

# Mayor Elect Peduto Transition Team

## Sub Committee on Higher Education

This Sub-Committee recognizes that the Mayor has no authority with regard to the function of the colleges and university systems. That said, we applaud the effort to engage that system to affect a positive impact on the Pittsburgh Community. During our deliberations, we came to realize that our area has a richness in various programs and efforts already in place that is truly impressive. In keeping with the character of our area however, many of these assets are disconnected, unorganized, and often not aware of one another. We have one overarching recommendation with a variety of considerations within it. Thus, we offer the following thoughts for consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

#### **I. CARRY OUT A COMPREHENSIVE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF ALL HIGHER EDUCATION RELATED INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS. ITEMS TO CONSIDER ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

A. City of Pittsburgh Think-Tank for Higher Education/Continuing Education

A body of people made up of representatives of non-profits, communities, colleges, and universities.

B. Re-energize and re-focus City of Pittsburgh Higher Education Leadership Commission – PCHE

Establish stronger (formalize) partnership between Mayor's office and the higher education community.

C. Higher Education Concierge – Student Support System

This may provide students with a coordinated personal academic liaison with colleges and universities in the area. Mentorships, tutoring, information and referral, and guidance to students can be used to help students feel more welcome to Pittsburgh and possibly targeted to those who are disadvantaged, foreigners, veterans, etc.

D. Establish a formal Land Grant Partnership with the City

This would provide more direct access to the resources at Penn State through Extension and Outreach.

E. City internship, volunteer management, and leadership recognition for local students and faculty from local colleges and universities

Coordinating all of these activities so that they align with the challenges facing the city from litter pick up to assisting departments solve problems.

F. Formalized partnership with CCAC

This could provide opportunity for more direct service to neighborhoods for workforce development in trades and higher education endeavors.

G. Enhanced Pittsburgh Promise effort

Better focused marketing targeted outside Pittsburgh with potential focus on new immigrant populations.

We envision this goal to be implemented over the course of the **first year**, using students and faculty to assist in the process and perhaps employing university/college focus groups and surveys to collect data.

The **impacts** will ultimately be to help keep talented young people in our community while helping to address critical issues in the city.

The primary **obstacles** are in relation to the lack of authority over these entities. Further, it will be time intensive due to the complex and dynamic nature of this landscape that includes a multitude of organizations who interface with these systems.

The **responsible party** will obviously be Dr. Porter in his role with the Higher Education and Neighborhood Re-Investment Office of the Mayor. The Mayor will also have a role to encourage collaborative efforts and to elevate the community's conversation regarding these issues.

**City resources** necessary to carry out this recommendation is personnel time as well as the deliberate efforts of the mayor to "encourage" the system to partner in the overall effort.

This overall recommendation will **effect change** by understanding the dynamic nature of the higher education community and aligning efforts in a manner that is both quantifiable as well as coordinated. This is in contrast to the current environment that has many moving parts many of which are not in harmony with one another and experience a lack of unified vision and direction of purpose.

Please note the following **citations**:

Community-based learning initiatives (School of the Museum of Fine Arts, M.I.T., and Harvard Extension School),

University of San Francisco's McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good (<http://www.usfca.edu/centers/mccarthy/>),

Duquesne University's Academic Community Engagement Hazelwood Partnership (<http://www.duq.edu/academics/academic-community-engagement/community-university-partnerships/hazelwood-partnership>),  
 The Land Grant University System [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant\\_university](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land-grant_university),  
<http://digital.library.duq.edu/cdm-etd/document.php?CISOROOT=/etd&CISOPTR=107245&REC=25>,  
 Veteran and disability statistics (U.S. Census).

Thanks to the members of this Sub-Committee for their diligence and determination in developing these thoughts.

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*\* Provided additional leadership and effort in the process.*

A full report with all points of discussion is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted on December 26, 2013