The University of Pittsburgh, founded in 1787, is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in the United States.

In its recent re-accreditation report, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education noted that “Over the past 15 years, the University of Pittsburgh’s reputation as a world class research university has been advancing steadily. By any measure, this reputational advance reflects reality. From the undergraduate education it provides to the research it produces to the external awards and honors its faculty and students earn, the University can be proud of where it stands.”

Pitt consistently ranks among the country’s leading U.S. public research universities, according to The Top American Research Universities report issued by the Center for Measuring University Performance.

Pitt is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education, according to the Princeton Review’s 2015 edition of its annual college guide, The Best 379 Colleges.

For the 10th consecutive year, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance ranks Pitt as the top value among all public colleges and universities in Pennsylvania. Kiplinger’s also ranks Pitt as the 34th-best value among public universities in the country for out-of-state students.

Pitt is the only Pennsylvania public college or university included in the Princeton Review/USA TODAY national “Best Value Colleges for 2014” list, based on academic quality, cost, and financial aid.

Last year, more than 7,800 undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees were conferred upon students on the Pittsburgh campus and more than 1,200 upon students on the Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville campuses, for a total of more than 9,000 degrees awarded.

Nearly 79 percent of Pitt undergrads come from Pennsylvania.

Since 1995, Pitt undergraduates have won four Rhodes Scholarships, six Marshall Scholarships, five Truman Scholarships, eight Udall Scholarships, two Churchill Scholarships, one Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and 45 Goldwater Scholarships.

As one of the country’s leading research universities, Pitt attracts approximately $700 million in research funding annually, supporting more than 27,000 local jobs.

Pitt ranks seventh nationally in federally financed research and development expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation.

Pitt faculty members conduct life-altering medical research in areas such as Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes, transplantation, cancer, and regenerative medicine.

In the past decade, Pitt faculty members have earned the very highest national honors in a wide variety of disciplines.

In January 2014, Pitt announced the creation of the new Brain Institute, which aims to unlock the mysteries of normal and abnormal brain function and then use this new information to develop novel treatments and cures for brain disorders.

Students and employees spend $1 billion-plus for goods and services.

Local businesses are paid $513 million for Pitt goods and services.

Pitt faculty, staff, and students generate $70.1 million annually in charitable donations and volunteer services.

One in 230 jobs within Pennsylvania is attributable to Pitt.

As one of Western Pennsylvania’s largest employers, Pitt employs more than 13,000 people on its five campuses.

Pitt is the nation’s top-ranked public university in Saviors of Our Cities: 2009 Survey of Best College & University Civic Partnerships.

In FY 2014, 74 new patents were issued to the University, bringing Pitt’s patent total to 615. More than 100 start-up companies launched around Pitt technologies.

Pitt is responsive to the needs of current and former members of the U.S. armed forces. Military Advanced Education magazine has named Pitt one of the country’s top military-friendly universities in 2014.