pharmacy services to Pittsburgh’s homeless.

Birmingham Free Clinic
The School of Pharmacy established a partnership that led to the creation of this clinic. Clinicians from across the disciplines at Pitt provide a range of services to the uninsured on a volunteer basis.

30% Decline in the Number of New Diagnoses of AIDS Since the Launch of AIDS Free Pittsburgh, a Collaboration with the Goal of Declaring Allegheny County AIDS Free, with No New Cases of the Disease, by 2020

Family Medicine at the UPMC Matilda Theiss Health Center
The Department of Family Medicine provides health care for people of all ages, including the medically underserved and uninsured.
STRENGTHENING CULTURAL ARTS

GREAT MINDS, PUBLIC GOOD

Based on the belief that advanced study in the humanities has value well beyond the academy, the University’s Public Humanities Fellows Program involves PhD students at the Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences in the development of a wide range of community activities offered by cultural institutions in the region.

The fellows program is part of the University’s Humanities Center. Fellows are placed with area organizations in positions designed to benefit from the students’ discipline-specific knowledge and skills as creative thinkers, researchers, and writers. Fellows have worked at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Senator John Heinz History Center, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, City of Asylum, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. For example, Ambrose Curtis, a 2018 Public Humanities fellow, drew on his filmmaking experience and knowledge of media history to create a series of videos highlighting the Kelly Strayhorn Theater’s decade of featuring emerging artists.

Center for African American Poetry and Poetics
This center promotes and shares the work of African American and African diasporic poets and fosters cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Veterans Writers Workshops
Expressive writing workshops benefit veterans in an inpatient behavioral health setting while providing community teaching opportunities for MFA students in our writing program.

Digital Black Literacy Composition Writing Retreat
This retreat provides a supportive communal writing environment for work on dissertations, research papers, theses, and other academic projects.

Race-ing the Museum
Through the collaboration of graduate students and local curators and archivists, Race-ing the Museum organizes workshops at the intersection of race, collections, and museums.
ENRICHED LEARNING
AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGING
THE OPPORTUNITY GAP

Changing students’ perspectives about the role that schools and education play in closing opportunity gaps are among the many concrete benefits of the University’s Heinz Fellows Program. The Heinz Fellows Program is part of the University’s Center for Urban Education within the School of Education.

Funded by the Heinz Endowments, the program embeds a cohort of young professionals with college degrees within three public schools in the Hill District to support students and teachers in making contributions to a positive school climate. The fellows undergo extensive and ongoing professional development that is grounded in equity-based educational theory. In collaboration with community members, students, and school administrators, the fellows work on action research projects. Resulting research projects have included the creation of a student/teacher/family expectation pact focused on African principles of community and collective efficacy. The experience has meaningful consequences not only for students supported by the fellows but also for the fellows themselves. Many pursue educational opportunities such as teaching, research, community development, and policy or advocacy work after completing the program.

Pitt-Assisted Communities & Schools
A program of the School of Social Work, Pitt-Assisted Communities & Schools works with Pittsburgh Faison, Pittsburgh Lincoln PreK-5, and Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy 6-12, in addition to Homewood-based youth and family service organizations, to provide academic, health, and mental health support.

Pitt Bio Outreach
This program connects the Department of Biological Sciences and K-12 teachers and students through teacher professional development, classroom assistance in the form of a Pitt kit equipment loan program, and a precollege research program for students.

CampBioE
Offered by the Department of Bioengineering, CampBioE is a weeklong immersive experience in science, technology, engineering, and math with the aim of increasing the representation of underrepresented groups in these fields. Undergraduate students develop the camp’s exciting and fun curricula. CampBioE is offered at the Community Engagement Center in Homewood.

Black Girls Advocacy and Leadership Alliance (BGALA) and Black Girls Equity Alliance (BGEA)
The BGALA and BGEA collaboration focuses on research and advocacy that address the systemic inequities affecting Black girls in the region.

Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education
A nonprofit founded by students, the Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education assists immigrants and refugees in becoming engaged and confident members of their communities.

INVESTING NOW
A college preparatory program, INVESTING NOW supports, stimulates, and recognizes the high achievement of precollege students from underrepresented groups pursuing STEM fields.
Through its six nationally recognized teaching and research centers, the University Center for International Studies is a major resource for K-12 teachers and students in effectively incorporating international content into school curricula. The University provides professional development activities and easily accessed materials as well as programs that enable teachers and students to develop global competencies.

28% REDUCTION IN THE SUSPENSION RATE IN THE WOODLAND HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT THANKS TO AN EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION THAT CREATED A COMPREHENSIVE AND EQUITABLE APPROACH TO SCHOOL CLIMATE AND DISCIPLINE
PARCELS N’AT

Speaking to a crowded room at the Abstractions conference in 2015, Robert Gradeck posed a simple question: “Does anyone [here] really know what open data is?” Gradeck went on to explain the purpose of the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center.

The manager of the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center, Gradeck discussed building the region’s open data platform as a partnership among the University Center for Social and Urban Research, Allegheny County, and the City of Pittsburgh. One of the first regional open data platforms in the nation, it serves as a model for other communities looking to build a collaborative data infrastructure. Four years and more than 315 data sets later, the data center continues to provide the legal and technological framework to make data on public information easier to find and use. The portal includes data on bus routes, crashes, property sales, arrests, health conditions, and even dog licenses and fish fry locations. The center also offers technical assistance and training for everyone from the novice to the data wizard, and its tools, such as the Parcel Dashboard (Parcels n’at), allow users to access information on properties in Allegheny County. The Urban Greenprint mapping tool, which provides environmental data about Pittsburgh, recently won a 2019 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence.

On Becoming a Nonprofit CEO

In collaboration with the Forbes Funds and the Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership, the School of Social Work Continuing Education Program offers a five-part workshop series that builds the capacity of next-generation leadership for this region’s nonprofit sector.

Incline Consulting Group

A student-run organization representing a variety of disciplines, the University of Pittsburgh Incline Consulting Group offers pro bono strategic and technology consulting to nonprofits.

iServe

This project matches School of Computing and Information students with local nonprofits for project-based work in the community.

Nonprofit Clinic

Students of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) provide management consulting services to local charitable organizations. Over 100 professional-quality projects (valued at nearly $750,000) have been completed in the last ten years. The program is managed by GSPIA’s Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership.
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

FRICK PARK TO THE KISKIMINETAS

The Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation focuses on supporting the development of sustainable neighborhoods. Its mission is to catalyze research and innovation that directly improve quality of life in our communities. Community programs are as diverse as Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods, involving students in efforts as varied as fighting an invasive plant species in Frick Park with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy to figuring out how to harness the energy of the Kiskiminetas River.

The center’s strengths include healthy, high-performance buildings and communities; green chemistry; and water and energy. Its partnership in the East End neighborhood of Larimer with the Kingsley Association is a great example of this work and has been recognized by the University as exemplary. The Environmental Justice Community Alert Matrix, led by center deputy director and Swanson School of Engineering Associate Professor Melissa Bilec, informs residents about environmental risks and practical ways to respond. The project includes elements of citizen science and community engagement through outreach, involvement, participatory research, and consultation. The center is located at the Swanson School and was created through a gift from John C. Mascaro and through support from the Swanson School of Engineering and the Office of the Provost.

Parks and the Pittsburgh Ecosystem
A collaboration with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy for research into the role of parks in urban ecosystems, this project has inspired wider engagement with the community, in particular by serving as a model partnership in the design of the Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water Research, Outreach, and Education.

STEM and Sustainability
This program engages local middle school students at the Manufacturing Assistance Center in Homewood each year in activities created by students in the University’s Sustainable Design Labs.

Clutter for a Cause
The Office of PittServes and the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation, with the help of the Office of Community and Governmental Relations, encourage greener student move-outs both on and off campus. In the spring and summer, items are collected for donation, reuse, and recycling.

Clean Water Academy
In partnership with ALCOSAN and the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, summer undergraduate research students work side by side with 30 students from around the region to facilitate the design and fabrication of a miniaturized wastewater treatment plant in a two-day sprint.

Energy Inventor Labs
This yearly program engages Manchester Academic Charter School middle school science students in engineering using design-build challenges.

Teach the Teacher
Now in its fifth year, the Teach the Teacher program helps middle school teachers to integrate sustainability, science, and engineering modules into their classrooms.
Student leaders of Pitt Hydroponics, which is dedicated to community outreach, research, and the creation of small-scale hydroponic systems, work on a prototype in Homewood.
For Daniel Bain, digging around in streams as a kid near his home in southeastern Ohio proved to be a significant pastime. As a University of Pittsburgh scientist and professor, these days Bain focuses on the comprehensive assessment of human-driven changes to environmental systems. Part of the Parks and the Pittsburgh Ecosystem partnership, Bain is working with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and community organizations such as the Beltzhoover Consensus Group to bring green infrastructure to McKinley Park in Beltzhoover, Pa., that has the potential to be a model for urban green spaces.

Tucked away on a steep hillside, McKinley Park contains 78.5 acres of thick woods, playgrounds, and baseball and football fields as well as a community center. A central challenge for McKinley Park is addressing the harmful and costly effects of buried streams, a common practice in urban areas in the early 1900s. Green infrastructure, such as cascading rain gardens, is bringing back surface water as a feature of the park, which positively affects the entire ecosystem, including wildlife. Young visitors to the park may be able to enjoy playing in the water someday soon.

Recalling his childhood experiences of streams, Bain explains, “If you don’t have it, you don’t know what you’re missing, and you don’t value it.” The McKinley Park project is among the first four urban parks in the nation to receive funding under the National Recreation and Park Association’s Great Urban Parks Campaign, which focuses on improved social and environmental outcomes in underserved neighborhoods and the benefits of green stormwater management to community health, access to nature, and increased resiliency. For a neighborhood that has struggled due to a lack of investment, including for its park, the project is a much-needed enhancement and one with the potential to improve water quality, as its location is near the headwaters of the Ohio River, the source of drinking water for millions of people. This opportunity is not lost on Bain. The chance to create a model urban green space on this scale in this region, he says, may not come again for another hundred years.
McKinley Park is among the first urban parks in the nation to receive funding under the National Recreation and Park Association’s Great Urban Parks Campaign.
“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

—FRED ROGERS

PARTNER WITH US

We aspire to be a university that strengthens our communities—from the Pitt community to our region and the world around us—by expanding engagements, supporting collaborations, and embracing a global perspective. Working with collaborators around the globe, we are partners in progress, building our futures together. This work is mutually beneficial: Together we learn, together we grow, and together we forge ahead.

Community organizations are invited to collaborate with Pitt faculty and program providers.

Residents are invited to engage with Pitt to strengthen their communities.

Faculty and staff are invited to work with communities through their teaching, research, and programs.

Students are invited to engage in these efforts through study and service.

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Learn more at pitt.edu/community

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