Higher Education Enrollment and Graduation Trends in the Pittsburgh Region

By Christopher Briem

The roles—and perceptions—of higher education institutions are changing in the economy. Most higher education institutions are themselves major businesses within a regional economy. As economic engines, they attract revenues and investment from outside the region and in many cases generate new businesses. They also serve as gateways of both domestic and international migrants. The traditional role of these institutions as generators of human capital has also been evolving and is widely seen as a greater factor in regional competitiveness and future growth.

The University Center for Social and Urban Research has been engaged in a number of research projects analyzing the contributions of higher education institutions in the Pittsburgh regional economy and workforce. The March PEQ discussed the relatively high levels of educational attainment among younger workers in Pittsburgh today, “Educational Attainment in the Pittsburgh Regional Workforce.” In this article, we examine enrollment trends of the current post-secondary higher education population in the seven-county Pittsburgh metropolitan region.

Higher education institutions in the Pittsburgh region have seen a major change in recent years—increasing student enrollments across a range of colleges and universities. These enrollment trends help us understand better the changes in the local educational services sector of the economy at higher education institutions in the Pittsburgh region. These core enrollment trends paint a picture of the changing role of this sector within the local economy.

The U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics compiles the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), a system of interrelated surveys from every college, university and technical and vocational institutions that participate in the federal student financial aid programs. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires that institutions that participate in federal student aid programs report data on enrollments, program...
Table 1. Total Enrollment — Institutions of Higher Education, Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area, 1996 and 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Byzantine Catholic Seminary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>+13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>5,636</td>
<td>8,519</td>
<td>+2,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlow University</td>
<td>2,338</td>
<td>2,128</td>
<td>-210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnegie Mellon University</td>
<td>7,749</td>
<td>10,875</td>
<td>+3,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham University</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>2,184</td>
<td>+1,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
<td>9,362</td>
<td>10,106</td>
<td>+744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva College</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>1,951</td>
<td>+198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Roche College</td>
<td>1,642</td>
<td>1,425</td>
<td>-217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Beaver</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>+59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Greater Allegheny</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>-125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania State University-Penn State New Kensington</td>
<td>905</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Theological Seminary</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>+35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Point Park University</td>
<td>2,297</td>
<td>3,784</td>
<td>+1,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Morris University</td>
<td>4,881</td>
<td>4,815</td>
<td>-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent College</td>
<td>1,216</td>
<td>2,021</td>
<td>+805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent Seminary</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seton Hill University</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>2,087</td>
<td>+1,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>7,291</td>
<td>8,458</td>
<td>+1,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Institute of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>2,447</td>
<td>2,968</td>
<td>+521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>+42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Phoenix-Pittsburgh Campus</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>+81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>1,826</td>
<td>+446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus</td>
<td>25,479</td>
<td>27,562</td>
<td>+2,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington &amp; Jefferson College</td>
<td>1,256</td>
<td>1,519</td>
<td>+263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>79,620</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,436</strong></td>
<td><strong>+15,816</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


completions, graduation rates, faculty and staff, finances, institutional prices, and financial aid.

IPEDS data are used here to identify the region’s higher education institutions and the ongoing changes in the educational services sector of the Pittsburgh regional economy, an expanding part of the regional economy.

In the Pittsburgh region, twenty-five higher education institutions offer a bachelors level education or higher. These institutions range in the size of their enrollment from Byzantine Catholic Seminary, in Pittsburgh, with under a dozen students, awarding three masters degrees in 2008, to the largest institution, the main campus of the University of Pittsburgh, with over 27,000 enrolled students and over 7,000 degrees awarded in 2008.

Since the late 1990s, these 25 institutions have registered steady increases in student enrollment, increasing by 20 percent, from 80,000 students in 1996 to just under 96,000 students in 2008 (see Figure 1).

The largest institutions registered the largest enrollment gains. Enrollment at Carnegie Mellon University increased by 3,126 students, or 40.3 percent, from 7,749 students in 1996 to 10,875 students in 2008 (see Table 1). California University of Pennsylvania saw its enrollment grow by 2,883 students, or 51 percent, from 5,636 students in 1996 to 8,519 students in 2008. Twenty-two of these 25 institutions increased...
Figure 1. Total Enrollment—Higher Education Institutions, Pittsburgh MSA, 1980–2008

Includes 25 higher education institutions that award bachelors’ degrees or higher.


their total enrollment between 1996 and 2008, with growth over that period ranging from 7.5 percent to 72 percent.

The source of undergraduate freshman at regional institutions has changed in recent years (see Figure 2). In 1986, 1,911 matriculating undergraduate freshmen came from the U.S. outside of Pennsylvania, with another 170 international freshmen. By 2008, non-Pennsylvania residents made up 28 percent of the 14,927 undergraduate freshmen at colleges and universities in the Pittsburgh region. Over one-quarter—26.7 percent, or 3,927 students—were from other parts of the U.S., with an additional 244 undergraduate freshmen from overseas.

In addition to these 25 institutions that primarily provide bachelors or graduate level education, 57 other institutions in the Pittsburgh region provide postsecondary training and education including associates degree. Together these 82 institutions had a total full and part-time enrollment of over 140,000 students in 2008.

The region’s higher education institutions provide an important component of economic development through educating and training tomorrow’s workforce. Nationally, college enrollment has been on the rise since the late 1970s. As enrollment numbers have been growing in the past decade in the Pittsburgh region, the economic impact of the region’s higher education institutions has expanded. We will continue to explore and report on our findings in upcoming issues of PEQ in 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1 (completed)</td>
<td>State Legislative District Project (SLDP)</td>
<td>Collection of State Legislative District (SLD) boundaries: This will be the first effort post-Census 2000 to update SLD boundaries. This phase includes a verification stage, as well as data tabulation for legislative districts, based on Census 2000 data. Ongoing changes to Congressional boundaries will be collected and new tabulations developed as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2 (completed)</td>
<td>Voting District/Block Boundary Suggestion Project (VTD/BBSP)</td>
<td>Collection of voting district boundaries and updates to legislative districts: States will submit block boundary suggestions for inclusion in the 2010 Census block tabulations during this phase of the Redistricting Data Program as well. A verification phase is included for all components (VTD/SLD/Congressional) of this phase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>Data Delivery for the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program</td>
<td>Delivery of the geographic products and data products to the official designated liaisons: Geographic products will precede the P.L. 94–171 data tabulations that are mandated by law for delivery no later than April 1, 2011, one year following Census Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 4</td>
<td>Collection of the Post-2010 Census Redistricting Plans</td>
<td>Collection of State Legislative District and Congressional plans using the Phase 3 materials: Production of both geographic and data products required for delivery to the USPS/DOJ. Production of materials for Congress and Congressional District data summaries/maps during this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 5</td>
<td>Evaluation and Recommendation for Census 2020</td>
<td>Historical review by the states of the successes and failures of the Census Bureau to meet the Public Law 94–171 requirements: Production of final report with the view of the states expressed for the program in Census 2020.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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of the four caucuses in the Pennsylvania legislature, or their designees, are the appointed members of the commission. Those four members must pick the fifth member of the Commission or the state Supreme Court will do so after 30 days.

In addition to congressional districts, both General Assembly and state senate districts in Pennsylvania will have their boundaries redrawn, based on data compiled in the 2010 census.

Equal representation requires the population of districts across the state to have equivalent population totals. Population changes within the state will impact representation in all counties.

Areas that have experienced population growth will see the size of their districts increase or have districts moved to elsewhere within the state. Areas that have experienced population declines will see the size of their districts decrease and could gain new districts moved from elsewhere within the state.

For instance, between 2000 and 2009, Allegheny County experienced the fifth greatest population loss among counties in the country (-63,171). Anticipating a continuation of trend to April 2010, Allegheny County will likely lose the equivalent of two state general assembly districts after the redistricting process.

While the 2010 Census is what we hear about the most these days, many other Census Bureau programs are ongoing throughout the phases of the 2010 decennial census.

The American Community Survey (ACS) Program was initiated over the last decade to provide regular reporting of socioeconomic data across the nation.

The ACS is a sample-based data program that began full implementation with dissemination of data for states and specific geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more. Smaller levels of geography will only have data reported for multiple-year periods, in order to minimize sample error in the results. Three-year period samples for specific areas with populations down to 20,000 were reported in 2008.

Late in 2010 the ACS program will disseminate its first data for the smallest levels of geography: census tracts, census block groups, small municipalities and all other designated places. The first data to be reported at the census tract level will be for a five-year period (2005 through 2009) and be released at the end of 2010.

Subsequent data releases will be updated annually, with each new release having data for a moving five-year period.

The ACS data is collected independently of the decennial enumeration of the 2010 Census. The first release will of five-year ACS data will be available before similar data is available from the 2010 decennial census, which is expected to release initial data by April 1, 2011.
UCSUR Names Recipients of Tenth Annual Steven D. Manners Awards

Each year, the University of Pittsburgh University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) awards the Steven D. Manners Faculty Development Awards to promising research and infrastructure projects on campus. These awards honor the memory of Steve Manners, a sociologist who began working at the Center in 1974 and served as its assistant director from 1989 until his death in September 2000. His research and service to the Center and the University community were dedicated to improving social conditions in the urban environment.

UCSUR made the first Steve Manners awards in 2001 and makes awards in two categories: (1) research development grants to support pilot research in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences; and (2) infrastructure development awards aimed at enhancing faculty capabilities to carry out interdisciplinary research in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences.

The 2010 Steven D. Manners award winners are:

Shanti Gamper-Rabindran, PhD, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, “Does Cleaning Up Contaminated Sites Yield Economic Benefits? A GIS-Econometric Analysis of the Superfund Program.”

Abandoned hazardous sites have inflicted adverse health impacts on blighted neighborhoods. In response to public concerns, Congress enacted the Superfund program to remediate these sites. The policy debate is whether hazardous waste sites should be remediated or contained. Remediation is justified when it yields net economic benefits, such as the revival of blighted neighborhoods and the attraction of development projects. Expensive cleanup costs, however, have led some policymakers to argue that these waste sites should simply be contained to prevent the escape of pollutants and then fenced off. To determine whether hazardous waste sites should be remediated or simply contained, policy makers need to know: Does remediation yield net economic benefits? This study applies improved GIS and econometric methods to estimate the economic benefits from the cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste sites, using sites in Pennsylvania as a pilot study.

Jennifer Haggerty Lingler, PhD, RN, FMP, Assistant Professor, Health and Community Systems, School of Nursing, “Feasibility of a Web-based Intervention to Improve Family Caregivers’ Communicative Skillfulness during Patients’ Medical Visits.”

Effective communication among patients with Alzheimer’s disease (AD), their family caregivers, and healthcare providers is a critical aspect of geriatric care delivery. Widely replicated research links poor patient-professional communication to a variety of negative outcomes, including lower overall health status. For patients with AD, family caregivers are likely to play an important role in preventing communication breakdowns and their adverse consequences. Yet, caregivers rarely receive formal instruction in regard to the highly specialized skill of mediating communication between patients with AD and their healthcare providers.

The goal of the proposed study is to translate a recently developed protocol, Promoting Alzheimer’s Caregivers’ Communicative Skillfulness (PACCS), to a Web-based format and to evaluate its effectiveness for improving communication during primary care encounters of persons with dementia.

Werner Troesken, PhD, Professor, Department of Economics, and Randall Walsh, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, “The Political Economy of American Apartheid (1900–1950).”

This proposal seeks seed funding for a long-term project to study the evolution of American apartheid from 1900 through 1950. The word apartheid is used in a strict sense: to denote the evolving set of laws, covenants, and state-sanctioned violence that prohibited blacks from moving into majority white neighborhoods during the first-half of the 20th century. The proposed analysis, therefore, focuses on the institutions that supported residential segregation, not segregation itself. The long-term project builds on two related questions. First, what were the laws and institutions that governed the housing choices of African Americans between 1900 and 1950, Second, how and why did these institutions evolve over time, A specific focus of the project is an analysis of how African Americans acquired increased housing rights, despite widespread opposition from whites.

Jennifer Nicoll Victor, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, “Beyond Formal Institutions: Legislative Member Organizations in a Comparative Perspective.”

Why do legislators invest scarce time and resources into forming and maintaining informal legislative groups that provide no obvious benefit? Legislative member organizations (LMOs)—such as caucuses in the U.S. Congress, cross-party groups in the Scottish Parliament, and intergroups in the European Parliament—exist in numerous law-making bodies around the world, parallel to the formal legislative institutions of parties and committees. Yet unlike parties and committees, LMOs play no obvious role in the legislative process. This comparative research on LMOs seeks to identify the roles and benefits of LMOs across a variety of legislatures. The core hypothesis is that LMOs give lawmakers or parliamentarians the opportunity to build social and informational networks, both within the legislature and with outside actors. This project constitutes the first look at LMOs in a cross-national perspective and employs a mixed-methods approach to shed light on the interaction of formal and informal political institutions. Dr. Victor will conduct this work with Dr. Nils Ringe, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Christopher Jan Carman, John Anderson Research Senior Lecturer, University of Strathclyde.

For more information about the Steven D. Manners Faculty Development Awards, contact UCSUR at 412-624-5442.
On Friday, June 11th, at the University Club on the University of Pittsburgh campus, the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Information System (PNCIS) held its first Users Conference. The goals of the conference were to bring together PNCIS users, national neighborhood information experts, and others interested in using neighborhood information more effectively to discuss ways to reduce blight, promote neighborhood reinvestment, and revitalize communities in the Pittsburgh area.

Approximately 80 people attended the conference, representing community-based organizations, neighborhood alliances, government agencies, elected officials, and architecture and planning firms.

The conference served as an important event for PNCIS users to share information, applications, success stories, and learn from one another.

- Stefani Danes AIA, LEED AP and Nadeene Owusu-Anti, AICP, LEED, showed how PNCIS was used as a primary source of information and data for Garfield’s 2030 Plan for Housing and Development, prepared by Perkins Eastman and sponsored by the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation (BGC) and Garfield Jubilee. They discussed the benefits of using PNCIS with its comprehensiveness, user assistance, and flexibility in pulling together detailed parcel information.

- Kathryn Vargas demonstrated how PNCIS became a tool for residents for Elm Street planning with the Bloomfield Garfield Corp. After PNCIS training, neighborhood residents combined their neighborhood information with PNCIS data to specify the community’s priorities on demolition and foreclosure impacts.

- Samantha Teixeira, MSW, and John Wallace, Jr., PhD presented their “Data Driven Organizing” efforts in the Homewood Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System Users Conference.

Kathryn reiterated the system’s ease of use and accessibility in building BGC and residents’ capacity to use information in developing neighborhood improvement strategies.

Mike Schramm of Case Western University and Kathy Pettit of the Urban Institute.
Children's Village project. PNCIS is serving as a primary vehicle for research, design, data integration and visualization, and training that ties resident and grassroots information with research results to promote community action for neighborhood change. For example, PNCIS data provided information on problem properties. Community action has now resulted in the city taking action on the properties. Data-driven organizing is creating new partnerships in Homewood to improve the neighborhood’s quality of life for residents and, especially, for its children.

The PNCIS Users Conference also brought national experts to Pittsburgh to discuss new developments and partnerships. Kathy Pettit, senior research associate at the Urban Institute and co-director of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) demonstrated applications by NNIP partners in a number of important areas related to prisoner reentry in neighborhoods; the impacts of foreclosures on children and their effects on schools; and data resources in grant making. Robert Renner, Social Science Analyst in the Office of Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, discussed the role of data in many new HUD programs and using neighborhood information systems to meet HUD’s goals in the creation of strong, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

Mike Schramm, Associate Director for Community Information at the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at the Mandel School of Applied Social Science at Case Western Reserve University, focused on the critical work NEO CANDO—the Northeast Ohio Community and Neighborhood Data for Organizing—has played in Cleveland’s foreclosure crisis. Current data applications are geared to foreclosure prevention, early warning, intervention and reclamation, with weekly data updates conducted by NEO CANDO. Both PNCIS and NEO CANDO are NNIP partners.

The conference was supported by Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood and Community Development (PPND) and the University Center for Social and Urban Research. UCSUR operates PNCIS in agreement with PPND, a leader in community development in the City of Pittsburgh.

### John G. Craig, Jr.
#### In Memoriam

John G. Craig, Jr., our former research colleague here at UCSUR, died on May 26, 2010, at his home in Sewickley Heights. The former editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, John Craig came to UCSUR in 2004 to develop his vision of a regional indicators project for Pittsburgh into the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Indicators Consortium (*PEQ*, March 2006).

At the *Post-Gazette*, John had been the progenitor of the Pittsburgh Benchmarks series, run in the paper for six years, along with other benchmarking efforts, resonating with John the importance of good information being available for the region to make sound economic and social progress.

John understood the value and importance of information being accessible to large numbers of people and, in his words, being “actionable”—encouraging civic discourse and enabling better public policymaking and decisionmaking.


John was active in the related national efforts Community Indicators Consortium and the Key National Indicators Initiative. John remained at UCSUR until late 2009, when the project relocated to 3RC in the Golden Triangle.

UCSUR will miss John and his many contributions to civic engagement and community improvement in the city and region. John Craig was someone who always recognized the many ways of “making Pittsburgh percolate” into “where we are, and where we hope to go.” Let’s help John’s views carry on.

*Sabina Deitrick, Editor*
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