



overview

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

a forum

for public and private decision-makers,
where diverse viewpoints are aired
and solutions are explored
off the record and on neutral ground



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history

In 1987, the University of Pittsburgh convened the Advisory Council on Regional Development (ACORD), a diversified group of community leaders, to advise the University on how it might more effectively respond to public need in six areas of concern: cultural and recreational resources, economic development, education, federal and state relations, regional governance, and societal response to economic change.

One major outgrowth of the council's recommendations was the founding of the Institute of Politics, an independent, community-supported nonprofit organization operating under the University's auspices. From its start, the Institute has drawn participation from leaders in both the public and private sectors and—according to their continuing testimony—has helped these leaders arrive at more enlightened decisions.

“We are fortunate ... the Institute of Politics is setting an agenda for and helping to improve the future of our region.”

MARK A. NORDENBERG, CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

In the fall of 2005, at the Ninth Annual Elected Officials Retreat, the Institute went through a significant restructuring, culminating in a complete reorganization of the Institute's infrastructure; that now includes a Board of Fellows, an Executive Committee, and the following nine policy committees:

- **Economic Development**
- **Education**
- **Environment**
- **Fiscal Policy and Governance**
- **Health**
- **Human Services**
- **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness**
- **Transportation**
- **Workforce Development**

During the 2005 restructuring, the Institute reiterated its institutional commitment to ensuring elected officials' involvement in the development, design, and implementation of all program activities, and to guaranteeing that the focus of all Institute efforts will continue to address regional policy outcomes.

This focus will enable dialogue at every level of policy development stimulating momentum for eventual legislation that will positively affect the region.

vision

The Institute of Politics will be recognized as the region's most effective partner in the development of enlightened public policy that promotes the vitality of Western Pennsylvania to the benefit of individuals, institutions, and businesses.



“The Institute respects the fact that an elected official cannot readily brainstorm or think out loud because of the omnipresent media. Sometimes you just need to be able to say what you are thinking out loud to recognize that it is illogical or untenable. You certainly don't want to read it in the paper

mission

The Institute of Politics delivers timely information about the great issues affecting our region to elected officials and community leaders—and the public whom they serve—and provides a neutral forum where that knowledge and associated diverse viewpoints are discussed, digested, enriched, and applied to the goal of promoting an improved quality of life, government efficiency, and economic vitality in Western Pennsylvania.

the next day and have to defend it for the rest of your political career. The Institute provides that think tank kind of atmosphere in which all thoughts, even those that need a little work, are encouraged. Out of these exchanges come the thoughts and plans that will shape the future of our region. For this reason the Institute is an invaluable tool as we progress as a region.”

J. BRACKEN BURNS, COMMISSIONER,
WASHINGTON COUNTY

summary

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DECISION MAKERS

The Institute's goal of consensus building among regional leaders, both elected and nonelected, is fulfilled by its unique ability to gather decision makers around the table while acting as a neutral catalyst for public policy discourse. The facilitation of dialogue between public officials, legislators, and other community leaders guides the Institute's programming and its deliverables.

The Institute stimulates ongoing dialogue and offers issues-specific educational programs and services such as seminars, briefings, and publications, which enable decision makers to examine regional economic, social, and political issues within local, state, and national contexts.

“There is an academic and intellectual depth to yield real understanding, and there is the breadth of credibility in the political community that gets the right players to the table.”

MAXWELL KING, PRESIDENT,
THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

ACCESS TO EXPERTISE AND RESEARCH

The Institute provides regional elected officials and foundation, community, and business leaders with access to the many academic resources of the University of Pittsburgh and other area universities and strives to apply these resources to regional policy outcomes.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

The Institute enables University of Pittsburgh students to gain valuable insights into the political process as well as the challenges and rewards of public service with the Institute's Internship and Legislator for a Day programs.



structure

BOARD OF FELLOWS

The purpose of the Board of Fellows is to provide leadership and guidance to the Institute in the selection of targeted programming that has the potential to induce the development of public policy that will promote the region.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee comprises the cochaIRS of the nine policy committees. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to provide continuous oversight of the Institute's operations, ensure its adherence to its aims and structure, and monitor and approve its internal policies.

POLICY COMMITTEES

Each of the nine policy committees assess public policy needs within its domain and recommends targets for programming that will measurably affect the development of public policy. Committee cochaIRS and members assume leadership roles in the development, implementation, evaluation, and follow-through of Institute programming in their respective policy areas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COCHAIRS:

William P. Getty

President and Trustee,
Claude Worthington
Benedum Foundation

Allen G. Kukovich

Director, Governor's
Southwest Regional Office

EDUCATION

COCHAIRS:

Susan Brownlee

Executive Director,
The Grable Foundation

The Honorable Jake Wheatley Jr.

Member, Pennsylvania
House of Representatives

ENVIRONMENT

COCHAIRS:

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Washington County

Edward K. Muller

Professor, Department of History,
University of Pittsburgh

FISCAL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

COCHAIRS:

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President, The Heinz
Endowments

The Honorable Dan Onorato

Chief Executive,
Allegheny County

HEALTH

COCHAIRS:

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Member, Pennsylvania
State Senate

Beaufort B. Longest Jr.

M. Allen Pond Professor
and Director, Health Policy
Institute, Graduate School
of Public Health,
University of Pittsburgh

HUMAN SERVICES

COCHAIRS:

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Member, Allegheny
County Council

The Honorable Jane C. Orié

Member, Pennsylvania
State Senate

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

COCHAIRS:

Thomas A. Michlovic

Commissioner, Pennsylvania
Securities Commission

The Honorable John R. Pippy

Member, Pennsylvania
State Senate

TRANSPORTATION

COCHAIRS:

The Honorable Melissa Hart

Member, U.S. House
of Representatives

The Honorable Jack Wagner

Auditor General,
Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COCHAIRS:

Esther L. Bush

President and Chief
Executive Officer,
Urban League of Pittsburgh

The Honorable Thomas L. Stevenson

Member, Pennsylvania
House of Representatives

institute seminars, briefings, and retreats

Institute seminars focus on regional challenges—as well as the impact of pending or approved legislation—and help to promote informed decisions. The policy committees from each of the nine policy areas assist the Institute’s staff in determining and shaping seminar topics. Seminars begin with a national overview, feature distinguished guest speakers, include state impacts, and are followed by responses from local and regional leaders and an open discussion. Participants consistently comment on the comprehensiveness of programs, the balance of viewpoints provided, and the clarity of presentations.

Institute legislative briefings engage legislators, community leaders, and Pitt faculty in identifying problems and issues that may require legislative action and in reviewing priorities and options. Commonwealth-specific briefings take place in Harrisburg, Pa., while briefings on topics of national interest that pertain to Western Pennsylvania are held in Washington, D.C.

The Chancellor’s Elected Officials Retreat, held annually and cosponsored by the Office of the Chancellor, provides special opportunities for both substantive discussion and personal interaction. The goal of the retreat is to propel dialogue on critical regional issues and open the lines of communication among elected officials from different levels of government and other community participants.

“The work of the Institute in informing and engaging students, community and civic leaders, foundation and corporate executives, elected officials, and foreign dignitaries in discourse on good government lies at the heart of our democracy and serves as exemplary civic leadership.”

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH, IN ANNOUNCING
THE SELECTION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR
THE 2003 GOOD GOVERNMENT AWARD

community education

HUMAN CAPITAL POLICY INITIATIVE

The Human Capital Policy Initiative (HCPI) advances Southwestern Pennsylvania's workforce development agenda through a comprehensive communications campaign. HCPI presentations involve community members in an ongoing dialogue about how to turn the region's workforce into an economic resource.

Business, education, and civic leaders volunteer their time and expertise to regularly present HCPI talks at professional associations, rotary and board meetings, economics clubs, schools, and nonprofit organizations.

“The Institute is exactly what we need to advance the region.”

MELISSA HART, MEMBER,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STUDENT PROGRAMMING

The Institute Internship program provides students with the opportunity to work with elected officials in the Pittsburgh area at the local, state, or federal level, and requires them to attend a weekly seminar. Students obtain firsthand experience working with an official directly involved in policymaking and learn to analyze the process as an example of social problem solving. They also participate in a role-playing exercise, in which—acting as members of a legislative committee—they analyze, debate, amend, and vote upon a bill. This program is offered every spring and fall semester.

The Institute's Legislator for a Day Program provides undergraduate students with the opportunity to shadow a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly and gain insight into the legislative process and the roles and function of state representatives and senators. This program is offered during the spring semester.

publications

REPORT

Quarterly review of the activities of the Institute with full coverage of seminars and briefings, as well as a director's note and committee cochair reports.

ISSUES

In-depth mini-texts on regional, economic, social, and political issues addressed in local, state, and national contexts.

STATUS REPORT

An article devoted to the current status of one issue, including federal studies, state perspectives, and regional data and research.

CASE IN POINT

The newest Institute of Politics publication features summaries of various commonwealth policy issues and pivotal events.

CASE STUDY

Utilizes the rich resources of local archival collections to provide an in-depth historical analysis of federal, state, and local public policies as related to today's policy issues.

NEWS BRIEFS

An electronic publication that informs subscribers about the major issues on the Institute's agenda by referencing a collection of Web links

to online publications which address critical policy issues facing the region. In addition, this publication provides a feedback loop to indicate the policy issues that are of importance to the subscriber.

WEB SITE

www.iop.pitt.edu is a comprehensive, interactive, archival site containing information about the Institute of Politics, its programs, publications, student activities, and resource links. A complete listing of the current Board of Fellows can be found here. Additionally, upcoming events are listed and publications are archived and available as PDF files.

“As a member of county council, I have found the Institute of Politics’ programs and publications to be very informative and interactive because the people who are charged with making many of the decisions for their constituents are invited to take part in the discussion.”

BRENDA FRAZIER, MEMBER,
ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

public partnerships

TELEVISION

From time to time, the Institute of Politics—along with WQED-TV, Pittsburgh’s public television station—works to develop programs to raise public awareness of regional issues and brings area citizens into the discussion. In addition, these programs feature well-known experts and community leaders.

BOOKS, LECTURES, AND DISCUSSIONS

Matt Miller

- Nationally syndicated columnist and commentator for National Public Radio and host of *Left, Right & Center* on KCRW-FM in Los Angeles, Calif.
- Author of *The Two Percent Solution: Fixing America’s Problems in Ways Liberals and Conservatives Can Love*

Jason DeParle

- *New York Times Magazine* journalist and author
- Author of *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation’s Drive to End Welfare*

The work of the Institute of Politics is made possible by generous support from the University of Pittsburgh, community foundations, and corporate sponsors.



“As the responsibilities of an increasingly complex world are shouldered by elected officials, the contribution of the Institute of Politics is more important than ever. The Institute’s seminars, academic research, and publications on today’s most pressing policy issues provide public officials with the depth of understanding they need to make informed decisions in the public’s best interest.”

PAMELA TOKAR-ICKES, COMMISSIONER,
SOMERSET COUNTY

OVERVIEW

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