

Program Overview

Who We Are: The Penn State Center Pittsburgh provides an urban platform to the University in meeting its land grant obligation in the transfer of research based practice into community problem solving. This is accomplished via resident knowledge of a staff of over 20 Educators, Program Managers, Management and Support Staff in three business lines of ***community development, environment and horticulture and quality of life via youth development, healthfulness and the arts***; or, by accessing faculty and students from the University through engaged scholarship opportunities. Modeled on the best practice of Extension, the Center is able to work with and across colleges and campuses within the University system. Core operations support is provided by University Outreach, Extension, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Allegheny County.

What We Do: The Penn State Center Pittsburgh, comprised of both Outreach and Extension, generally delivers its services via classroom instruction, studios, demonstrations, targeted neighborhood revitalization and one on one technical assistance provision. We deliver our resident services as well as faculty and student engagement via three business lines. Program highlights include:

- ***Community Development***

This business line includes direct technical assistance in:

- Green Infrastructure (GI) demonstrations (e.g., Four Mile Run in Lower Greenfield, the ECCO Stormwater Mitigation Garden in Larimer and Baldwin High School Rain Garden), green roof installations at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center and the County Office Building as well as green infrastructure implementation pilots (e.g., Project 15206).
 - Public Policy recommendations on rain container installation and training and curricula in green infrastructure maintenance by public works, volunteer participation and site inspections.
- The partner participation in the Choice Neighborhood award of \$30M in Larimer, including youth development and workforce, urban agriculture, urban forestry, green infrastructure monitoring, business development and nutrition.
- Over 50 landscape architecture studio projects in 14 communities in Allegheny County.

- ***Environment and Horticulture***

This business line includes credit and non- credit courses in horticulture, urban forestry and energy. Recent examples include:

- The Green Industry Certification Programs including landscape, pest and turf management.
- The Master Gardeners Program including certification, the Garden and Landscape Symposium and Market, the Speakers' Bureau and demonstration gardens, including the Edible Teaching Garden in Point Breeze and the demonstration gardens in North and South Park. There are 160 master gardeners who have contributed over 8,000 volunteer hours.
- The Building Operators Certification Program and energy assessments of residential structures attended by public works and school district operations staff.

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- ***Environment and Horticulture (cont.)***
 - Examples in direct assistance include: business planning for a nursery in Hazelwood and the feasibility analysis of a farm in the Hilltop City neighborhoods and Round Hill in the South Hills ; and the analysis of trees in the county parks and the development of a tree inventory and tree ordinance workshop, including shade tree commission ordinance development.
- ***Quality of Life***

This business line includes training in youth development and leadership, nutrition/food safety/food access and the arts. Recent examples include:

 - The African American Male Leadership Program in Larimer and Lincoln Lemington
 - Health Rocks Programming in the Hill District and Beltzhoover
 - Funding and hosting the staff of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
 - Serving Up My Plate in Braddock and Turtle Creek
 - Dining with Diabetes on the North Side
 - The inaugural visual arts installation of student art at 707-09 Penn Avenue this past Spring
- ***Where We Provide Service:*** The Penn State Center Pittsburgh provides services in Allegheny County. To date, we have worked in more than 30 municipalities in the County and over 40 City of Pittsburgh neighborhoods. Some programs of Extension Educators may be provided in a wider geography in the State. Since 2008, over 528 students have participated via engaged scholarship in over 20 community projects.

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