

Plan for Pitt 2025

Focus Group Notes

Date: February 20, 2020

Theme: Collaboration and Partnerships

Thematic Focus Groups

Each group addressed this set of questions for their assigned topic:

1. How do you see this theme play out at Pitt?
2. What does Pitt do well in this area?
3. What could Pitt do better?
4. How do you see this topic relating to each of the six Plan for Pitt goals?
5. Now that we have more information about this theme, is it important to Pitt's success? Why or why not?

THEME: Collaboration and Partnerships

1. How do you see this theme play out at Pitt?
 - Community engagement centers
 - Connecting passion areas with neighborhoods like Oakland, Hill District, Homewood
 - Creating a culture of engagement
 - Facilities recruitment of students/faculty/staff
 - Office of PittServes elevating the student experience
2. What does Pitt do well in this area?
 - Attracts diverse student body
 - Signature days of service
 - Engagement map
 - Having community offices dedicated to local, regional i.e PittServes, CGR
3. What could Pitt do better?
 - The place-based aspect at Pitt as a front door of symbiosis with the city's community
 - What is Pitt's authenticity as a community partner?
 - Connect practitioners – groups of faculty, audience alignment, programmatic happenings
 - Share resources better
 - Communicate activities better
 - Reporting and sharing data, assessment, sawy results from myriad community
 - Expand engagement, dedicated to rural communities, international communities, alumni communities
 - Alumni engagement
 - Recognize its impact as a large anchor institution
 - Champion community where we aren't invited
 - Continue to meaningfully support community's agenda

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- Have “Open Door Pitt” week when communities are intentionally invited to sit in on classes, special events, dining halls, tours, etc.
 - K-14 partners
 - Pitt’s commitment to projects in the community
 - Is there untapped potential in alumni relationships?
 - Come back to campus / mentors
 - Invest in housing and neighborhood
4. How do you see this topic relating to each of the six Plan for Pitt goals?
- Relates to everything
 - But, outreach and engagement have different lenses in different spaces/roles across campus
 - Changes the narrative: who is being educated, where is that happening, how is that happening?
 - Embrace the uncomfortable
 - Creating platforms for all people to succeed in the goals
 - Work with. And, not or
 - Can all of Pittsburgh exist in the spaces these goals are creating?
 - How do we make outreach/programming effective to diversifying the future STE(A)M workforce?
 - What are we doing to compel investment in Pitt and PGH community talent?
 - How does Pitt revisit its “rewards” to promote diversity?
 - What about bringing community into the campus / learning about the community?
 - What is Pitt’s role in affordability?
 - International community can be attracted to a diverse university (and city)
 - How do we (Pitt) act as a facilitator of collaboration for minoritized groups?
5. Now that we have more information about this theme, is it important to Pitt’s success? Why or why not?
- Pitt can only elevate Pittsburgh identity by acknowledging, recognizing, and including Pittsburgh’s diverse and proud identities and people
 - People need to see themselves at Pitt – youth, teens, adults
 - Pitt needs to champion everyone’s basic needs on campus, community, and all in between
 - Pitt thrives when the community thrives and we want the community to thrive