University of Pittsburgh

Division of Student Affairs
Annual Report

2016

2017
It is with great pride that I share with you the University of Pittsburgh’s Division of Student Affairs 2016–17 Annual Report.

During the past year, we celebrated many accomplishments on our path to continuing to enhance a student experience that will shape our graduates into impactful leaders of tomorrow. This report highlights the scope and the impact of our work, which includes robust programming efforts, and intentional and responsive student services.

We, in Student Affairs, pride ourselves on maintaining a strong “ethic of care,” which informs all of our key strategies and initiatives. Last year, in support of the University’s “Year of Diversity,” we advanced our commitment to diversity and inclusion amid a challenging social and political campus climate. We sought to ensure that all students had a sense of belonging on campus by hosting dialogue events in which students had the opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences with senior administrators. We leveraged our Year of Diversity to increase our students’ opportunities to interact with and learn from people of different backgrounds and viewpoints. While the Year of Diversity was a great opportunity to highlight one of Pitt’s core values, we plan to continue to engage students in rich and meaningful experiences that prepare them for our diverse world.

In addition to the progress we made in the area of diversity and inclusion, we also made tremendous strides in improving campus recreation. We unveiled the brand new Pitt Sports Dome, renovated the Bellefield Hall basketball court, and installed new and/or upgraded equipment in all campus recreational facilities. We also improved student access to mental health services, and expanded service offerings at our Student Health Service.

We believe that supporting overall student wellness is the first and most important step in growing a culture that both promotes and advances student success. The achievements of the past year reflect our commitment to care, and it is my hope that this report will provide you with a greater appreciation of the impact of our work. The outcomes shared in this report will inform our strategies moving forward, as we continue to cultivate a campus environment that facilitates student growth, broadens perspectives, and prepares students to lead lives of impact.

Hail to Pitt!

Sincerely,

Kenyon Bonner
Vice Provost and Dean of Students
The Division of Student Affairs supports the University’s retention efforts by providing a wide array of social and educational programs and services designed to develop a sense of community among students, faculty, and staff.

Student Affairs creates valuable opportunities for important connections, which assist in enriching the student experience here at the University of Pittsburgh.

“*The class photo during Orientation is one of our first opportunities to engage new students in a community-building exercise. The entire incoming class comes together, to show Pitt Pride and work toward a shared goal. It’s a great way to kick off the new year, and help students begin to form a bond with one another.*”

— Melissa Warthen, associate director of Student Life

The Class of 2020 participates in the annual class photo at the Petersen Events Center during last year’s New and Transfer Student Orientation.
First Year Experience & First Year Mentors
The Office of the First Year Experience (FYE) provided extensive programming and services to help ease students into their first year at Pitt. FYE worked to ensure that all new Pitt students found a welcoming and engaging community when they arrived on campus.

An important component of the Office of First Year Experience is the First Year Mentor (FYM) program, through which upper-class student leaders serve as valuable resources for new students, supporting their transition to Pitt. This past year, FYMs planned fun and exciting activities to help guide incoming students through a new and unfamiliar experience. FYMs provided extensive programming for first-year, transfer, and commuter students, from PittStart sessions all the way through the end of the school year, ensuring that each and every new student had a positive and memorable experience during their first year at Pitt!

Panther Reach
The Panther Reach program paired faculty/staff from across the University with specific residence hall floors. These pairings sought to establish mentoring relationships between faculty/staff and students, as another avenue for personal and professional growth. Panther Reach mentors provided a link to resources that could help students better adjust to life on campus.

Panther Connect and Discover U
Student Affairs recognizes the importance of forging connections among students—even before they arrive on campus. Last year, Panther Connect Pre-Orientaion retreats offered first-year students the chance to form lasting friendships, while exploring shared interests. New and Transfer Student Orientation featured a week of robust educational and social programming that helped students connect with one another and the University. In addition, programs like Discover U Day enabled students to explore their passions and identify potential majors by visiting various businesses and organizations throughout the city.

93.2% of surveyed Panther Connect participants reported feeling connected to the University of Pittsburgh as a result of the program.

Retention

92.2% of all first-year students were retained.
(Fall 2015 – Spring 2016)
RESIDENCE LIFE
The Office of Residence Life at the University of Pittsburgh continued its efforts to educate the whole student by creating experiences that foster personal growth. Residence Life focused on the core values of respect, integrity, and civility. Within the residence halls, students found an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity and encourages open dialogue. During the 2016-17 academic year, resident assistants provided 2,740 floor programs aimed at fostering a sense of community.

The University of Pittsburgh received 14 Regional Program of the Month (OTM) awards from the Atlantic region and 1 national OTM award from the National Association of College and University Residence Halls.

Resident assistants (RAs) play a vital role in helping students get connected to their residence hall floors, as well as the campus community. By providing individualized attention to each of their residents’ needs, RAs build meaningful relationships that will help students feel welcomed into their new community. RAs not only provide guidance to campus resources, but also plan six events within the first six weeks of the fall semester to help students get connected and enjoy their experience outside of the classroom.

Living Learning Communities (LLCs) are specialized living environments that connect students’ inside- and outside-the-classroom experiences. By living in an LLC, students have a direct connection to their classroom experience, access to intentional events and programs, and dedicated staff members who work to make the community a success. LLCs are an ideal way to make friends with peers who have similar interests. Research shows that students who participate in an LLC have higher academic success rates, higher college graduation rates, higher levels of satisfaction with their college experience, and an easier time connecting with their peers.
Corinne Dodel has committed herself to creating a positive experience for incoming students here at the University of Pittsburgh. As a transfer student herself, she understood the need for all students to have a sense of belonging and a connection to Pitt. Corinne quickly became involved in the First Year Mentor program, the Global Ties program, and the Transfer Student Association.

This past school year, Corinne was named Head First Year Mentor, serving as a major resource and role model for incoming students. “Serving as Head First Year Mentor helped me grow in many ways,” said Corinne.

Corinne’s involvement in the First Year Mentor program, offered through the Office of First Year Experience, has afforded her the opportunity to form bonds with students as they first arrive on campus. “It’s very rewarding because I also have the chance to watch them grow as students, as I see them around campus throughout the school year,” said Corinne.

This summer, Corinne joined a delegation of Pitt students and staff who traveled to Beijing, China as part of the “Pitt to You” program. As part of the program, current Pitt students served as ambassadors, forging relationships with incoming students from China before they arrive on campus.

Corinne will serve as president of the Transfer Student Association during the 2017-18 school year, and she hopes to provide a means for her fellow transfer students to get involved in their new community, and feel a sense of connectedness to Pitt.

“PITT TO YOU” PROGRAM IN CHINA

Student Affairs has prioritized its efforts to retain international students. This summer, in partnership with the Office of the Provost, the University Center for International Studies, the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid, and the Alumni Office, Student Affairs staff members and student ambassadors traveled to Beijing and Shanghai, China, for the first-ever “Pitt to You” program. This program in China provided a valuable opportunity for domestic and international students already attending Pitt, to meet and interact with incoming students to help with their adjustment to Pitt and the United States.
**THE OFFICE OF PARENT AND FAMILY RESOURCES**

The Office of Parent and Family Resources worked to ensure that parents and families received access to information so that they are informed and better equipped to support their students. Parent and Family Resources worked to cultivate an environment in which students will achieve academic success and develop to their full potential.

The Office offered various services to keep parents and families informed about what was going on at the University of Pittsburgh such as ambassador opportunities, newsletters, and Webinars.

**GLOBAL TIES**

The Global Ties program within the Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development (CCLD) helped international students connect with Pitt and gain a sense of belonging. The program assigns first-year international students with a student mentor who serves as a support system during their acclimation to Pitt. Last year, 100% of surveyed international students participating in Global Ties were retained from freshman to sophomore year.

**THE OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

During the 2016–17 academic year, the Office of Student Conduct continued to offer a unique leadership opportunity for students through participation in the Student Conduct Peer Review Board (SCPRB). The SCPRB heard cases involving code violations that would not result in suspension or dismissal. Members are selected to serve on an annual basis, and they receive extensive training to discharge their responsibilities.

“The SCPRB allowed me to pursue a little bit of my future career path while I was still an undergraduate student,” said Rachael Stewart, a 2017 Pitt graduate who will now attend Pitt Law School in the fall. “My time on the SCPRB was undoubtedly the most beneficial part of my time at Pitt.”

The SCPRB continued to play a critical role in the advancement of the overall mission of Student Conduct, by actively engaging students in an educational conduct process. By supporting and encouraging healthy decisions, Student Conduct was instrumental in maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for all members of the Pitt community.

“*The Student Conduct Peer Review Board taught me how to think, how to reason, and how to work with others in a way I never would have been able to experience otherwise.*”

— Rachael Stewart
Empowering students to personalize their college experience

Through an array of programs and services, the Division of Student Affairs ensures that students have the opportunity to personalize their college experience and achieve their full potential.

The Division is dedicated to providing quality educational and co-curricular experiences outside of the classroom that facilitate students’ personal growth and help broaden their perspectives during their time at Pitt.

“Pitt is very good at getting students engaged, and the real value of a Pitt education comes with the experience you get outside of the classroom.”

— Natalie Dall, past president of the Student Government Board (SGB)

Outside the Classroom Curriculum Honorary Society members are given the opportunity to use the PittAdvantage grant to fund a summer study abroad trip or other experiential learning opportunity.
The Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC) continued to provide structure and purpose to students’ extracurricular experiences, providing a mechanism to help students get connected to their peers and University resources. Intended to serve as an investment in students’ future success, the OCC encompasses programs and events that help students grow in areas that are critical to the education of the “whole student.”

Each OCC experience is different, as the requirements are flexible and can be tailored to personal interests and hobbies. Participants take part in various activities and programs that fulfill each of the 10 key goal areas:

- Leadership Development
- Career Preparation
- Communication Skills
- Global and Cultural Awareness
- Pitt Pride
- Service to Others
- Sense of Self
- Wellness
- Appreciation of the Arts
- Initiative and Drive

PittAdvantage grants were awarded to OCC Honorary members during the 2016-17 school year. A total of 116 grants have been awarded since 2014.

PITT ARTS

PITT ARTS intentionally incorporated Pitt’s Year of Diversity into some of its most talked-about programs of the school year. In September, PITT ARTS hosted Michael Hingson, author of *Thunderdog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust at Ground Zero* for the 15th commemoration of the events of September 11, 2001, and to celebrate and honor people with disabilities. During the spring semester, PITT ARTS collaborated with the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre to host a presentation on the art and science of dance, which allowed attendees to learn about the building blocks of classical ballet. Fourteen racially diverse dance artists demonstrated how they use the language of ballet to celebrate African American culture.

PITT ARTS facilitated approximately 60,000 student encounters with the arts and cultural scene of Pittsburgh.

In addition to its very successful diversity-themed event series, PITT ARTS continued to engage students, faculty, and staff by sponsoring weekly Artful Wednesday musical performances, promoting the Cheap Seats program, and hosting unique Arts Encounters, where undergraduates have special behind-the-scenes access to performers. Pitt students also took advantage of the opportunity to attend local museums for free in order to gain a stronger understanding of the arts.
BENEFITS OF THE OCC

Upon completion of the OCC, students become eligible for exclusive benefits that can provide them with a competitive edge, such as the PittAdvantage grant, which enables students to participate in a study abroad opportunity, an unpaid internship, or a civic engagement experience. Students are also eligible to join the OCC Honorary Society, which distinguishes and rewards students who complete the OCC by providing opportunities to attend events that are exclusive to Honorary members.

OLIVIA DARR
PittAdvantage grant recipient (Uppsala, Sweden – May 2017); Rising senior majoring in communications with certificates in global studies, nonprofit management, and corporate and community relations

Olivia is one of 31 students who was awarded the PittAdvantage grant for the summer of 2017, and she used the grant to take part in the Pitt in Sweden study abroad program. The PittAdvantage grant is one of many benefits that students enjoy after completing the OCC. With a fairly simple application process, Pitt students are able to apply for a grant that could change their collegiate experience in countless positive ways.

NATALIE DALL
2017 graduate, B.S. degree in molecular biology with minors in chemistry, French, and computer science

During her years at Pitt, Natalie navigated a unique college experience that included a commitment to leadership, research, and student wellness—experiences that helped her gain admission to the University of California-Berkeley, where she will pursue a PhD.

Natalie first began to explore her leadership potential as president of the Resident Student Association (RSA). In this role, she learned how to plan and effectively run a meeting, and how to work well with other people. From there, she took on a full-time role as an assistant in a research lab.

As SGB president, Natalie contributed to building a more inclusive campus by working to develop programs such as Women’s Empowerment Week and the Campus Safety Walk to raise awareness of campus resources. With the support of her Board, Natalie also continued successful programming from previous years such as Mental Health Awareness Week, Safety Fairs, and the Food Committee.

“My experience in Student Government Board transformed me as a person. I became so much more aware of the issues affecting students on our campus and learned what I could do to help, with the assistance of my Board. This experience made the greatest and most positive impact on my collegiate experience and I am truly excited to see where it takes me!”
Personalized Experience

The Division encourages students to forge their own unique Pitt pathways. By connecting students with a range of programs, services, and mentors, Student Affairs enables students to personalize their experience and discover their passions.

Marcus Robinson
2017 graduate, B.S. degrees in anthropology and neuroscience with a minor in chemistry

Omicron Delta Kappa Senior of the Year, Marcus Robinson, dedicated his Pitt experience toward helping to foster a more inclusive environment for all students. While serving as president of Rainbow Alliance during his junior year, Marcus launched programs that provided opportunities for LGBTQIA+ students, such as “Lavender Graduation” and “Over the Rainbow Prom.”

“Ian Snyder
Rising senior majoring in political science with a minor in neuroscience

Ian Snyder has worked hard to fully dedicate his time as a student to improving the Pitt experience. Since arriving on campus as a first-year student, Ian has been extremely involved with Pitt’s Resident Student Association (RSA). He served as the Hall Council President for Sutherland Hall and was elected president of RSA for back-to-back terms during his sophomore and junior years.

“RSA has been the hallmark of my Pitt experience. It has brought clarity to my professional pursuits. Through my three years of involvement with RSA, I have realized how much advocacy, work, and representation mean to me, and what it means to serve as a voice for a community with a common goal, but mixed interests.”

In addition to promoting inclusiveness at Pitt, Marcus dedicated his time to the betterment of the student body by volunteering as a PantherWELL Peer Educator, serving as an ambassador for the University Honors College, a member of the Student Government Board Allocations Committee, and a teaching assistant for chemistry 1 and 2. During his four years at Pitt, Marcus also committed himself to completing the Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC), which he believes helped him become more culturally engaged through exposure to various art forms and unique ways of expression.

Resident Student Association

The Pitt Resident Student Association (RSA) continues to provide excellent programming for students living in the residence halls, as well as leadership opportunities. Pitt’s RSA president, Ian Snyder, was named regional director of the Central Atlantic Affiliate for College and University Residence Halls (CAACURH), and assistant director of Residence Life, DaVaughn Vincent-Bryan, was recognized as a distinguished advisor within the region. RSA hosted seven large-scale events last year, providing over 110 hours of programming and engaging 3,105 students.
When I came to Pitt, I immediately got involved in a wide array of activities, and each had its share of impact on the person I was when I left.

Sydney Harper
2017 graduate, B.A. degrees in political science and communications

During her time at Pitt, Sydney served as a marketing intern in the Student Affairs Marketing and Communications Office, an editor with The Pitt News, and a Pitt Pathfinder. She also held various positions on the Student Government Board, including serving as the executive vice president. Each of these positions had major roles in shaping Sydney’s love of creative story-telling, her love for Pitt, and her passion for engaging with people in meaningful ways to solve problems and effect change.

Sydney spent the 2016-17 school year serving as the executive vice president for the Student Government Board and played an important role in paving the way for a number of organizations and programs that promote women’s empowerment at Pitt. Sydney served as one of the original mentors for the Pitt Women’s Leadership Experience during the 2015-16 school year under Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement, Dr. Kathy Humphrey, and continued to serve young women on Pitt’s campus through her senior year. Sydney hopes that the young women she met at various events continue to grow into strong leaders who honor the legacy of women’s empowerment at Pitt.

Steve Anderson
Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life

Inspired by his involvement in Kent State University’s Interhall Council as an undergraduate student, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life, Steve Anderson has made a profound impact on the lives of students. “As Associate Dean and Director of Residence Life, I embrace the opportunity to create the most impactful student experience that I can,” said Steve.

As an associate dean of students, Steve oversees Student Health Service, the University Counseling Center, and the Office of PittServes, and advises the Student Government Board. “Every day, I am inspired by the high energy and creative ideas that are produced by the students serving on the Student Government Board,” said Steve. “These students exhibit a great deal of discipline and sacrifice as they work to improve the experience of their peers, and of future generations of students.”

In addition to SGB, Steve also works closely with members of the Resident Student Association (RSA), which is the second largest student organization on campus. “Since I’ve been at Pitt, RSA has made great strides in regards to advocating on behalf of residence hall students,” said Steve. “RSA has also been critical in helping students make connections with peers, our campus, and the community.”
Embracing the values of DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Division of Student Affairs played an integral part in supporting the University’s “Year of Diversity” throughout the 2016-17 school year. Amidst the backdrop of an especially challenging social climate, Student Affairs held strongly to its core values of diversity and inclusion.

“What makes you unique is important to our campus community. We’ve made it a priority to assemble a diverse staff, faculty, and student body—so that everybody can see themselves represented. We want everyone to feel like they can succeed here.”

— Kenyon Bonner, vice provost and dean of students

Dr. Jamie Washington welcomed the Class of 2020 with his interactive “Building a Pitt Community” program and encouraged students to embrace diversity among their new peers.
SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM/MLK WEEK

In January of this year, the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development (CCLD) hosted the annual Social Justice Symposium. Members of the Pitt community explored the concept of “privilege” and delved into topics that affect the community as a whole. The theme of the Symposium, “Creating a Just Community by Unmasking the Faces of Privilege,” enabled participants to examine their own respective privileges, while also learning to utilize such privileges for the good of others, who do not enjoy such advantages. This event served as the culmination of CCLD’s “MLK Week,” which included diverse programming aimed at honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CULTURAL IMMERSION TRIPS

Throughout the Year of Diversity, the Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development hosted several cultural immersion trips—visiting places such as Seattle, Wa., an Amish community in Ohio, and Washington, D.C. Students who attended the Washington D.C. trip had the chance to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture, as well as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The purpose of the trip was to further educate students on two historically oppressed populations. The visit prompted critical discourse on two specific cultural identities and allowed for participants to engage in conversations around race and religion. Participation in the trip helped to expand students’ understanding of civil rights and social justice, and encouraged them to actively foster understanding and appreciation of diversity.
ALLIES TRAINING

Last year, the Allies Network continued its efforts to improve visibility and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, allied, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) students and employees. The Allies Network consists of individuals who have been trained to provide necessary resources, support, and information to LGBTQIA+ students and colleagues. Members are easily recognizable through signage that is prominently displayed, indicating that an employee has participated in training and is committed to increasing his or her knowledge of, and sensitivity to, LGBTQIA+ issues. The sign allows the campus community to identify program members and know that they can speak freely with these individuals about issues, including sexual orientation and gender identity, which may affect their academic success or job satisfaction.

295 faculty/staff participated in Allies Training last year.

DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The University embraces disability as an important aspect of diversity. The Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS) works with students, parents, faculty, and staff to determine reasonable accommodations and services, to ensure that people with disabilities are integrated as completely as possible into the University experience. Through an interactive process, DRS works individually with each student to provide access to University classes, programs, and activities in support of each individual’s academic goals. Last year, DRS coordinated 4,551 exams that required accommodations.

DRS and the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance received a $35,000 grant from Pittsburgh-based FISA Foundation to support a College to Career initiative, which will provide support for undergraduate students with disabilities to prepare them for professional employment.

LGBTQIA+, RAINBOW ALLIANCE

The Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development (CCLD) is home to Rainbow Alliance, an organization that provides for the concerns and interests of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied community. Rainbow fosters an atmosphere of awareness and acceptance of all individuals and provides the University with the means to accomplish these goals.

Student Affairs has partnered with University entities to cultivate a more inclusive environment for all. Specifically, the University has introduced gender-neutral housing, identified single-use restrooms on campus, given students the option to use their preferred name on all University documentation, established a Gender Treatment Team in the Wellness Center for transgender students, and offered LGBT support groups through the Counseling Center.

BOXES AND WALLS

This year, the Office of Residence Life and the Division of Student Affairs’ Diversity and Inclusion Committee hosted its second annual “Boxes and Walls” program. Boxes and Walls is a guided tour through rooms that provide a look into experiences of groups of people who have been historically marginalized and oppressed. The program also serves as a safe space to educate students, staff, and community members on social justice issues. Nine student organizations contributed to the event by designing interactive displays as part of the tour. Each room provided attendees with a completely different simulation, which allowed for them to confront situations that occur in everyday life all around the world. Participants were invited to engage in discussion regarding experiences they may have had during the simulation.
RESPONDING TO STUDENT NEEDS DURING TURBULENT SOCIAL CLIMATE

“Take that extra step to not only recognize diversity, but to see the true value of it.”

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE
Created last year, the Division of Student Affairs’ Diversity and Inclusion Committee strives to align its mission, goals, and strategies with those of the University’s strategic goal to embrace diversity and inclusion. Many efforts, initiatives, programming and organizations within Student Affairs are moving the University’s strategic initiatives forward by reinforcing the plan to “transform the campus climate, enrich the student experience, and help to attract and retain a diverse University community.” Specifically, the Committee advanced its mission by collaborating with Cross Cultural and Leadership Development (CCLD) to develop the 2017 Panther Leadership Summit and the 2017 Social Justice Symposium. In addition, the Committee engages in ongoing diversity programming with student organizations.

BUILDING A PITT COMMUNITY
“Who am I? And more important, who are we?” Members of the Class of 2020 reflected on those questions as they took part in the diversity-themed “Building a Pitt Community” program during orientation. Through an interactive exercise, led by facilitator Dr. Jamie Washington, students were called upon to share aspects of their background, while simultaneously reflecting on and celebrating the diversity of experience and perspective that exists among them.

“I felt inspired to take part in a conversation that has the potential to make such an impact on the University. I’m encouraged that Pitt is committed to giving students a voice, and to responding to our concerns.”
-Meghan Browning

DIALOGUE WITH THE DEAN
First-year pharmacy student Meghan Browning has limited free time, but when she heard about an opportunity to discuss diversity and inclusion directly with members of Pitt’s administration, she decided to go. She’s glad she did.

Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kenyon Bonner hosted two Dialogue with the Dean events this past year. The purpose of the meetings was to allow students to give their thoughts and opinions regarding campus climate in relation to diversity and inclusion. Students were given the opportunity to voice their thoughts on how the University can continue to build an inclusive community.
In terms of cultural acclimation, it felt as if I was on a new planet.”

When Ayushi Dwivedi arrived at the University of Pittsburgh from Bangalore, India, she set an ambitious goal for herself: “I wanted to leave as a confident woman who enhanced the Pitt community, and who is prepared to make a positive difference in the world.” But in the process, Ayushi also wanted to use her experience as an international student to show all students that they too can find their niche and develop their full potential while at Pitt.

“My freshman year resident assistant played a huge role in helping me believe in myself, my values, and my talents. I wanted to show others that being an international student has nothing to do with the scope of your achievements or opportunities.”

Ayushi has served as a role model in a variety of ways: as a resident assistant, teaching assistant, officer on the PITT ARTS Student Arts Advisory Board, and the OCC Honorary Society’s director of community outreach.

“The Division of Student Affairs has been central to my success and growth during my time at Pitt,” said Ayushi, who will pursue her Master of Science degree in Healthcare Policy and Management this fall at Carnegie Mellon University. “The varied number of opportunities, the phenomenal mentors, and the innovative events helped me find my niche,” she added. “They have enabled me to walk away with a bundle of priceless memories, through leadership and networking opportunities that I have gained. But most important, Student Affairs has given me a family that I can always return to.”

LINDA WILLIAMS-MOORE
Associate Dean and Director of Student Life

Linda Williams-Moore devotes her time and efforts as an associate dean of students toward creating a positive collegiate experience through the programs that she oversees, the Office of Cross Cultural and Leadership Development, the Pitt Program Council, Parent and Family Resources, and the First Year Experience.

“When I was in college, I did not have the resources that are now available to Pitt students—like organizations that embrace cultural difference,” said Linda. “So, when I began to think about my career goals, I knew I wanted to serve as a role model and leader for marginalized student groups, particularly African American students.”

Through a comprehensive menu of programs and services, Student Life helps students engage with Pitt from their first year all the way through their senior year. By connecting students with resources, Student Life enables students to build their own community and connect through groups that provide them with experiential learning opportunities. Whether it is through the WPTS radio station, the Pitt News, or the William Pitt Union technical services office, there are endless options for students to gain a new perspective.

“It’s so rewarding to play a part in helping students find their niche—or in helping them discover an interest that will affect their growth and their career aspirations,” said Linda. “As the new school year approaches, it’s my hope that I can continue to positively contribute to a constantly changing campus climate.”
Providing excellence in

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Division of Student Affairs works diligently to provide all students access to our dynamic programming and extensive resources in order to forge a pathway to optimal health, balance, and wellness. Student Affairs has pinpointed four critical areas that greatly affect the health and wellness of students on college campuses today: sexual assault, mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, and campus recreation. It is the ongoing goal of Student Affairs to ensure that students have the resources necessary to maintain a positive and healthy experience while attending the University of Pittsburgh.

“*The dome will enable our club sports teams to have great practice facilities year ‘round, and provide a quality home field for many competitions. It will also enable us to continue expanding our growing intramural sports programs, and give student organizations, residence hall floors, fraternities and sororities, or any student who just wants a place to exercise, a fantastic place to go for recreational activities.*”

— Marilyn Ross, director of campus recreation

Vice Provost and Dean of Students Kenyon Bonner presents Marilyn Ross, director of Campus Recreation, with a special recognition plaque at the grand opening of the Pitt Sports Dome. The plaque celebrates Marilyn’s contributions to the University during more than 40 years of service.
ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS TASK FORCE
This past year, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force, housed within Student Health Service (SHS), continued to offer intentional programs and services designed to educate students about risks. Alcohol awareness programs cautioned students about the dangers of mixing alcohol with other drugs, while also touting the benefits of being sober.

42% decrease in alcohol violations during the 2016-17 academic year.

In partnership with the Student Government Board (SGB) and the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG), SHS led efforts to apply for the American Cancer Society’s Tobacco-Free Generation Campus grant, which would provide $20,000 in funding to increase anti-smoking efforts on campus.

SPORTS DOME
In April 2017, Student Affairs hosted the grand opening of the new Pitt Sports Dome, a state-of-the-art, on-campus facility that will provide much-needed space for Pitt’s club sports, as well as the University’s growing intramurals and recreation programs all year long. The multi-field, multi-use Sports Dome features three indoor soccer/football/lacrosse fields, along with three outdoor turf auxiliary playing fields.

In addition to the construction of the Pitt Sports Dome, the basketball/volleyball courts in Bellefield Hall were restored, and new workout equipment was added to the Baierl Recreation Center and other workout facilities on campus.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
In keeping with national trends, the University Counseling Center (UCC) has been confronted with steadily increasing student demand for services in recent years. The UCC implemented several significant enhancements to its methods of service delivery, including the addition of six new counselor positions, an expedited same-day initial screening process, and a transition from biweekly sessions to weekly sessions. A satellite office opened in the Medical Arts building to accommodate the UCC’s growing staff. Students also can sign up for group counseling, as well as workshops, on UCC’s Web site.

Established in 2015, the University’s Mental Health Task Force, comprised of staff, faculty, and student leaders from across the University, aims to support the efforts of the University Counseling Center by promoting programs and services that contribute to students’ overall mental health and well-being. The Task Force places special emphasis on suicide prevention, healthy relationships, and student resiliency.

“LET’S TALK” CAMPAIGN
In an effort to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health disorders, Student Affairs partners with student organizations on the annual “Let’s Talk” campaign during the month of October. The campaign encourages those suffering from mental health issues—particularly depression—to seek help, while also promoting a culture of understanding and empathy throughout our campus community.

Student Affairs recognizes that engaging and empowering active bystanders is an effective way to prevent sexual assault and maintain a safe campus community. For the third consecutive year, a robust Active Bystander Intervention Training program was held during New and Transfer Student Orientation, which taught students how to safely and appropriately intervene to prevent sexual assault and harassment.

To provide the most comprehensive training possible, Student Affairs engaged members of the Pitt Police to participate in the program, sharing insight into how students can play an active role in keeping their community safe.
Students who participated in the T-shirt project really enjoyed being able to share their voices and perspectives, and if you look at the t-shirts that were designed, all of them are really strong messages of empowerment and support.”

— Alia Gehr-Seloover, student health graduate assistant and coordinator of Pitt’s “It’s on Us” campaign
Student Affairs encourages students to lead lives of impact by providing a range of opportunities for students to engage with community partners to not only meet their needs, but also to help develop skillsets, while supporting their holistic growth. For our students, success is defined not only by the attainment of career goals, but also by a commitment to serving others and a desire to make a difference in our world.

“As a student, I searched for a cause to fight for and a reason to wake up and focus each morning. I quickly found that my cause was Pitt Make a Difference Day.”

— Daniel Lampmann, Pitt Make a Difference Day chair and Student Civic Engagement Council member

The Office of PittServes was recognized this spring for its Pitt Make a Difference Day (PMADD) program, and the far-reaching impact that it makes on the greater Pittsburgh area. More than 3,850 students and staff from the Pittsburgh campus participated in the October day of service.
2,086 internships or other experiential learning opportunities were posted in Handshake, Pitt’s career services platform.

1,658 students enrolled in the Internship Prep Program.

The Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance (CDPA) re-imagined and redesigned its signature programs, the Fall and Spring Career Fairs, in an effort to better serve students and employers. In past years, the Fall Career Fair had been held at the Petersen Events Center on upper campus, but the event was moved to the William Pitt Union, located in the heart of Pitt’s campus, and expanded from a two-day event to a four-day event. This enabled students from all majors to tailor their Career Fair experience based on their interest in specific industries and companies.

In addition to hosting career fairs, which attracted more than 500 combined employers in 2016-17, CDPA continues to provide a wide range of career development programs, services and events, including over 6,000 individualized consultant appointments, résumé building workshops, mock interviews, an Internship Preparation Program, the Career Closet, and more. A robust job shadowing program provides exclusive opportunities for students to visit employers in the Pittsburgh region and beyond throughout the year, and gain a first-hand understanding of professional organizations.

In her role, Cheryl also oversees the facilitation of the University’s Outside the Classroom Curriculum, which provides students with a structured way to grow personally and professionally through a series of programs and events designed to help them gain a competitive edge upon graduation.

“I’m fortunate that, every day, I have the chance to come to work, and do what I love,” said Associate Dean of Students and Director of Career Development and Placement Assistance (CDPA), Cheryl Finlay. “I feel that it’s my calling to provide our students with the same opportunity to make their passion their profession.”

The goal of CDPA is to provide personalized career development services to Pitt students from start to finish to help them build fulfilling lifetime opportunities. CDPA takes pride in helping to prepare students not only to be competitive, but also to thrive in today’s global economy.

Under Cheryl’s leadership, CDPA provides a plethora of resources for students to take advantage of throughout the duration of their collegiate career.

““The most rewarding part about my position is hearing students’ success stories—whether it’s scoring a coveted internship or acing a key job interview.”

““The OCC helps students become the best versions of themselves,” said Cheryl. “It exposes them to new ideas and new perspectives, and reinforces the values that will help them not only become good leaders, but also good people.”

94% placement rate for graduating seniors. (2015–2016)
Fundraisers and participants raised $250,187.73 at this year’s Pitt Dance Marathon, which benefits the Children’s Miracle Network program at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

**Daniel Lampmann**

*2017 graduate, B.A. degree in communication and rhetoric with a minor in non-fiction writing*

Daniel Lampmann learned how to be a neighbor, a friend, an advocate, and a leader during his time at Pitt. His leadership roles, including serving on the Student Civic Engagement Council, have inspired him to reach back and help other students find out who they are.

Daniel dedicated much of his time as a student to Pitt Make a Difference Day by serving as a co-chair in 2015 and chair in 2016. Daniel’s passion for service has contributed to an all-time-participation record for Pitt Make a Difference Day.

Daniel has also made a tremendous impact on the Oakland campus by contributing to the implementation of a zero-waste process on campus, which seeks to reduce the size of Pitt’s environmental footprint.

**Hashaam Jamil**

*Rising senior majoring in psychology and sociology*

“For me, the most rewarding part about service is watching other people find their passions,” said Hashaam Jamil, this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Emerging Leader Award presented by Coro Pittsburgh.

Hashaam, who served as a member of the Student Civic Engagement Council, has committed his college career to service and a desire to promote a culture of diversity and inclusion. His goal is to encourage more students to become involved in service, but he also aspires to be a source of hope and validation for his peers who may be struggling with mental health issues. By becoming a leader on campus through programs such as Emerging Leaders and serving as a resident assistant, Hashaam has become deeply engaged in community outreach, becoming a critical member of the PittServes team. Hashaam is more than just a friend to his peers at the University of Pittsburgh; he is a true role model for all of those who come in contact with him.

**Be a Good Neighbor Day**

This year, the Office of PittServes hosted its first annual “Be a Good Neighbor Day.” Through the event, faculty, staff, alumni, and students were invited to participate in on- and off-campus service projects of their choice in order to benefit communities within the surrounding Pittsburgh area. As the Year of Diversity was coming to an end, each project was created in an effort to celebrate diversity, inclusion, and dialogue. The goal of Be a Good Neighbor Day was to bridge social gaps within the community by participating in service that could benefit people of all backgrounds.
As she navigated her Pitt journey as an undergraduate student, Julia Helgert’s path took an unexpected detour when she became a first-time parent. While balancing the demands of motherhood and schoolwork was challenging, Julia found that the University’s College of General Studies provided her with the support and flexibility needed to enjoy a fulfilling college experience as a non-traditional student.

Over the course of her six-year college career, Julia excelled academically, earning the distinction of being named a finalist for the prestigious Emma Locke Award, recognizing high scholarship, character, and devotion to the ideals of the University.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Julia was also compelled to make a positive impact on Pitt through her campus involvement. She spent the 2015-16 school year serving as president of the College of General Studies Student Government, and she made a strong effort to ensure that non-traditional students, like herself, felt included and a part of the University.

“We hosted events, workshops, seminars, and much more to inspire our non-traditional students,” said Julia. “These events encouraged students to come to campus and get involved.”

Julia served as a student intern in the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance, as well as a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, which made targeted efforts to create a more inclusive campus climate. As a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Julia contributed to the naming of the “Year of Diversity.”

“Having a child in the middle of my college career and still being able to return is an indescribable feeling. Pitt has given me the confidence and skills to provide a life for my daughter, and for that, I will be forever grateful.”

RISE AGAINST HUNGER
Students from Litchfield Towers and Forbes Hall volunteered with Rise Against Hunger to package more than 120,000 meals, enough to feed more than 700,000 people. PittServes and Residence Life partnered with Kraft Heinz Company Foundation to collect the food donations. The event filled the O’Hara Student Center with students eager to make an impact in the world.

PANTHER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
The 11th annual Panther Leadership Summit (PLS) provided multifaceted leadership development training through dynamic presentations by local leaders and intentionally designed, interactive breakout sessions. 99% of surveyed 2017 PLS participants reported that they developed a greater sense of leadership identity.
It’s fitting that, as we prepare for the tenth year of PMADD, we are in the position to put $10,000 back into our communities. In an effort to align with the University’s larger commitment to Homewood, we are placing a strategic focus on the area. Our goal is to expand partnerships, and hopefully have a meaningful impact on the community.

-Misti McKeeken, director of PittServes

More than 3,850 students and staff served in the 9th annual Pitt Make a Difference Day.

PITT MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

As Pitt Make a Difference Day (PMADD) prepares for its 10th annual day of service, the Office of PittServes is also enjoying special recognition garnered at the end of last year. The Pitt Make a Difference Day program was selected as one of 14 winners of the national 2016 Make a Difference Day Award, and formally recognized at a special ceremony on April 10, 2017. “Make a Difference Day” is one of the largest annual single days of service nationwide, and is made possible by TEGNA Media, with the support of the Arby’s Foundation, and the Points of Light Foundation. The Make a Difference Day Award also includes a $10,000 grant, which winners may designate to the charity of their choice.

PittServes will use its grant to forge stronger connections with specific neighborhoods, including Homewood, which has been identified as the site of the University’s new Community Engagement Center, which will open in the fall.

PRINCETON REVIEW ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

For the second consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh was designated by The Princeton Review as one of the “Colleges That Pay You Back: 50 Schools that Launch Careers by Going Beyond the Classroom.”

Several Student Affairs programs contributed to the University earning such a ranking, including the Outside the Classroom Curriculum (OCC), the Internship Guarantee, and other programs offered by the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance (CDPA), as well as Living Learning Communities in residence halls.

STAMPS SCHOLARS/NORDENBERG LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS

Student Affairs continued to support two groups of exceptional students who are engaged in unique leadership and professional development activities. The University welcomed its third cohort of five students participating in the Stamps Scholars program, which was established in partnership with the Stamps Charitable Foundation to promote comprehensive understanding and development of leadership from a global perspective. Pitt also welcomed its second cohort of Nordenberg Leadership Scholars, a group of 10 Pennsylvania high school students who have demonstrated excellent leadership skills, innovative thinking, intellectual curiosity, and community involvement. Both Stamps and Nordenberg Scholars receive full-tuition scholarships to the University.
Personalized Experience

Retention

Lives of Impact
As we look to the future, the Division of Student Affairs embraces the promise of a new school year and the endless potential of our University community. We are highly motivated by the unique challenges and opportunities that are in front of us as we continue our efforts to ensure the best collegiate experience for all students at the University of Pittsburgh. Moving forward, we will use such challenges and opportunities to guide our strategies and programs, along with our evaluation of best practices, as we strive to meet the evolving needs of our students.

The overall health and well-being of our students remains our top priority, and we are excited to offer our full support of next year’s University-wide “Year of Healthy U.” We will continue to modify and diversify our methods of service delivery in order to meet the increasing student demand for services provided by our Student Health Service, University Counseling Center, and Campus Recreation department. Plans are in place to open an on-campus Collegiate Recovery Program for students in recovery from alcohol, drug or other addictions. In addition, Student Affairs will build upon last year’s expansion and enhancement of campus recreation facilities, creating more opportunities for students to strengthen their commitment to physical wellness.

In supporting the well-being of our students, we understand that it is incumbent upon us to maintain a healthy and respectful campus environment—one that allows all students to thrive. Therefore, we will hold strongly to our core values of diversity and inclusion, and encourage our students—through intentional programming efforts—to seek meaningful interaction with those whose beliefs and experiences differ from their own. We will facilitate opportunities for students to engage in civil discourse and respectful debate, emphasizing the need for civility in the midst of an often tenuous social climate.

As a Division, we will also support the University’s efforts to increase access and affordability so that students from underrepresented populations will have the opportunity to attend Pitt, receive a world-class education, and pursue their dreams.

The upcoming school year presents the opportunity to build upon the achievements of the past year. Within the Division of Student Affairs, we are fortunate that our team possesses the vision, talent, and dedication needed to reach our goals, and provide a collegiate experience that enables our students to realize their fullest potential.

H2P!