We all are judged by the company we keep, and in 2014, the University of Pittsburgh continues to move forward in very distinguished company.
Pitt ranks seventh among U.S. public universities for the quality and quantity of its scholarly publications according to the University Ranking by Academic Performance Research Laboratory.

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Pitt is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review’s 2015 edition of its annual college guide, The Best 379 Colleges.

In addition, for the ninth consecutive time, Pitt ranks as the top value in Pennsylvania in The Kiplinger 100: Best Values in Public Colleges. The 2014 nationwide ranking of four-year schools combines outstanding education with economic value.

Professor of English Terrance Hayes, a compelling voice in American poetry, is among the nationally prestigious group of 21 individuals named MacArthur Fellows for 2014. The fellowship is often called the “genius award.” The author of five award-winning collections of poetry, Hayes has received numerous honors and awards, as well as fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

2012 Rhodes Scholar Cory Rodgers majored in Africana studies, the history and philosophy of science, and biological sciences with a minor in chemistry.

2010 Rhodes Scholar Eleanor Ott received degrees in history, French, and chemistry from Pitt in April 2009. She also was a 2008 Truman scholar.
In the last nine years, Pitt has been one of only four public universities to have at least four of its undergraduate students named a Rhodes scholar:

Georgia  North Carolina  PITT  Virginia

That is great company, and it reflects Pitt’s strong record of educating students who earn the most prestigious forms of national and international recognition. Since 1995, in fact, Pitt undergraduates have won four Rhodes Scholarships, six Marshall Scholarships, five Truman Scholarships, seven Udall Scholarships, one Gates Cambridge Scholarship, two Churchill Scholarships, and 43 Goldwater Scholarships—among the very highest honors available to American undergraduate students for academic achievement.

Also as important is the recognition that Pitt graduates have won for the quality and impact of their lives’ work. In recent years, to give just a few examples, alumni of the University of Pittsburgh have won the Nobel Peace Prize, Nobel Prize in Medicine, Pulitzer Prize for fiction, MacArthur Fellowship, National Book Award for Poetry, Shaw Prize in medicine, Albany Prize in medicine, Fritz Medal in engineering, Templeton Prize, Grainger Challenge Prize for sustainability, and National Medal of Science.

Pitt graduate Herb Boyer is widely acclaimed for his pioneering work as a genetic researcher and a biotechnology entrepreneur. Boyer founded Genentech, Inc., America’s first major biotechnology company. He and his principal research partner are among the few individuals in history to have been awarded both the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. He also has received the Shaw and Albany Prizes in medicine.
In research, Pitt ranks seventh nationally in federally financed research and development expenditures according to the National Science Foundation:

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That is great company, and it is a clear sign that Pitt is building on its proud past, a legacy that includes developing the vaccine that won this nation’s war against polio as well as many of the surgical techniques and drug therapies that have made human organ transplantation a treatment option that is available around the world. In 2013, Pitt’s Yoel Sadovsky and Carolyn Coyne received the Cozzarelli Prize for scientific excellence and originality in the biomedical sciences category for a July 2013 paper on the cells of the placenta possibly preventing viruses to the growing baby.

Adding new knowledge for the benefit of humankind is a critical part of the Pitt mission. Pitt’s unusually strong research culture also adds richness to the learning experiences available to students at all levels, including undergraduates.

In 1955, the polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk and his team of Pitt researchers was declared to be “safe, effective, and potent.” This has been hailed as one of the great achievements of the 20th century. Newsweek reported: “It was a summit moment in history. None before it in the field of medicine ever received such dramatic affirmation, instant public comprehension, and official blessing.”

Thomas Starzl, University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Service Professor of Surgery, performed the world’s first liver transplant. He received the National Medal of Science, this country’s highest scientific honor, in 2006 and the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award in 2012. He was honored for his pioneering work in liver transplantation and his discoveries in immunosuppressive medication that have advanced the field of organ transplantation.
In 2004, Pitt alumnus Wangari Muta Maathai received the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote democracy, women’s rights, and environmentalism in Kenya. In returning to campus in fall 2006, she stated, “I feel as though I am back home. I am deeply grateful for the gift this institution gave me. I felt I was prepared to go forth, ready to serve the world.”

Pitt faculty members hailing from Kenya attended the dedication of the Wangari Maathai Trees and Garden. From left are Julius Kitutu, assistant dean for student services and assistant professor in the School of Nursing; Macrina C. Lelei, associate director of the African Studies Program and adjunct assistant professor of administrative and policy studies in the School of Education; and Leonora Kivuva, Swahili instructor in the Department of Linguistics.

Three of the component centers in Pitt’s University Center for International Studies—the Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Russian and East European Studies, and Global Studies Center—are designated by the federal government as National Resource Centers and are thus among the top centers of this kind in the nation.

The University continues to host great company with distinguished international leaders visiting campus. In 2009, on what was a historic day in Pitt history, both European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and then Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev were on campus to deliver addresses and answer questions from students. Medvedev also visited the Russian Classroom, one of the 29 working classrooms that make up the Nationality Rooms that symbolize Pitt’s deep commitment to global education.


European Commission President José Manuel Barroso has visited Pitt’s campus twice. His second visit was during the G-20 Summit held in Pittsburgh in September 2009.
The University of Pittsburgh has been named an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. The designation acknowledges universities working with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through a variety of activities, including innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development:

Pitt is ranked as one of the country’s top 10 universities for “happiest students” and one of the country’s top military-friendly universities. With a strong emphasis on service learning, all of Pitt students have the opportunity to engage in outside of the classroom activities including practicums, internships, co-ops, clinical work, or research projects.

Speaking more broadly, Pitt adds vibrancy to each of its home communities—Pittsburgh, Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville—and provides a range of opportunities for educational, cultural, and recreational enrichment. In 2013, the University spent more than $1.8 billion enhancing the economy in all of our communities.

During the 2013-14 academic year, Pitt students, pictured here participating in an Alternative Spring Break trip with Habitat for Humanity, devoted more than 71,000 hours of volunteer service to the community on such projects as Jumpstart Pittsburgh, America Reads Challenge, Pitt Make A Difference Day, and Alternative Break, while members of Pitt’s Greek organizations completed a $300,000 fundraising commitment to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and exceeded their goal by more than $57,000.
In intercollegiate athletics, Pitt competes at the highest levels across a broad range of sports. Over the last 13 years, the Pitt men’s basketball team has been among the nation’s leaders in winning percentage:

Kansas  Duke  Gonzaga  Memphis  PITT

Individually, Pitt student-athletes annually earn All-America and Academic All-America honors while continuing to graduate and achieve in the classroom at unprecedented levels. During 2013–14, 74 Pitt student-athletes earned grade point averages between 3.0 and 3.49, 137 earned grade point averages between 3.5 and 3.99, and 22 student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Pitt’s intercollegiate athletics programs provide all students with the chance to attend and experience major college sports. Whether they are cheering on the Panther football team at Heinz Field—the football home that the University shares with the Pittsburgh Steelers—or being part of the Oakland Zoo at Panther basketball games, Pitt fans play a huge role in the University’s winning sports tradition and history. In addition to varsity sports, nearly 6,000 students participate annually in intramural sports programs, from soccer to volleyball to ultimate Frisbee, proving that the University provides opportunities for exercising the body as well as the mind.

Katie O’Rourke has been honored as a 10-time, all-East Atlantic Gymnastics League (EAGL) or all-EAGL Tournament team member for the balance beam or floor exercise in her four seasons at Pitt. O’Rourke additionally has earned three consecutive bids to the NCAA regional meet as an individual. Her athletic performance has been impressive, but perhaps her greatest accomplishment to date has been her appointment as a recipient of the Atlantic Coast Conference’s prestigious post-graduate scholarship.

Aaron Donald was the most dominant and decorated defensive player of the 2013 college football season. A “one-man wrecking crew,” he earned unanimous first-team All-America status, was selected the winner of the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, Chuck Bednarik Award, Outland Trophy, and Rotary Lombardi Award; and was named the Atlantic Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year, making him one of the most decorated players in Pitt history.