

June 9, 2023

Dear Lawmakers:

As a civic partner of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and the entire University Pittsburgh system, we are writing today to relay the vital role that the Pitt-Johnstown campus plays in strengthening our economy—locally and throughout the state.

A top-tier ‘Best Regional Colleges in the Northeast’ (US News & World Report), and a “Best in the Northeast’ College for the 13th consecutive year (Princeton Review), Pitt-Johnstown prepares students for jobs in Pennsylvania. And with the state facing dire workforce shortages in key sectors, Pitt-Johnstown will play a crucial role in supplying well-educated graduates our economy needs.

Some ways Pitt-Johnstown adds value and strengthens our region and surrounding community include:

- A statewide economic impact of around \$133 million annually.
- Supporting 781 full and part-time jobs directly and indirectly in Cambria County, making Pitt-Johnstown a top 11 employer.
- Generating more than \$6 million yearly in local and state taxes, including \$2 million for Cambria County municipalities.
- Educating over 2,200 students each year, including 91% who call Pennsylvania home.
- Fueling our local workforce with 500 graduates each year in engineering and computer science, nursing and healthcare, teaching, business, and finance, including approximately 30% who stay, work, and help advance our state’s economy.
- Growing a network of over 22,000 alumni, many of whom live in Cambria and surrounding counties.
- Contributing to the social and cultural life in our area through supporting for the world-class Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center.
- Contributing over 10,000 volunteer hours annually.
- Maintaining a Military Friendly School distinction thanks to a steadfast commitment to serving and supporting veterans.
- Strengthening our region with community partnerships such as:
 - CODE for Commonwealth and Country to enhance digital literacy for workforce competitiveness, beginning in K-12 and beyond.
 - The Flood City Youth Fitness Academy and the “I Rise” Tutor and Mentor Program to provide academic support for students in the Johnstown community.
 - PITTchFEST to promote and invest in entrepreneurs, innovation and in enhancing our economy and community.

- REACHLand, a transformational sidewalk and trail project supporting: Recreational opportunities; Environmental sustainability; Academic institutions (pre-K through 16), Community and commerce; and Healthy-Living.

These examples speak to the many ways that Pitt-Johnstown is a proven engine of opportunity for the region. We are proud of Pitt's role in our community and are grateful to have such a powerful ally in advancing the critical work of strengthening Pennsylvania's families, economies, and future.

Respectfully,

Robert P. Forcey

Robert Forcey, Executive Director
Vision Together 2025