



Practically every school, institute and academic unit at Carnegie Mellon engages in community outreach, bringing citizens, researchers, students and staff into a kind of mutually beneficial multi-regional partnership. Approximately 75 students provide services to the community through the Federal Community Service Workstudy program annually.

The program provides highly skilled employees to local non-profit organization with the federal government paying 75% of the salary. Approximately 30 courses are described as “Service Learning” courses—students work with non-profit, civic and other agencies in the community to integrate academic content and community service to meet the needs of the organization while providing a context-based educational experience. Many volunteer activities are coordinated by Student Life; these include educational programs such as Strong

Women, Strong Girls, Habitat for Humanity building projects and environmental clean-ups. University faculty and staff serve on boards of many non-profit organizations in the community.

One of Carnegie Mellon’s most comprehensive ongoing community initiatives is the Leonard Gelfand Center for Service Learning and Outreach, an innovative program that offers more than 85 opportunities to improve the education process and to increase content and skills knowledge for teachers and students in southwestern Pennsylvania. Although the university does not have a school or department of education, the center has unique resources, perspectives and expertise to help our society revitalize education by providing experiences that lead to enhanced, in-depth content knowledge for teachers and students. K-12 teachers earned more than 7,500 professional development hours at Carnegie Mellon during 2007 and at least 10,000 children participate in Carnegie Mellon educational outreach activities annually. Carnegie Mellon students tutor primary, middle and secondary school students in academic subjects and the fine arts and mentor young children seeking a successful future through education. Teachers work alongside campus researchers who are solving modern-day problems such as how to create new tissue to repair a damaged organ, or how to intervene safely when biological hazards threaten to harm thousands. And elementary, middle and high school students are made aware of cutting-edge technology in the fields of chemistry, computer science, robotics, engineering and mathematics.



Robots in the Community

Robot 250 is a massive city-wide community art and technology program that culminated in a two-week festival in summer 2008 with exhibits, workshops, outdoor displays, movies and other installations throughout the Pittsburgh area. It was launched by Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh with program support from a host of local community groups and financial support from local foundations.

The mission of Robot 250 is to foster creativity, build a sense of community and raise the technical literacy of our entire region, while coinciding with the city of Pittsburgh’s 250th anniversary celebration. Participants included middle school students, artists, families and the general public, as well as Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech and University of Pittsburgh faculty, staff and students, who built customized robots using cutting-edge technology and educational materials developed at the Robotics Institute.

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Keyboard Project Gets Kids Excited about Playing Music

Music has the power to enrich lives. That's why Carnegie Mellon is working to put keyboards into the classrooms of many Pittsburgh public schools through a project funded by the Grable Foundation. The students are not only learning how to play keyboards but also improvising and composing their own music. So far, about 470 keyboards and

teaching materials have been placed in 23 local schools through the project. In addition to providing funding, the Grable Foundation will occasionally provide an exceptionally gifted student with his or her own keyboard for home use. Students at Pittsburgh Minedeo Elementary Center participate in a piano lesson on their Keyboard Project keyboards.

Water QUEST Students Monitor Panther Hollow Lake

In a partnership with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, sophomore Civil and Environmental Engineering students at Carnegie Mellon's Water QUEST (Water Quality in Urban Environmental Systems) Center finished their second summer of monitoring for indicator organisms in Oakland's Panther Hollow Lake. Urban watersheds are a complex mix of natural and man-made water flows that we depend upon to provide clean, safe water to people and industries. Most



existing systems are old and in need of repair in many urban areas, and the natural systems are poorly understood and over-taxed by the input of persistent toxicants and pathogens, according to Jeanne VanBriesen, center co-director. There is no one solution to the pollution problem in the lake, unfortunately, says VanBriesen. WaterQUEST will monitor the lake for one more year and then determine next steps.



SEE Gives Middle School Girls an Opportunity to Develop Energy Solutions

In the summer of 2007, Carnegie Mellon's Institute for Complex Engineered Systems' new outreach program Summer Engineering Experience (SEE) for Girls provided seventeen middle-school girls with an opportunity to spend two weeks conducting multidisciplinary, engineering hands-on activities focused on the theme of energy. Faculty and graduate students from across the departments in the Carnegie Institute of Technology came together to introduce different engineering themes, including electrical energy conversion, fuel cell technology, solar and green energy, chemical energy, generators and motors, and pollutants and climate change, while working with the girls through hands-on activities to learn how to create efficient and environmentally friendly forms of energy. The girls conducted research on issues of energy that interested them, and the program ended with the girls having the

opportunity to present their research to each other, their instructors, and their parents. SEE was funded in its initial year by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Technology Alliance and the program's coordinators are now looking for continuing funding.

Undergraduate Research Program Strives to Retain Human Capital in Pennsylvania

Through the SURE Thing program, Carnegie Mellon provides undergraduate students – either Pennsylvania residents or from Pennsylvania universities other than Carnegie Mellon - with the opportunity to spend ten weeks working with Carnegie Mellon faculty and graduate students on real-world engineering research projects. A primary mission of the program is to retain highly educated students for future employment in the state of Pennsylvania. The summer of 2008 marked SURE Thing's fifth year. SURE Thing has been funded by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Technology Alliance.

Fostering Academic and Social Achievement in Area Youth

FASA is an after-school program serving over 20 seventh graders from the community of Homewood. The program's primary goals are to provide a safe and healthy place to go after school, to increase academic achievement and to encourage the use of alternatives to physical and verbal violence in conflict situations. FASA runs Monday through Friday, and provides participants tutoring, an arts integrated violence prevention curriculum, physical recreation, life skill sessions, career awareness activities, community involvement activities and field trips. Last year, 23 Carnegie Mellon students worked for FASA, providing almost 1,800 hours of service. The program

is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, and provided by a partnership between the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, the Marilyn G. Rabb Foundation, Pittsburgh Public Schools and Carnegie Mellon University. The university manages this partnership through the Center for Economic Development at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management; many other campus departments also contribute.

Championing Service Learning and Educational Outreach

Carnegie Mellon's Leonard Gelfand Center for Service Learning and Outreach cooperates with the university's academic departments to provide more than 75 unique educational opportunities a year for local teachers and students. Although the university does not have a school or department of education, Carnegie Mellon has unique resources, perspectives and expertise to help our society revitalize education by providing experiences that lead to enhanced in-depth content knowledge for teachers and students. In addition, the Gelfand Center allows Carnegie Mellon students to work with non-profit, civic and other agencies in the community through courses and projects that integrate academic content and community service to meet the needs of the organization while providing a context-based educational experience.