

Program Works to Keep Young People in Region

By Kristie Sinclair

Thirty-five students from the Pittsburgh Regional Internship Collaborative Enterprise (PRICE) program met last month to discuss the findings of their five-week study of the region's financial, social, cultural and educational landscape.

The students gathered on August 11 at the PRICE Intern Recognition Event. PRICE, a program dedicated to helping regional students who are interested in the financial sector find internships in their field, is part of Duquesne's Institute for Economic Transformation.

"We want this region to be the region of choice for our young people," said Melissa Price, PRICE program coordinator. "So, we decided to give them a format to find their own solutions."

The format was a scavenger hunt in which the students spent five weeks interviewing representatives from local companies about the challenges of building the region's workforce. PRICE developed the interview format to research and document unique Pittsburgh entertainment and social venues, explore the challenges that businesses face when attempting to attract a diverse set of young professionals, and

examine the educational landscape of the region.

In addition to discussing the results of their interviews among each other, students shared their thoughts with local officials and business leaders including Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato; S. Tyrone Alexander, executive vice president of Human Resources and Administrative Services for Highmark, Inc.; and Congresswoman Melissa Hart.

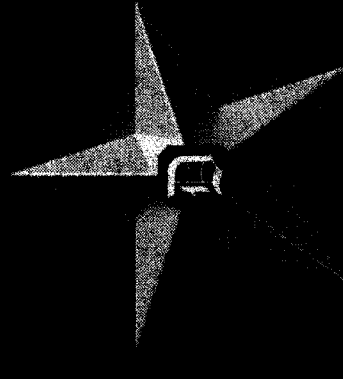
Students recommended that local leaders learn more about how people from across the country and around the globe view Pittsburgh, and suggested that the city should expand and continue competitive benchmarking analyses in hopes of understanding what works in other cities.

"We are excited about the potential for this collaboration. Mr. Onorato has agreed to meet with us to discuss how we can incorporate some of the students' suggestions into his agenda," said Price. "In particular, the students are interested in learning more about the city's plans to improve our public transportation."

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FACULTY



SPOTLIGHT

Psychology Professor Dr. Christine Fratcher was awarded the Carl Rogers Award at the American Psychological Association (APA) conference this year for "outstanding contributions to the theory and practice of humanistic psychology." The award was for her pioneering work in educational and evaluative methods of psychological assessment and for her contributions to qualitative research. "I hadn't heard of it at Duquesne when I did, but I am so grateful to have been here," said Fratcher.