

Pittsburgh Building and Construction Trades Council

Affiliated with
The Building and Construction Trades Department — AFL-CIO

1231 BANKSVILLE ROAD • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15216

Phone: (412) 344-4775 FAX (412) 344-7262



The Pittsburgh Regional Building Trades Council urges you to support the state appropriation for the University of Pittsburgh 2022-23 budget.

These funds directly support a tuition discount of around \$15,000 per year for each Pitt undergraduate from Pennsylvania. This discount is particularly important for working-class students and their families, who may otherwise struggle to access and afford a world-class Pitt education.

Failing to pass Pitt's appropriation would be a devastating blow to current and future students. Equally important: Such a move would undermine Pitt's vital role as an economic engine, job creator and key partner of the labor movement.

We've supported Pitt as they've invested in new building construction and renovations that have funded thousands of building trades jobs that support our members' wages and benefits.

In the next two years, Pitt's construction and renovation plans for its Pittsburgh campus will create more than 4,500 jobs. That includes construction plans on the University's four regional campuses — in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown and Titusville. More than 90% of this anticipated work over the next two years will utilize our skilled labor in the building trades.

In addition: Pitt partners with many of our members to help connect local workers to apprenticeship and employment opportunities. The Operating Engineer Apprenticeship Program, for example, combines campus job training with classroom learning to prepare participants for fulfilling careers as licensed operating engineers.

We thank the General Assembly for your past efforts to support Pennsylvania students attending Pitt and the other state-related universities. We look forward to working with the legislature to ensure that these students are not left behind in the current budget process and we support Institutions like Pitt that are driving economic progress.

Respectfully,

Tom Melcher

Business Manager

Pittsburgh Regional Building & Construction Trades Council

William Brooks | President
Pittsburgh Regional Building & Construction Trades Council

Tom McIntyre | Secretary | Treasurer
Pittsburgh Regional Building & Construction Trades Council
Business Manager | International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 5

Ken Broadbent | Business Manager
Steamfitters Local Union 449

Tom Melisko | Business Manager
Operating Engineers Local 66

Kevin Kriswell | Business Manager
Sprinklerfitters Local 542

Edward Bigley | Business Manager
Plumbers Local 29

John Hughes | Business Manager
Boilermakers Local 154

Jim Cassidy | Business Manager
Insulators Local 2

Norman Ringer | Business Manager
Bricklayers Local 9

Chris Geronimos | Business Manager
Painters District Council 57

Greg Bernarding | Business Manager
Ironworkers Local 3

Cameron Rupert | Business Manager
Cement Masons Local 526

Greg Blose | Business Manager
Sheetmetal Workers Local 12