

THE PENN STATE CENTER

ENGAGING PITTSBURGH

OUTREACH & EXTENSION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Who We Are: The Penn State Center Pittsburgh provides community development programs aimed at creating a better quality of life for residents in the Pittsburgh area while carrying out the University's land grant obligation to enhance research, teaching, and contribute to Allegheny County. The Penn State Center Pittsburgh focuses on three business lines: *community development, environment and horticulture, and quality of life via youth development, healthfulness, and the arts.* Our staff of approximately 30 includes Extension Educators, Outreach Program Managers, Management, and Support Staff. Faculty and students from the University are given the opportunity to help through engaged scholarships as well. In order to carry out these functions, the Center is supported by University Outreach and Online Education, Extension, College of Agricultural Sciences, and Allegheny County.

What We Do: The Penn State Center Pittsburgh, comprised of both *Extension* and *Outreach & Online Education*, generally delivers its services via classroom instruction, studios, demonstrations, targeted neighborhood revitalization and one-on-one technical assistance provision. These efforts enable further research and learning opportunities within our urban environment. We deliver our resident services as well as faculty and student engagement via the following three business lines. Program highlights include:

Community Development

This business line provides direct technical assistance in the areas of energy, food policy development, and student engagement opportunities. Recent examples include:

- Green Infrastructure demonstrations at Four Mile Run, Baldwin High School, and Negley Run.
- Exploring the Small Farm Dream course which includes exploratory discussions, research tools, and self-assessment activities to create an action plan to start a farm business.
- Over 50 landscape architecture student projects in 14 communities in Allegheny County, part of the annual Pittsburgh Fall Studio.
- Annual summer internships across business lines as well as a summer student placement in McKees Rocks as part of the Scholarship, Sustainability, and Civic Engagement Program at University Park.

Environment and Natural Resources

This business line consists of education and technical assistance in horticulture and urban forestry. Recent examples include:

- Master Gardeners Program including certification, the annual Western Pennsylvania Garden and Landscape Symposium and Market, volunteer service in nine demonstration gardens, educational programs, youth and healing gardens, horticultural therapy, Speakers Bureau, and Garden Question Hotline.

Environment and Natural Resources (cont.)

- The Green Industry Certification programs including landscape, pest, and turf management.
- Master Watershed Steward Program including training in watershed management and volunteer hours to teach the community about watershed stewardship.
- Tree Tenders® Training in partnership with Tree Pittsburgh, which allows citizens to restore and care for trees in their communities.
- County park tree inventories and management plan.

Quality of Life

This business line includes youth development and leadership programs, food safety, nutrition, and the arts. Recent examples include:

- CITY Program (Community Innovation Training for Youth) with focus on STEAM Education, Mentorship, and Service Learning.
- North Ridge Riders 4-H Program which helps youth gain leadership, citizenship, self-esteem, and social skills while teaching them about the science of equine care and management.
- Nutrition training and education including Mediterranean Cuisine Program, Dining with Diabetes and Eat Healthy, Be Active, a series of workshops that offers basic nutrition, and hands-on educational programming for resource stressed audiences in Allegheny County.
- Hosting of Art Education student teachers and engaging them in community projects.

Where We Provide Service

The Center provides services in Allegheny County. We have worked in over 35 municipalities in the County and more than 50 City neighborhoods. Since 2008, over 800 students have participated in engaged scholarship activities here on community projects.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information, or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Dr. Kenneth Lehrman III, Vice Provost for Affirmative Action, Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Email: kfl2@psu.edu; Tel 814-863-0471.

Extension ♦ Outreach ♦ Research ♦ In partnership with Allegheny County

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