

Community Outreach



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.



Fitwits Program creates resources for healthy living at the intersection of families, schools, and community health services.

Fitwits is a collaborative research project designed by Carnegie Mellon University School of Design and UPMC Saint Margaret Family Health Centers. Funded by The Heinz Endowments, the team has started to understand and define a method that has effectively integrated schools, doctors’ offices, and family centered community activities, providing them with affordable, easy to use health communications and services. Much of their time has been spent actively coordinating efforts in schools, doctor’s offices and family centered activities in the community to turn healthy lifestyle knowledge into action. <http://fitwits.org>

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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, directed by Assistant Vice Provost for Educational Outreach Judith Hallinen, 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.

Here, individuals and groups with innovative ideas and strong commitment have sparked an intellectual revolution among thousands of children - from pre-school students through high school seniors. 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 safely intervene when biological hazards threaten to harm thousands. Elementary, middle and high school students are made aware of cutting-edge technology in the fields of chemistry, computer science, robotics, engineering and mathematics. Individuals complete requirements for Pennsylvania certification in Music Education, Educational Leadership, and Educational Technology Management.



The dedication of human and technological resources to create and disseminate knowledge through research, artistic expression, teaching and learning, and to transfer this new knowledge to society is the mission of our institution. <http://gelfand.web.cmu.edu>



Carnegie Mellon Launches \$7 Million Initiative Using Robots To Boost Science, Technology Majors

A new four-year, \$7 million educational initiative by Carnegie Mellon University will leverage students' innate interest in robots and other forms of "hard fun" to increase U.S. enrollments in computer science and steer more young people into scientific and technological careers. The initiative, called Fostering Innovation through Robotics Exploration (FIRE), is sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and designed to reverse a significant national decline in the number of college students majoring in computer science, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (CS-STEM). FIRE will develop new tools that enable middle and high school students to expand upon their interest in robots, leading them from one CS-STEM activity to the next.

Carnegie Mellon's Steinbrenner Institute Helps Heritage Community Initiatives Grow Green Collar Jobs

Carnegie Mellon University's Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research is helping Heritage Community Initiatives in Braddock, Pa., to retrain local workers to create a pool of green collar employees and boost both local economic growth and energy efficiency. The MOVE-IT Job Training Program is designed to provide skills to workers in order to help them obtain green jobs among industries looking to reduce energy consumption and environmental damage through more efficient use of the planet's natural resources. The program has spawned a wonderful collaborative effort that will send these workers into a variety of industry sectors spanning green construction, deconstruction, demolition, recycling and home energy retrofits.

Conflict Kitchen Launches New Cuisine, Highlights Different Country

Conflict Kitchen is a take-out restaurant run by School of Art faculty and students that only serves cuisine from countries that the United States is in conflict with. The food is served out of a storefront in the neighborhood of East Liberty, which rotates identities every four months to highlight another country. Each Conflict Kitchen iteration is augmented by events, performances and discussion about the culture, politics and issues at stake with each country focused on. They are currently presenting the second iteration of Conflict Kitchen via Bolani Pazi, an Afghan restaurant that serves a savory homemade Afghan turnover filled with either pumpkin, spinach, lentils or potatoes and leeks. Developed in collaboration with members of the Afghan community, the bolani comes packaged in a custom-designed wrapper that includes interviews with Afghans both in Afghanistan and the United States on subjects ranging from Afghan food and culture to the current geopolitical turmoil. www.conflictkitchen.org