



Point Park University Center for Civic and Community Engagement

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Defining the Mission

MISSION

Point Park University's Center for Civic and Community Engagement (CCE) serves as a hub to support collaboration and social innovation between the campus and the community.

Our mission is to connect Point Park University with Pittsburgh through learning, service, research, activation, and partnerships that create a safer, healthier, and more vibrant region.



LEARNING



SERVICE



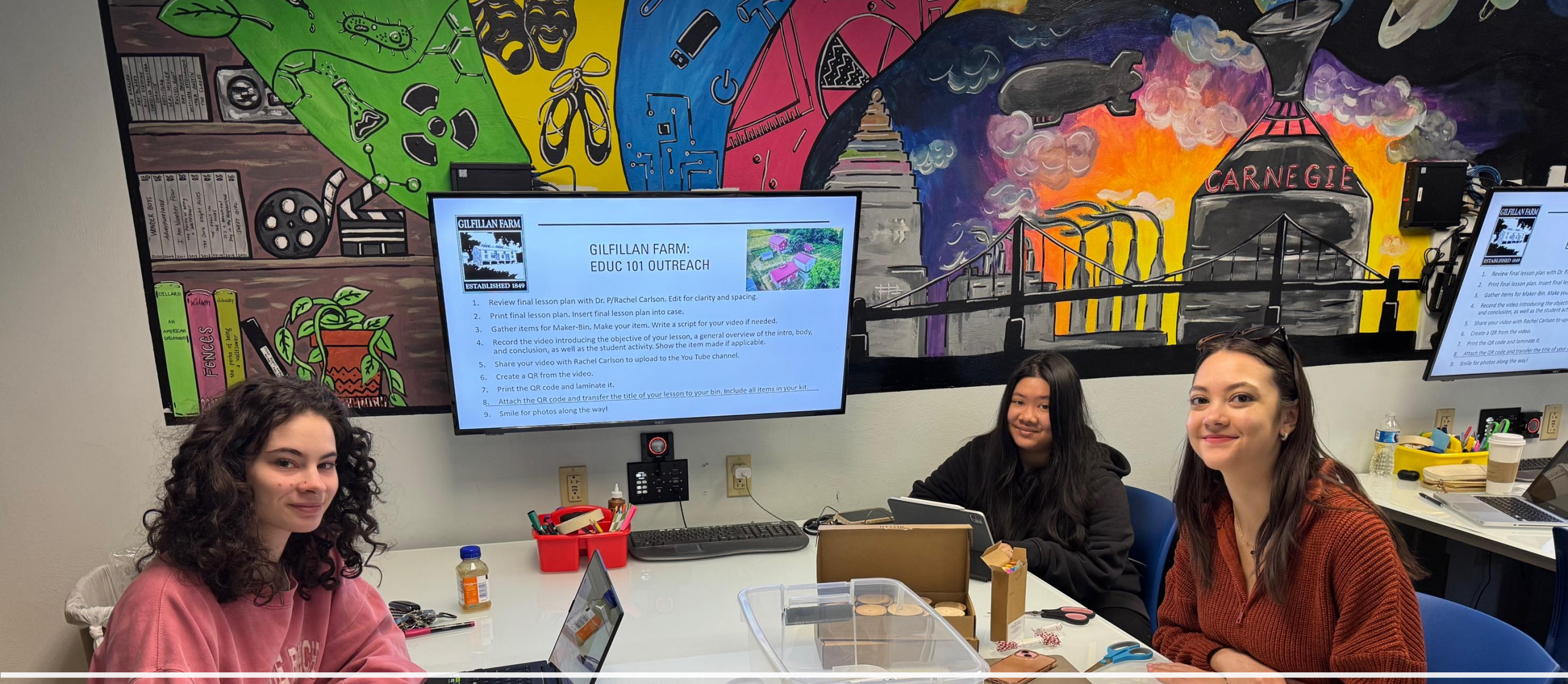
RESEARCH



ACTIVATION



PARTNERSHIPS



GILFILLAN FARM: EDUC 101 OUTREACH



1. Review final lesson plan with Dr. P/Rachel Carlson. Edit for clarity and spacing.
2. Print final lesson plan. Insert final lesson plan into case.
3. Gather items for Maker-Bin. Make your item. Write a script for your video if needed.
4. Record the video introducing the objective of your lesson, a general overview of the intro, body, and conclusion, as well as the student activity. Show the item made if applicable.
5. Share your video with Rachel Carlson to upload to the YouTube channel.
6. Create a QR from the video.
7. Print the QR code and laminate it.
8. Attach the QR code and transfer the title of your lesson to your bin. Include all items in your kit.
9. Smile for photos along the way!



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University Impact

TRACKING & ASSESSMENT AY 2025-26

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS BY CAMPUS AREA



152 projects in the updated Point Park Community Engagement Tracker.



**EXPERIENTIAL
CENTERS**



**ACADEMIC
SCHOOLS**



**STAFF
DEPARTMENTS/
COMMITTEES**



ATHLETICS



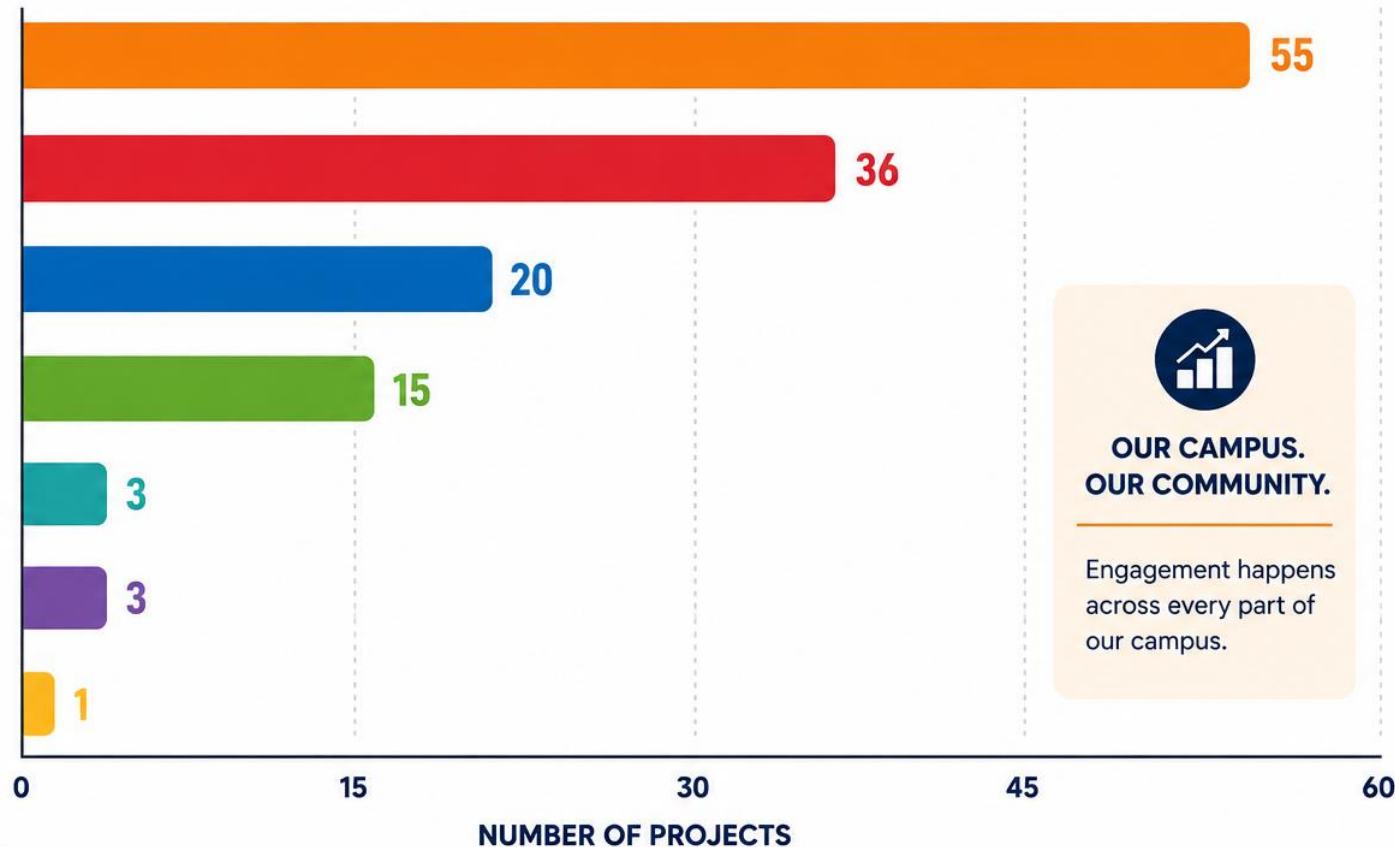
**STUDENT
ORGANIZATIONS**



**GRADUATE
PRACTICUM/
RESEARCH**



**HONORS
PROGRAM**



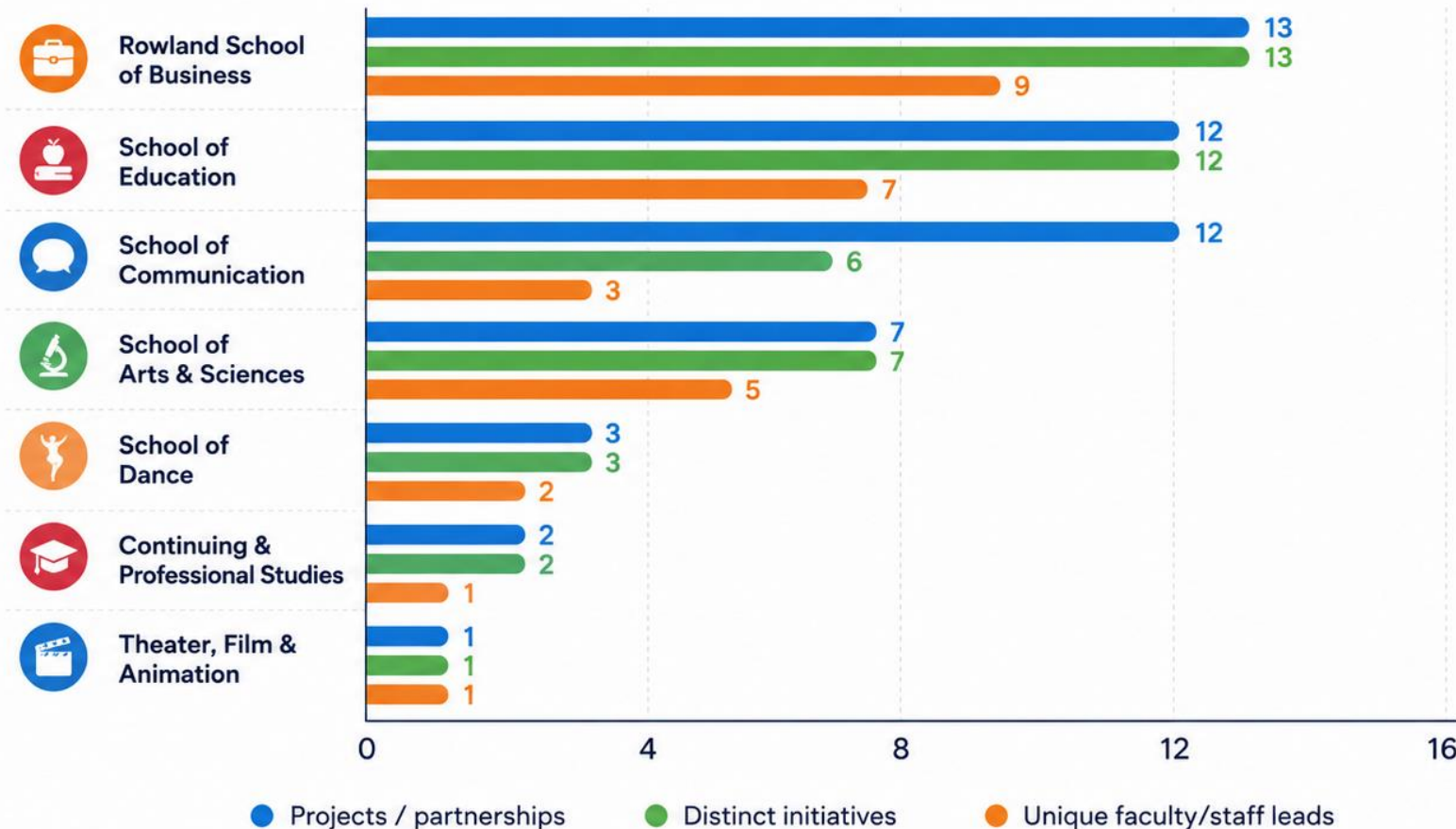
**OUR CAMPUS.
OUR COMMUNITY.**

Engagement happens
across every part of
our campus.

TRACKING & ASSESSMENT AY 2025-26

BREADTH AND VOLUME OF ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Three complementary measures of engagement across Point Park's academic schools.



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Business and Education lead in overall project volume and distinct initiatives.



Arts & Sciences shows strong faculty/staff participation relative to project volume.



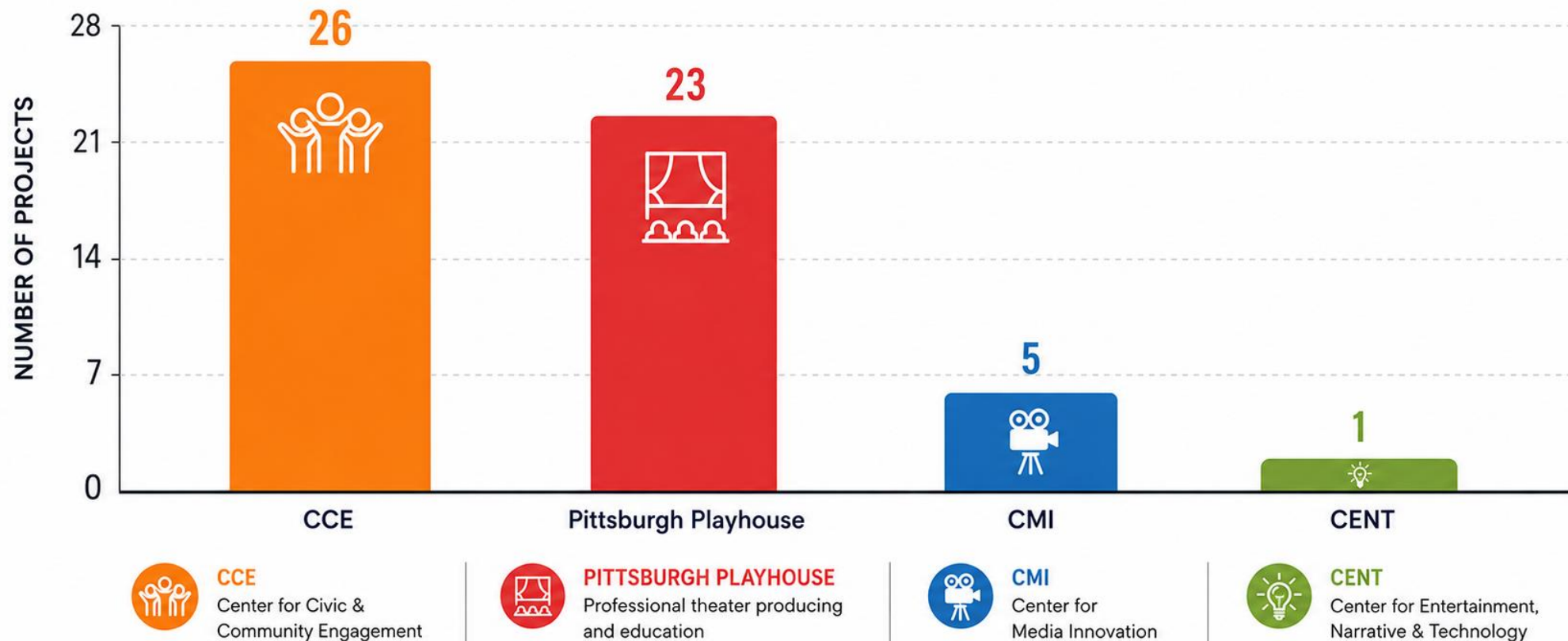
Communication has high partnership volume concentrated among fewer faculty/staff leads.

Data reflects projects reported in AY 2025-26.

TRACKING & ASSESSMENT AY 2025-26

EXPERIENTIAL CENTER PARTICIPATION

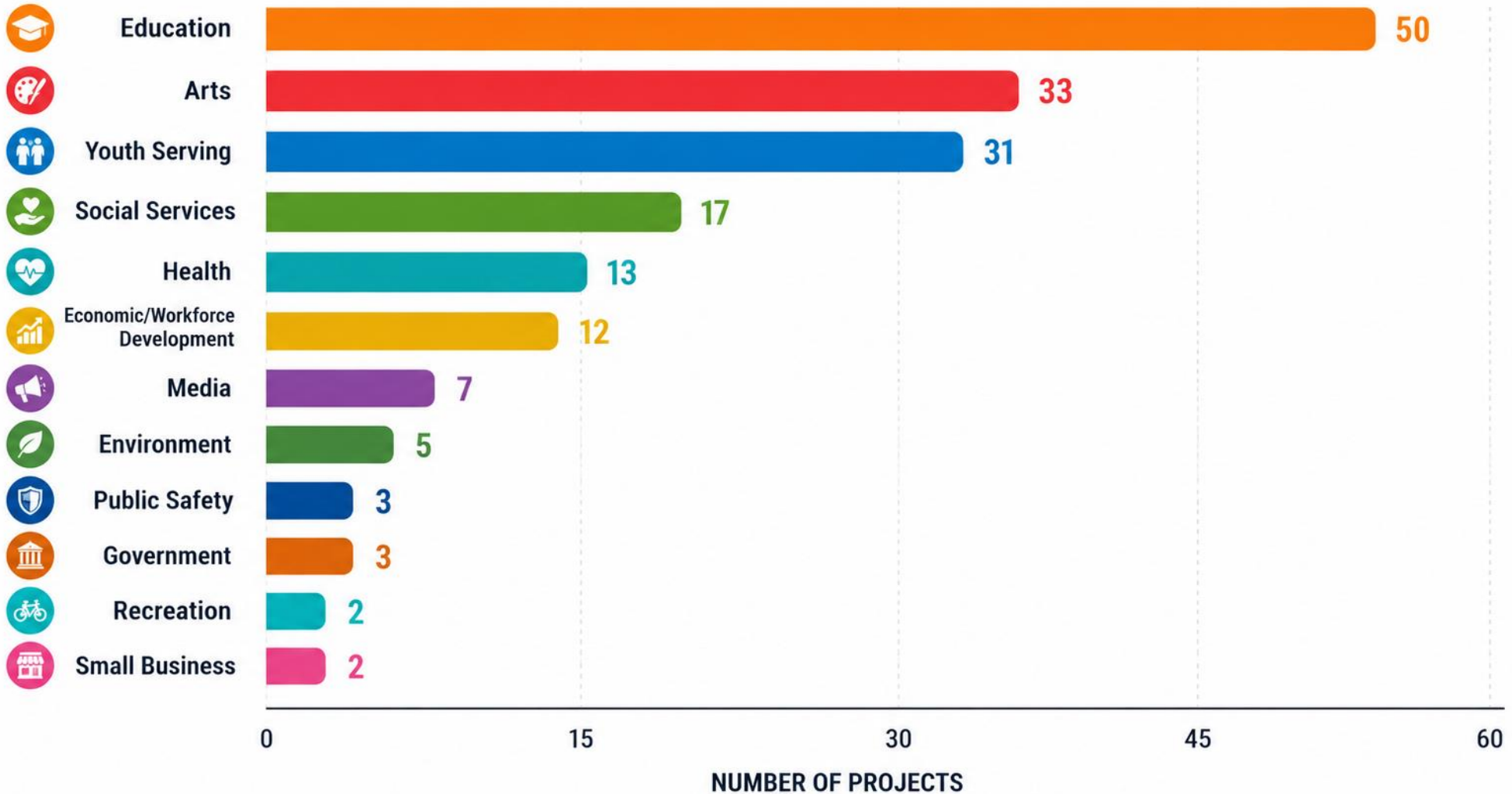
Projects primarily attributed to Point Park's experiential centers.



TRACKING & ASSESSMENT AY 2025-26

COMMUNITY SECTORS REPRESENTED

Number of projects associated with each major sector. Projects may have multiple sectors.



TRACKING & ASSESSMENT AY 2025-26

WHERE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TAKES PLACE

Distribution of all **152** projects by on-campus/off-campus designation.



BOTH

Projects that take place both on and off campus

18
12%



OFF-CAMPUS

Projects that take place off campus

59
39%



ON-CAMPUS

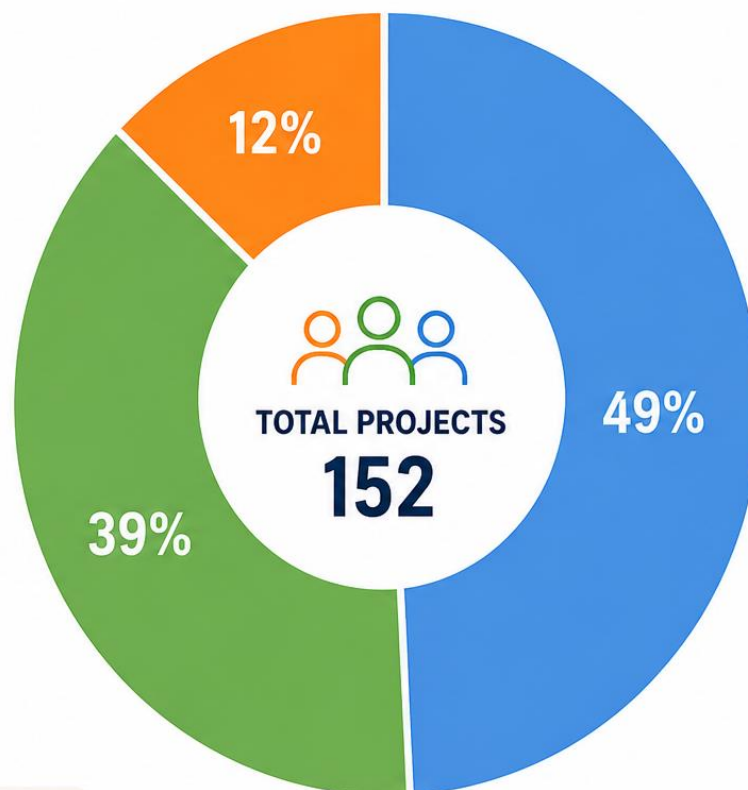
Projects that take place on campus

75
49%



ENGAGING EVERYWHERE

Nearly half of our projects take place on campus, while **51%** extend into the community—or both.



Off-campus geography

Among locations specifically identified, **Downtown Pittsburgh** is by far the largest concentration, with **31 projects**. The next most common are North Side/North Shore (7), Strip District (4), and New Kensington/Arnold, Oakland, South Side, and East Liberty (2 each).

TRACKING & ASSESSMENT AY 2025-26

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Collaborating to strengthen our region through learning, service, research, and partnership.



K-12 SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS

- AIU 3
(Allegheny Intermediate Unit)
- Aliquippa High School
- Alderdice High School
- Allegheny Middle School
- Armstrong Junior Senior High School
- Brashear High School
- Brentwood Middle School
- Brownsville Area High School
- Brownsville Area Middle School
- Central Valley School District
- Chartiers-Houston Jr./Sr. High School
- Clairton High School



COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- CCAC
- Chatham University
- Duquesne University
- PennWest University
- Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
- Robert Morris University
- Slippery Rock University
- University of Pittsburgh



NONPROFITS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- 412 Youth Zone
- Active Angels Network
- Alliance for Young Artists
- Autism Connection
- Autism Connection of Pennsylvania
- Bender Leadership Academy
- Boys & Girls Club
- Café Momentum
- Center for Emergency Medicine
- Central Outreach
- Children's Museum Pittsburgh
- Citrone 33 Foundation
- EQT Foundation



ARTS & CULTURE

- Attack Theatre
- August Wilson African American Cultural Center
- Benedum Center
- Benedum-Trees Gallery
- CLO Academy
- Iron City Distilling
- Kelly Strayhorn Theatre
- Quantum Theatre



HEALTHCARE & MENTAL HEALTH

- Allegheny County Health Department
- Allegheny Health Network
- Avellar Wellness
- Battaglia Psychological LLC
- Cardigan Psychological
- Counseling & Wellness Center of Pittsburgh
- Ellie Mental Health
- Excela Health Network
- Forward Wellness
- Gateway Rehab
- Jade Wellness
- Makin Wellness
- NAMI
- PAAR
- Persad
- Psychological Perspectives LLC
- Resolve Crisis Services
- STAR Center (UPMC Western Psychiatric)



GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AGENCIES

- Allegheny County Health Department
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit
- Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters
- Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs



MEDIA & JOURNALISM

- Institute for Nonprofit News
- Next Generation Newsroom
- Pittsburgh Black Media Federation
- Press Club of Western Pennsylvania
- Rebuild Local News
- Trib Total Media
- Women's Press Club of Pittsburgh



ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

Thank you to all of our partners who help make our community stronger.



★ *This list reflects partners engaged during the 2025-26 academic year and is not exhaustive.*

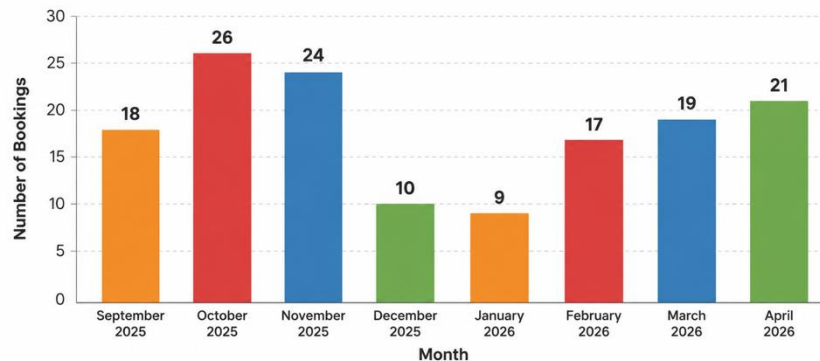
THE CENTER at 101 Wood Street

The “Center” at 101 Wood Street is an 800-square foot space that is open to all community members to use free of charge. The CCE’s goal this year was to invite community members in as often as possible to show them the space and let them know it’s a regional resource.

The space has proven very flexible, hosting classes, guest speakers, critiques, showcases, yoga classes, birthday parties and more bookings.

CCE Space Bookings by Month

September 2025 – April 2026





Center for Civic & Community Engagement Impact

Strategic Vision Process

During the 2025-26 Academic year, the Center for Civic & Community Engagement launched, with a visioning process to define the Center's Mission and Pillars of Work.

Scale of Engagement for the Strategic Visioning Process

To ensure that the plan reflects authentic campus and community priorities, the CCE led a broad and inclusive engagement effort that included more than 350 individuals in the region.

This included:

- **Five structured focus groups** with over 100 staff, alumni, and doctoral students.
- Direct engagement with more than **150 undergraduate** and graduate students through surveys, listening sessions, and guided conversations inside the CCE space.
- More than **50 individual meetings** with community partners across youth development, arts and culture, human services, public safety, business, environmental stewardship, and government sectors.
- **Benchmarking research** of dozens of Community Engagement Centers at Institutions of Higher Education across the country.

After collecting all data, we treated it like a qualitative research process and looked for themes, synergy and opportunities.



CCE Pillars of Work

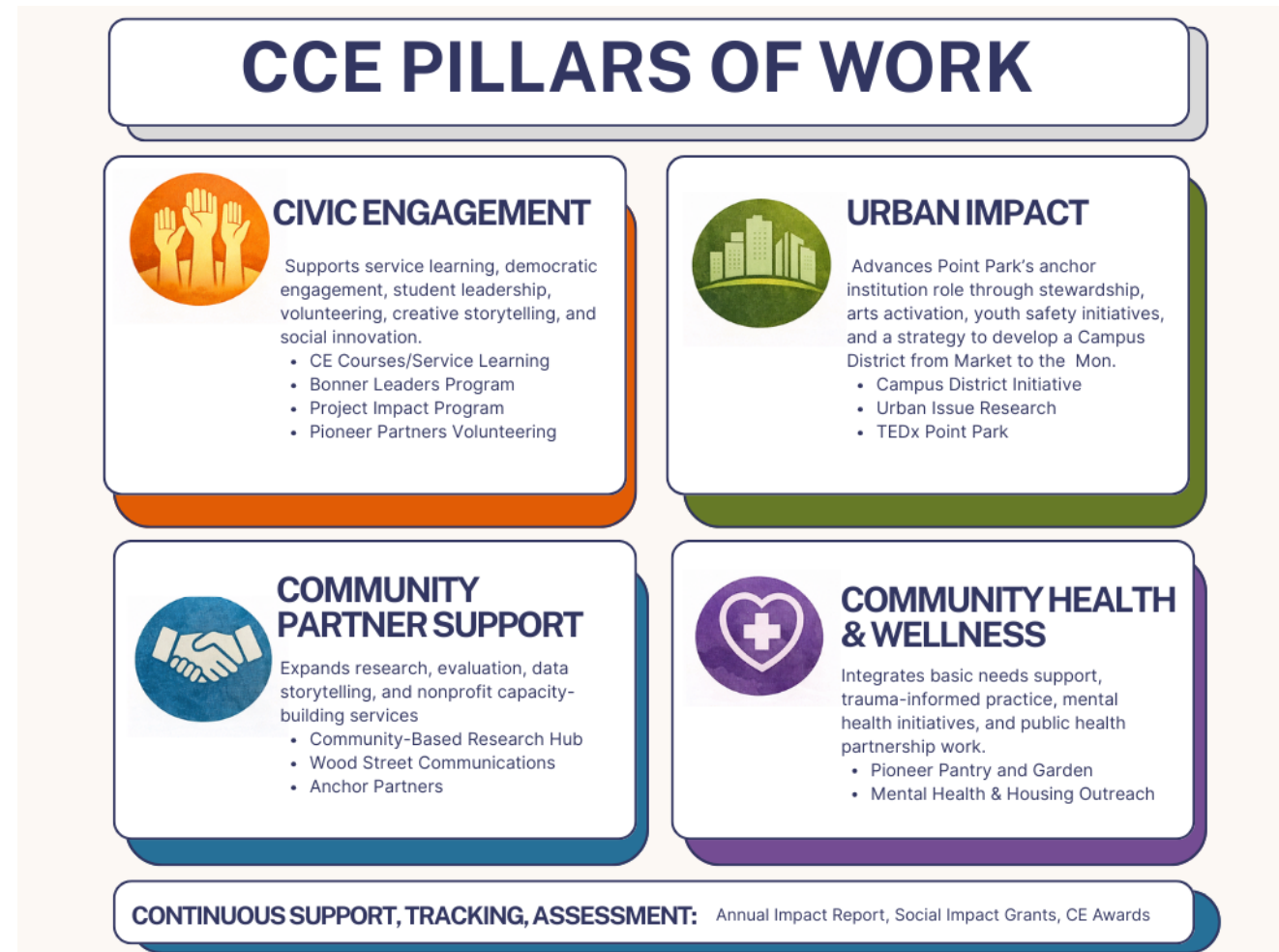
Combining the internal discussions, external partner meetings, and national benchmarking, we recommend the following Pillars of Work for the CCE

The **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** pillar supports service learning, democratic engagement, student leadership, volunteering, creative storytelling, and social innovation.

The **URBAN IMPACT** pillar advances Point Park's anchor institution role through stewardship, arts activation, youth safety initiatives, and a strategy to develop a Campus District from Market to the Mon

The **COMMUNITY PARTNER SUPPORT** pillar expands research, evaluation, data storytelling, and nonprofit capacity-building services.

The **COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS** pillar integrates basic needs support, trauma-informed practice, mental health initiatives, and public health partnership work.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Bonner Leaders

The Bonner Leaders program is a four-year service-based program where students use Federal Work Study funds to get real-life work experience in Pittsburgh nonprofit organizations and receive powerful leadership development training that helps students transition from volunteers to leaders in their community.

This year, 26 Bonner Leaders contributed 2,916 hours to 17 area nonprofits, received 598 hours of training, and our first class of four Bonner Leaders graduated from Point Park and from the Bonner program. There were 4 seniors, 3 juniors, 8 sophomores, and 11 freshmen Bonner Leaders.



Non-profit partners include:

- August Wilson African American Cultural Center
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania
- Cafe Momentum
- Center for Civic and Community Engagement
- CLO Academy – 2 Bonner Leaders
- Foster Love Project
- GirlGov/Women and Girls Foundation
- Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation – 4 Bonner Leaders
- Open Field
- Partners in Learning
- Pioneer Pantry
- Pittsburgh Cultural Trust – 2 Bonner Leaders
- Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
- Project Impact – 2 Bonner Leaders
- Storox Library
- Wood Street Commons/Community Human Services
- YWCA
- YouthPlaces – 3 Bonner Leaders

“What stands out most is her professionalism and maturity; she is consistently timely, follows up diligently, and approaches her work with care and accountability. Rather than making unnecessary assumptions, she asks thoughtful questions to ensure accuracy and alignment, which is a rare and valuable skill at any stage of a career. She has quickly become someone we trust with important details and processes.”

– Community Partner

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Project Impact

Student Impact Alliance brings together middle and high school students from diverse backgrounds to share a meaningful, collaborative service-learning goal, in addition to each team's school/organization service initiatives, that creates *real community change*. Through project planning and hands-on work, students grow as leaders, build empathy, and become advocates for sustainable impact.

120 students from **11** participating Middle Schools, High Schools, and Organizations across **Allegheny, Fayette, and Westmoreland** County included: Brashear High School – 1Nation Mentoring, Brownsville Area Middle School, Brownsville Area High School, Clairton High School, Dickson STEAM Academy - 1Nation Mentoring, GirlGov - Women and Girls Foundation PA, Norwin High School – Show Choir, Pine-Richland High School, Pittsburgh Hardball Academy, Pittsburgh King PreK-8 Community School, The Neighborhood Academy

Project Impact included:

2 annual service-leadership conferences – each with over 100 student attendees.

4 (Bi-Monthly) Virtual Alliance Meetings – with 15 unique student leaders across participating schools/organizations joining together to envision a Mental Health Peer-to-Peer initiative.

1 Alliance Meeting at the Center for Civic Engagement, where 15 students and 5 advisors came together to learn mental health strategies from a guidance counselor to implement at their respective sites.

10 Individualized Meeting (1 per participating school/org) for focused support.

Our culminating celebration presentation event – where 9 teams shared their service stories to earn awards. Over 100 attendees were present, including representatives from EQT and Expressions in Harmony, who provide funding for SIA.

“I found Project Impact to be a valuable way to connect with other young people in my community who are interested in service. It gave me inspiration as to how I can better serve my community through student council initiatives and GirlGov ideas. Additionally, I am passionate about the work we do at GirlGov and want to have the opportunity to share that with others.”

- Lucy, SIA - GirlGov



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Pioneer Partners Volunteering

- Pioneer Partners aims to foster civic responsibility and is dedicated to enriching lives in the community through volunteer programs, service-learning trips, camps and other community initiatives. Events included:

- **Downtown Cleanup** – in partnership with the PDP. Saw over 100 students, athletes participate
- **Community Counts** – in partnership with the Department of Human Services - Annual count of unhoused individuals on one night in January
- **Pioneer Community Week** – Daily activities for the campus community included dog toys for Animal Friends, Bookmarks for Foundation of Hope, Tea bag holders for PAWomen Work, and Peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for the Red Door
- **Immaculate Collection** – led a team of 8 PCHE schools in a county-wide cleanup effort ahead of the draft



URBAN IMPACT

TEDx Point Park University

TEDx Point Park University returned on May 29, 2026, bringing together students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members for a morning of storytelling, reflection, and ideas connected to this year's theme, AFTER. The event drew strong interest, with 54 speaker applicants reviewed through a competitive selection process. Six speakers were selected, with support from six reviewers who helped evaluate applications and guide speakers through the preparation process.

The 2026 speaker lineup included:

- "Courts are Quietly Reshaping Your Neighborhood" - Anna Yatsko
- "AFTER the Steel City: Reinventing A Community" - William 'Bill' Flannigan
- "After Everything Worked" - Tiffany Huff
- "One City, Forty Newsrooms: Why Pittsburgh Needs an Associated Press Moment" - Matt Stroud
- "What Comes After Survival: How Crisis Creates a New Kind of Strength" - Jessica Boston
- "After Patriarchy" - Melike Konur

TEDx
PointParkUniversity
x = independently organized TED event

AFTER

AFTER showcases ideas that examine what happens when familiar systems, roles, or identities no longer function as they once did-and how individuals and communities respond in the space that follows.



Jessica Boston

What Comes After Survival: How Crisis Creates a New Kind of Strength



Bill Flanagan

AFTER an entire region loses its industry and identify, how does it find a way forward?



Tiffany Huff

After Everything Worked



Melike Konur

After Patriarchy



Matt Stroud

One City, Forty Newsrooms: Why Pittsburgh Needs an Associated Press Moment



Anna Yatsko

Courts are Quietly Reshaping Your Neighborhood



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Conversations on Campus

Community Partners are starting to see the CCE as the front door to the University and have been reaching out for space and partnership needs. This includes:

- **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** – Hosted inaugural Policy Roundtable
- **URA** – Hosted bi-annual CDC partner meeting
- **Food Policy Council** – Hosted stakeholder listening session
- **Governor Shapiro's Office** – Hosted State Sec of Education and Lt. Gov. collegiate basic needs listening session
- **Allegheny Cleanways** – Led effort to engage PCHE schools in regional cleanup
- **Homeless Children's Education Fund** – Hosted Teen CEO Family Night
- **Just Films Festival** – Hosted annual film festival featuring films for, by and about women

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Wood Street Communications

For over a decade, Wood Street Communications (WSC) has been providing custom design and production work for small and mid-side nonprofit organizations in the region. The launch of the CCE brought a new model for WSC, which is now operated as a fee-for-service model, collaboratively led by the CCE and the [Center for Media Innovation](#) (CMI), in partnership with the [School of Communication](#).

Since the January 2026 relaunch, WSC has partnered with multiple organizations including the Jewish Women's Foundation of Greater Pittsburgh and the Bartko Foundation to produce professional level video projects.

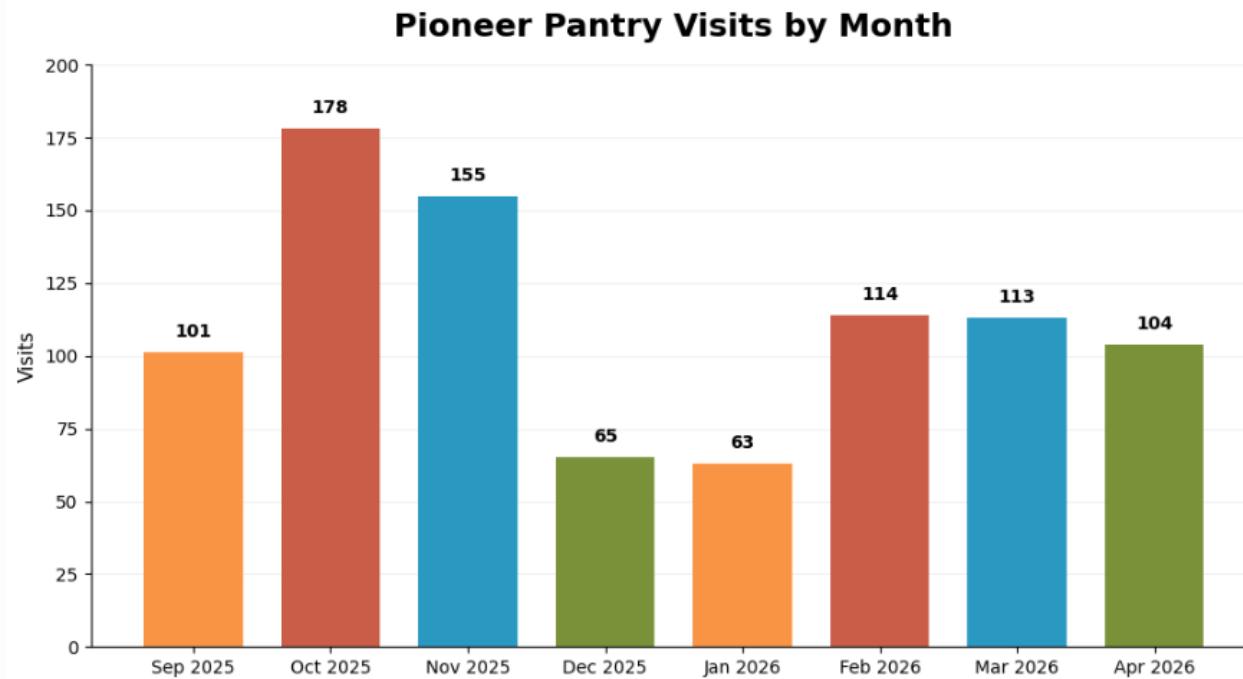


COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING

Pioneer Pantry

The Center's Collegiate Basic Needs work continue to be integral to our work engaging with the Point Park Community. This year the CCE partnered with the Staff Assembly Community Engagement committee who suggested that the pantry be staffed regularly by staff departments. This system has allowed the pantry to be staffed on a regular basis and given the staff the opportunity to learn more about our work and become advocates for basic needs supports.

The Community Garden continues to grow food to be donated to campus, and will begin the growing season again this summer.



Thanksgiving Drive

The CCE held their annual Thanksgiving Meal and Break Box drive, raising over \$3,000 from faculty and staff to help provide thanksgiving meals to students who were unable to travel home for the holiday break. We provided meals for over 100 students, in addition to extra “break boxes” of food for when the dining halls are closed.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING

Collegiate Basic Needs Funding

- The CCE was awarded \$33,500 from the State Hunger Free Campus program. This money will be used to provide additional break boxes for students, purchase ready-to-eat meals for the pantry, provide pantry staffing and software, and convene a regional group of pantry managers for a community of practice.
- In March, we hosted the State Secretary of Education and the Lieutenant Governor for a tour and roundtable discussion on our basic needs initiative



2025-26 FUNDING

The CCE was awarded the following funding in 2025-26:



\$33,500

from the State of Pennsylvania for the Hunger Free Campus initiative



\$150,000

from the State of Pennsylvania for the Parent Pathways REACH program



\$100,000 (for three years)

from the Claude Benedum Foundation for the Youth Ecosystem Impact initiative



\$20,000

from the EQT Foundation for the Project Impact Program



\$5,000

from the Bonner Foundation for the Notion Streamlining Operations Project



\$3,000

from Expressions in Harmony for the Student Impact Alliance

LOOKING FORWARD OPERATIONALIZING THE MISSION

2026–2027 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



1. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*Inspiring and
empowering
students in a
K–Doctoral
pipeline.*



2. URBAN IMPACT

*Helping drive the
Renaissance of
Downtown
Pittsburgh through
research, convening,
and conversation.*



3. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

*Connecting
nonprofit, civic, and
community
organizations to the
campus to support
and build capacity.*



4. COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Meeting basic
needs for the
campus and
beyond.*



5. UNIVERSITY-WIDE IMPACT, TRACKING & ASSESSMENT

*Build a comprehensive
system for measuring,
assessing, and
communicating
Point Park University's
civic and community
impact.*