



**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH'S VICE PROVOST AND THE
INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE LAUNCH
COMPETITIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

*Collaboration to Keep More Graduates in Region Symbolizes
Expanded Possibilities of Pitt's Innovation Institute*

(PITTSBURGH) September 16, 2014 University of Pittsburgh Vice Provost and Dean of Students Dr. Kathy Humphrey and Pitt's Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence (IEE) Interim Director Bob Stein this morning launched a new, competitive internship program that will connect Pitt's 18,000 undergraduate students with internship opportunities at the thousands of local businesses connected to the IEE and its economic development partners, such as Catalyst Connection and the Pittsburgh Technology Council.

The leaders announced details of the program to more than 200 business leaders at the IEE's monthly member program. The new program represents Stein's effort to increase collaboration between Pitt students and the local businesses for which the IEE provides entrepreneurial education, networking opportunities, and assistance. The IEE is part of the University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute.

"As part of Pitt's Innovation Institute, we have the resources of the entire university at our fingertips and are doing more than ever to leverage our organization to benefit the university's overall economic impact," said Stein.

Staff members at the IEE and the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance have begun reaching out to the IEE affiliated companies to offer hands-on assistance in developing and managing an effective internship program. At the member program this morning, Stein and Humphrey touted the benefits of such a program on regional economic impact.

"I believe that this program will positively impact the lives of even more students and at the same time significantly support Pittsburgh's economy by keeping more of our graduates employed here at local companies made even more dynamic because of the IEE's collaborative efforts," said Humphrey.

The IEE is the region's leading business support and growth organization, working with more than 1,000 businesses annually. The organization works with businesses large and small, from family-owned Wholey's, to energy-based companies such as ABARTA Energy.



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“Across the manufacturing companies we serve, a wide array of good paying, high quality jobs are now available in a wide variety of fields,” said Petra Mitchell, president and CEO of Catalyst Connection, an organization that helps small and mid-sized manufacturers in SWPA grow. “The University of Pittsburgh’s internship program will be a tremendous asset for these companies as they look to connect with bright minds who can become future employees.”

“At the IEE we have this amazing pool of innovative companies that can benefit from Pitt’s bright and energetic student body, providing unique opportunities for the students to learn from some of the region’s most dynamic entrepreneurs,” Stein said. “This is what makes the Pitt internship initiative so unique. Our real success, though, will be gauged on how many companies retain Pitt students for full-time positions following their internships.”

Companies and students can find out more information about the IEE’s internship initiative by visiting <http://entrepreneur.pitt.edu> or contacting Victoria Lopez at vlopez@innovation.pitt.edu or 412-648-4183.

About the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence

The Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence is a part of Pitt’s Innovation Institute, which seeks to advance Pitt’s successes in entrepreneurship, commercialization, and economic development. It offers small businesses a dynamic mix of consulting, education, and networking resources. It strives to be an innovative leader in connecting people, organizations, and resources in Southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, please see <http://entrepreneur.pitt.edu>.

About the Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance

The Office of Career Development and Placement Assistance supports students from start to finish. From selecting a major and reviewing resumes to internship and job search support, CDPA coaches students through programs and individual appointments throughout their undergraduate years. 3 full time staff are 100 percent dedicated to internship development and student preparation. For more information please see <http://internships.pitt.edu>.

About the Innovation Institute

Launched in 2013, the University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute serves as the hub of innovation development, commercialization, and entrepreneurial activities on campus and leverages the University’s expertise to provide entrepreneurial education, support and networking to the region’s entrepreneurs and small businesses. For more information, please see <http://innovation.pitt.edu>.