

Laura Shapira Karet, *Chair*
David L. Holmberg, *Vice Chair*
Leroy M. Ball, Jr., *Treasurer*
James H. Rock, *Secretary*
William S. Demchak, *Immediate Past Chair*
Stefani Pashman, *Chief Executive Officer*

11 Stanwix Street, 17th Floor
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-1312

AlleghenyConference.org

Will Allen
Walter R. Bashaw, II
Eric Boughner
Jeff Broadhurst
Quintin B. Bullock
Helen Hanna Casey
Leslie C. Davis
Vincent J. Delie, Jr.
J. Christopher Donahue
John J. Engel
Karen Wolk Feinstein
Daniel K. Fitzpatrick
Kimberly Tilotson Fleming
Christopher Franklin
Patrick D. Gallagher
Kenneth G. Gormley
Steven J. Guy
Severin Hacker
Charles L. Hammel, III
Jason E. Hazlewood
Diane P. Holder
Farnam Jahanian
Haakan Jonsson
Rebekah Byers Kcehowski
Ronald C. Keating
Mark R. Kempic
David J. Malone
Christopher Martin
Michael H. McGarry
James J. McQuade
Hilary Mercer
David Morehouse
Antonios Papadourakis
Christopher Rossi
Bryan Salesky
Rafael Ottoni Santana
Steve R. Schott
Lisa M. Schroeder
James R. Segerdahl
Venkee Sharma
Susan Baker Shipley
William E. Strickland, Jr.
Jaime S. Tuite
Nishan J. Vartanian
Kevin Walker
Lara Washington
Robert S. Wetherbee

**MEMBERS
EMERITI**
Charles E. Bunch
Richard J. Harshman
James E. Lee
Martin G. McGuinn
Morgan K. O'Brien
Thomas H. O'Brien
C.J. Queenan, Jr.
James E. Rohr
Richard P. Simmons
John P. Surma

April 21, 2022

Dear Lawmakers:

Collectively, we are members of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development Board of Directors. As companies and organizations based in the Pittsburgh region, we know that our economy—locally and across the commonwealth—is stronger because of the University of Pittsburgh’s success. As a leading public research institution and a longstanding community anchor, Pitt serves as a powerful lightning rod of opportunity, drawing precious companies, connections, talent, and funding into the commonwealth.

Accordingly, we are writing now to urge you to support and approve Pitt’s annual appropriation bill. Across our many organizations—and for many compelling reasons—we count the University of Pittsburgh as one of our region and Commonwealth’s greatest assets and strongest economic engines. The University supports more than 34,000 permanent, family-supporting jobs, thousands of which are in the construction and building trades sectors, generates \$184 million annually in state and local tax revenues, and annually imports nearly \$900 million in research funding. All told, the University and their four regional campuses in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville fuels a statewide economic impact of \$4.2 billion annually.

Attracting and retaining talent and diversifying our economy remains a key focus for the success of our region’s job creators. Pitt has sustained our workforce with a 143,000-strong alumni network across southwestern PA and by educating 28,000 students each year, 60% who call Pennsylvania home. Importantly, Pitt graduates 7,500 students annually which strengthens our regional economy and workforce. As a top public university in the Northeast (The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education), a top-20 public school in the nation, and the No. 1-ranked Small Business Development Center in the Mid-Atlantic region, Pitt has been and will continue to be instrumental to our region’s economic vitality and growth.

Through collaboration with private and public entities, the University of Pittsburgh continues their long-standing track record of diversifying and future-proofing our economy by nurturing innovation and moving ideas to market, having launched 87 startups over the last five years. Investments such as establishing the LifeX accelerator to commercialize new technologies and unlocking explosive growth of the life sciences sector through the recently-announced Pitt BioForge – including a much-needed biomanufacturing institute – demonstrate Pitt’s essential role in advancing the local economy.

These examples showcase why the University of Pittsburgh is a proven engine of opportunity for our region. We are proud of Pitt's role in our community and grateful to have such a powerful ally in advancing the important work of strengthening Pennsylvania's families, economies, and future.

Respectfully,

Will Allen
Magarac Ventures

Leroy M. Ball, Jr.
Koppers Inc.

Walter R. Bashaw, II
II-VI Incorporated

Eric Boughner
BNY Mellon

Jeff Broadhurst
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, Inc.

Quintin B. Bullock
Community College of Allegheny County

Helen Hanna Casey
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

Leslie C. Davis
UPMC

Vincent J. Delie, Jr.
F.N.B. Corporation

William S. Demchak
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

J. Christopher Donahue
Federated Hermes Inc.

John J. Engel
WESCO International, Inc.

Karen Wolk Feinstein
Jewish Healthcare Foundation

Daniel K. Fitzpatrick
Citizens Bank of PA / NY / NJ / DE

Kimberly Tillotson Fleming
Hefren-Tillotson, Inc.

Christopher Franklin
Essential Utilities

Rebekah Byers Kcehowski
Jones Day Pittsburgh

Ronald C. Keating
Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC

Mark R. Kempic
Columbia Gas

David J. Malone
Gateway Financial Group, Inc.

Christopher Martin
Robert Bosch LLC

Michael H. McGarry
PPG

James J. McQuade
Dollar Bank, FSB

Hilary Mercer
Shell Chemicals Appalachia

David Morehouse
Pittsburgh Penguins

Antonis Papadourakis
LANXESS Corporation

Stefani Pashman
Allegheny Conference on Community Development

James H. Rock
Seegrid Corporation

Christopher Rossi
Kennametal Inc.

Bryan Salesky
Argo AI

Rafael Ottoni Santana
Wabtec Corporation

Steve R. Schott
Calgon Carbon Corporation

Kenneth G. Gormley
Duquesne University

Steven J. Guy
Oxford Development Company

Severin Hacker
Duolingo

Charles L. Hammel, III
PITT OHIO

Jason E. Hazlewood
Reed Smith LLP

Diane P. Holder
UPMC Health Plan

David L. Holmberg
Highmark Health

Farnam Jahanian
Carnegie Mellon University

Haakan Jonsson
Covestro LLC

Laura Shapira Karet
Giant Eagle, Inc.

Lisa M. Schroeder
The Pittsburgh Foundation

James R. Segerdahl
K&L Gates LLP

Venkee Sharma
Aquatech International Corporation

Susan Baker Shipley
The Huntington National Bank

William E. Strickland, Jr.
Manchester Bidwell Corporation

Jaime S. Tuite
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Nishan J. Vartanian
MSA, The Safety Company

Kevin Walker
Duquesne Light Company

Lara Washington
AHRCO

Robert S. Wetherbee
Allegheny Technologies Incorporated