Dear Governor Tom Wolf and Members of the General Assembly:

On Sept. 24, 2021, at a virtual meeting of the University of Pittsburgh’s Board of Trustees, I reported on the institution’s performance over fiscal year 2021. My update, repackaged here for your convenience, reviews select statistics and successes while illustrating the key role that institutions of higher education can play in advancing and solving some of society’s most complex challenges.

As I noted in my remarks: Pitt’s strengths—driven by a deep and diverse bench of experts and broad community, industry and public partnerships—uniquely position us to tackle issues like the student debt crisis, the opioid epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic, the latter of which has quickly evolved into one of the greatest global disruptions of modern times.

If we’ve learned anything in the past year, it’s that the world needs all the problem solvers it can get. And that is exactly who we are striving to be— and the change we are committed to leading—at Pitt.

Respectfully,

Patrick Gallagher
Our Students
In 2021, our students earned some of the most prestigious academic honors available in higher education today. Some standouts—the latest in a long run of nationally recognized student scholars from Pitt—include:

Madeline Fox (UHC '21, A&S '21), who received a Marshall Scholarship to support her graduate studies in medieval literature and languages at the University of York in England.

Mark Farino (UHC '22, A&S '22) and Asher Hancock (ENGR '22), who secured Goldwater Scholarships—a top honor for students in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering fields. Farino, a physics and mathematics double major and French language minor, plans to continue studying physics in graduate school. Hancock, a mechanical engineering major who is also double minoring in computer science and mathematics, expects to earn a doctoral degree in aerospace engineering.

Our Faculty
Our faculty continue to lead by example and secure top honors in their respective areas of expertise. Some such scholars recently recognized on the national stage include:

Kirk Savage, professor of the history of art and architecture, who earned election into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A renowned expert on public monuments, Savage has authored multiple books, including “Monument Wars,” which explores the transformation of the memorial landscape of the National Mall and Washington, D.C.

Anna Balazs, the John A. Swanson chair of engineering and distinguished professor of chemical engineering, who earned election into the National Academy of Sciences. Balazs is recognized for her theoretical and computational modeling of polymers, including in the field of soft robotics. Physician-scientists Toren Finkel and Amy Wagner, who each earned election into the National Academy of Medicine.

The People
Powering Pitt
The important work of enabling Pitt community members to realize their fullest potential is always evolving—and always worth it. Here are some (of many!) exciting ways that our students, faculty, staff and alumni continue to thrive.

Already Exceptional
The first-year students on our Pittsburgh campus just arrived—and we are already a record-setting group. Some early accolades that the Class of 2025 has claimed in Pitt’s history books include:

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<tr>
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FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS FROM PA
PITTSBURGH CAMPUS

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Finkel, a distinguished professor of medicine in cardiology and director of Pitt’s Aging Institute, focuses his work on better understanding how physiological factors alter the rate of aging. He is, unsurprisingly, aiming to uncover the molecular basis of aging and age-related diseases.

Wagner, a professor of both physical medicine and rehabilitation and neuroscience, is advancing a strategy she calls “personalized rehabilitation medicine.” She is using biomarkers and statistical modeling to help forecast patient recovery after brain injury and guide clinical decision-making along the way.

Our Alumni

Pitt’s alumni community, at more than 342,000 members strong, boasts success stories at every turn—including recent graduates who secured a record-setting 15 Fulbright Scholarships.

This historic haul has earned Pitt recognition as a top producer of Fulbright Scholars—a title we’ve held for nearly a decade, courtesy of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The Fulbright program, which pays for American citizens to study, conduct research or teach English abroad, is an internationally renowned honor and mark of academic distinction. It has taken Pitt’s alumni far from home—to countries like Laos, Serbia and Kyrgyzstan—to continue their learning on the global stage.

Another success story from our alumni community belongs to Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu (LAW ’05, ’15), who started a new job this spring. In April 2021, Osmani-Sadriu was sworn in as Kosovo’s seventh president—and just its second female president—after the Balkan nation’s 120-seat parliament elected her for the role. And closer to home: Trustee Jim “Jimbo” Covert (A&S ’91) took a trip to Canton, Ohio, in August 2021 to celebrate his latest victory—becoming the ninth Pitt Panther elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. With Covert’s induction, Pitt has become a top 10 producer of hall-of-fame honorees among colleges and universities across the nation. With Covert’s induction, Pitt has become a top 10 producer of hall-of-fame honorees among colleges and universities across the nation.

A Doctor’s Journey Starts in Greensburg

Pitt’s regional campuses can serve as the first step toward a fulfilling career in Pennsylvania. Just ask Dr. Kaitlyn Blackburn, who attended Pitt-Greensburg as a pre-med and chemistry major. Blackburn thrived on the Greensburg campus thanks to its smaller class sizes and personalized learning environment. The strong start allowed her to transfer to the Pittsburgh campus, finish out her college degree and advance to medical school. Now a neurologist at Erie’s UPMC Hamot hospital, Blackburn has joined the ranks of Pitt graduates who have opted to stay, live and work in Pennsylvania.

“I am so lucky that I was able to attend college, medical school and complete my residency in Pennsylvania. Now, I get to live and work in Erie, close to my family and friends. Pitt-Greensburg gave me a chance. It started me on this road, and I’m forever grateful.” – Dr. Katie Blackburn (OGS ’10)

Regional Campus Spotlight

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REGIONAL CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

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In the last year, our research grants and contracts totaled $914.5 million, which is both a new institutional record and the first time we exceeded the $900 million mark for this statistic. Our capacity to draw such funds into the Commonwealth fuels our work as both a national leader and an innovative powerhouse in biomedical research. Over the last decade, we’ve maintained a commanding presence in the top 10 for annual funding received from the National Institutes of Health and as 15th in annual research and development expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation. Pitt’s plans for this gift also include advancing vision-related workforce development opportunities, seeding breakthrough research, bolstering startup support in the sector, and strategically elevating initiatives in the broader life sciences field. Pitt researchers and scientists are also leading the way in combating America’s opioid epidemic. Schools and scholars across our university have converged and collaborated to address opioid use and misuse on college campuses. We’re also deploying data analytics to inform opioid-driven policies in the state’s rural regions, partnering with local pharmacists to reduce opioid addiction, liaising with district attorneys to prevent drug overdose deaths, and leveraging quality improvement tools to support community health while reducing the public cost of addiction. These two examples illustrate just how uniquely positioned Pitt is to tackle—from all angles—some of science and society’s most complex and urgent challenges.

Science Foundation. One particularly exciting development—a $25 million commitment from the Henry L. Hillman Foundation—is poised to strengthen Pitt’s research record while benefitting residents throughout Western Pennsylvania. Most of this gift will support innovative vision restoration research led by world-renowned ophthalmologist and scientist Dr. José-Alain Sahel, who serves as chair and distinguished professor in our School of Medicine’s Department of Ophthalmology. Pitt’s plans for this gift also include advancing vision-related workforce development opportunities, seeding breakthrough research, bolstering startup support in the sector, and strategically elevating initiatives in the broader life sciences field.

“The battle over opioid addiction has not been won, but Pitt has changed the landscape in Washington County. Before our partnership, we saw seven overdose deaths a year upon release from jail. Using proven strategies and expert advice from Pitt, we’ve reduced that to one death over the past five years. Our partnership with Pitt is saving lives.”

—The late Eugene A. Vittone II, District Attorney, Washington County, PA

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Pitt’s annual report shows robust research and innovation success in 2021, including $914.5 million in research grants and contracts, tying for top 5 sponsorship in research expenditures, and growing patents and tech spinoffs.
Programmed to Excel

PITT SUCCESS

SINCE LAUNCHING

22.57% increase in need-based funding for students

$6,269 average grant size

$98.8M investment by Pitt

64.8% increase in Pitt’s average financial aid award

40.9% increase in the number of students receiving a financial aid award from Pitt

16% of Pitt-Titusville students are Pell grant recipients

62% of Pitt Success grants benefit Pennsylvania students

Pitt Success

The Pitt Success Pell Match Program—our historic commitment to remaining affordable to all Pennsylvania students—achieved significant milestones in 2021. The program, which we began in 2019, doubles the amount of federal need-based aid that our students receive, up to the cost of attendance. It’s a particularly powerful tool on our regional campuses—where students are more likely to be Pell-eligible—and currently serves more than 5,700 undergraduates systemwide.

At its inception, Pitt Success was the first initiative of its kind among public universities and one of seven initiatives focused on making a world-class Pitt education more accessible and affordable. Thankfully, early results indicate that the 3-year-old program is well on its way to living up to its name.

Since its launch, Pitt Success has achieved significant milestones in 2021. In spring 2021, we connected with a familiar partner—Carnegie Mellon University—by forming the Collaboratory Against Hate Research and Action Center.

The Collaboratory is designed to bring scholars together across our schools and disciplines to study the concept of extremist hate, how it develops and what interventions can help.

Accordingly, its members will be tackling a wide range of issues—e.g., from developing better tools to help human moderators track hate groups online to gaining a clearer picture of how hate groups form—and then splinter—in everyday life.

The Collaboratory is the latest in a long list of collaborations with CMU. Another example—the Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition—enables undergraduate and graduate students at both schools to receive training and conduct research in cognitive and neural mechanisms.

Collaboratory Against Hate

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Regional Campus Spotlight

Preparing Students for Career Success in Bradford and Titusville

Our Pitt-Bradford and Pitt-Indiana campuses are re-imagining their programming to produce graduates whose skills match the needs of local employers. We’re making the right way reimagines close partnerships with local business downstream like Keystone Powdered Metal. The Pitt-Bradford’s Education and Training Hub has added a manufacturing assistant center and will soon launch a medical assistant program. These changes—additions of a $1.7 million federal grant—are designed to complement Northeast Pennsylvania’s business ecosystem and its unique needs. At Pitt-Bradford, local companies have played an active role in redesigning degree programs that meet their workforce needs. Those discussions have inspired the building of an engineering and information technologies facility as well as adding two engineering tech programs slated to start in 2022.

Changes like these are good news for local leaders like Jeannine Schoenecker, who serves on the board of American Refining Group, one of the region’s largest employers in McKean County. Nearly 30% of the company’s employees earned their degree at nearby Pitt-Bradford, and ARG expects those graduates to arrive with both the technical and interpersonal skills that they need to succeed.

“We have never hired a Pitt-Bradford graduate who wasn’t well-prepared and willing to work hard. Pitt-Bradford has been an integral part of ARG’s success and provides us with talented students who would otherwise.”—Jeannine Schoenecker, Board Member, American Refining Group

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Each year, we drive an estimated $4.2 billion into local communities and maintain a network of nearly 38,000 jobs. Our planned construction and renovation projects are also significant—totaling roughly $1.6 billion through 2024, with the vast majority of this work being performed by union labor.

Add to this our remarkable record of pulling talent into the Commonwealth and turning them into residents. Surveys show that nearly 1 in 4 out-of-state students from the classes of 2019 and 2020 remained in Pennsylvania after earning their Pitt degree. These graduates joined an alumni community that is over 194,000 Pennsylvanians strong, and they are expected to generate an estimated $5.65 billion for the Commonwealth over the course of their careers. Pitt also fuels economic growth in unexpected ways, including paying more than $61 million in rent and around $750,000 in sponsorships annually, the latter of which has supported organizations like the Greater Johnstown School District, Westmoreland County Food Bank, McKean County Habitat for Humanity and YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh. We also operate a Small Business Development Center devoted to growing the regional economy by providing entrepreneurs with the education, information and tools necessary to build successful businesses.

Last year, this center beat out more than 1,000 peers to be named the No. 1 Small Business Development Center nationwide. This award recognizes our team’s accomplishments from the prior year, when we helped local clients record over $20 million in business capital formation and support nearly 8,500 regional jobs. We also answered the Commonwealth’s call last year to expand the center’s services to residents in Beaver, Butler and Lawrence counties. The results: $20 million in increased sales, $25 million in capital formation and 10,000 local jobs created and sustained.

Pitt’s regional campuses also continue to fill a special role for the Commonwealth by connecting students and families to a world-class education in a small-town environment. Along the way, these campuses also drive local economies and businesses, lift up first-generation college students, sustain a rich cultural life and create a well-educated workforce. So many Pennsylvanians love their hometowns, and our regional campuses allow them to stay, grow and leverage their skills and talents to help their communities thrive.

The University of Pittsburgh’s global research capacity and unwavering commitment to partnering with Pennsylvania businesses are an asset to the region. When Pitt is at the table, our confidence to tackle big challenges grows.

David B. Burritt, President and CEO, U.S. Steel, Pittsburgh, PA
Fulfilling our Purpose

Pitt-Johnstown remains a strong and steady partner in a changing regional economy. The campus offers stable jobs, invested networks and a tremendous regional economic impact of about $150 million annually. Concurrent Technologies Corporation understands this advantage well. More than 300 of the company’s 400 employees work in its Johnstown office, providing critical support to the defense and intelligence communities as well as the advanced manufacturing, information technology, energy development and environmental science sectors. The company, which employs many Pitt-Johnstown graduates, credits the campus with fueling its success in recruiting and retaining top talent. “Pitt-Johnstown is of central importance to the vitality and resilience of our region.” - Ed Sheehan, President And CEO, Concurrent Technologies Corporation

Keeping Jobs in Johnstown

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PIVOTING & PARTNERING

$177.4MM in COVID-19-related research

$131MM in construction projects kept on track

$228MM in multi-year lease agreements with local hotels

$372,000 Pitt Dining Dollars shifted to local restaurants

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$372,000 Pitt Dining Dollars shifted to local restaurants

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and local economies shut down across the nation, Pitt stepped up and fulfilled our role as a reliable community anchor and effective partner. Some of the many ways we contributed in this front include: contracting with local hotels to house students for the academic year, developing COVID-19 vaccine candidates, opening campus meal cards to local restaurants, ramping up support for businesses across the Commonwealth relying on recovery funds, administering over 20,000 COVID-19 vaccines (and counting), shifting our billing practices to keep at-risk vendors afloat, and learning free broadband internet access to nearly 200 families to support remote learning. Since the pandemic’s onset, our campuses have injected $331.2 million into critical sectors of Pennsylvania’s economy. These additional expenditures have sustained 3,669 jobs and generated $23.9 million in state and local taxes.

Pitt’s Impact in the Pandemic

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CONTRIBUTING TO NEW IDEAS

$19.9MM in sponsored research

$3.3MM in small business set-asides

$24MM in small business sub-contracts

$10.5MM in corporate sponsorship

$19.9MM in sponsored research

$3.3MM in small business set-asides

$24MM in small business sub-contracts

$10.5MM in corporate sponsorship

“As Pitt’s business consulting services helped me survive during the pandemic. Without their expertise and real-time advice on available support programs, the future of my company and the paychecks for the more than 40 employees we are at risk.” - Jason Capps, President And Chef, Bella Sera Catering, Venue And Bistro, Washington County, PA

“Pitt-Johnstown is of central importance to the vitality and resilience of our region.” - Ed Sheehan, President And CEO, Concurrent Technologies Corporation

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The pandemic, which dominated daily life in 2021, forced the world of higher education to evolve—suddenly—in unprecedented ways. At Pitt, the crisis impacted everything from the supplies we ordered and the construction projects we advanced to the financial risks we took—and didn’t take.

Thankfully, Pitt emerged from 2021 in a fairly strong financial position, largely due to strategic decisions that we made early on in the crisis. Some of the steps that we took to mitigate the pandemic’s financial repercussions include:

• Creating a voluntary early retirement option, which 56 faculty members and 451 staff members accepted.
• Pausing most major construction projects.
• Freezing faculty and staff salaries.
• Halting all nonessential hiring and travel.
• Cutting unit-level budgets by 5%.
• Leveraging federal COVID-19 relief funds, more than half of which were direct student grants.

Financial Snapshot

MAJOR EXPENSES - MILLIONS

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MAJOR REVENUES - MILLIONS

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What’s at Stake

Why State Support Matters
In 2021, Pitt received $152 million in general support appropriation funding from the Commonwealth. We are immensely grateful for this support and for our decades-long partnership with lawmakers in Harrisburg. Each year, our university dedicates every single penny of this support to help lower tuition rates for Pennsylvania’s students and families. It is a powerful benefit—and it works. Case in point: This fall, our Pittsburgh campus welcomed a record number of new students—15% more than the year prior—from hometowns across the Commonwealth. Pitt attracts and enrolls so many Pennsylvanians that, each year, we supplement the state funding we receive. In 2021, for example, we contributed $117 million of the $284 million that we applied to discounting tuition for in-state students. At the family level, the impact of this tuition discount is significant. Every Pennsylvania resident attending our Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences—the largest school on our largest campus—saves more than $15,000 in tuition costs each year. At our regional campuses, the discount is even greater, with out-of-state students paying around 46% more than their in-state peers. As we see it: When the Commonwealth invests in the University of Pittsburgh, it’s also investing in Pennsylvania’s students, families and future. We are counting on this support—and our partners in Harrisburg—to ensure that Pitt remains a college dream come true for students and families throughout the Commonwealth.

This report shows that state funding makes a difference on our campuses every day—opening doors to life-changing opportunities for Pennsylvania residents.

TUITION AT A GLANCE
Pennsylvania families pay less

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>In-state Rate</th>
<th>Out-of-state Rate</th>
<th>Discount Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>$34,100</td>
<td>$19,100</td>
<td>44% Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regionals</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$13,400</td>
<td>46% Less</td>
</tr>
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