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PITT

University of Pittsburgh
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PITT TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL
COLLEGE CAMPUS AT GREENSBURG

GREENSBURG, October 10 -- The University of Pittsburgh will establish a two-year college at Greensburg as early as September 1963 if the community will provide equipment and facilities, Pitt Chancellor Edward H. Litchfield announced tonight to a group of Westmoreland and Fayette County civic leaders.

The Chancellor made known the University's decision at a dinner meeting in Greensburg's Polo Club. The Greensburg campus would be the first in a proposed series of regional two-year colleges dotting Western Pennsylvania.

"The provision of ample college facilities to meet the educational needs of our society in the next decade is a challenge and a responsibility which cannot be avoided," Chancellor Litchfield stated. "In an age in which there is an unprecedented reliance on the educated man, we find fully half of the top five percent of our high school graduates -- many of whom are well-motivated -- do not further their education, either because of the problem of rising costs or because there are insufficient college facilities."

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Pitt has been surveying communities in the area since last December, shortly after it established a Regional Programs Division under Vice Chancellor John Geise. Feasibility studies have been made at the request of individual communities. Greensburg was among the first to make such a request.

The Greensburg campus is to be modeled after Pitt's Johnstown College, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary next month. It would offer programs in liberal arts and engineering; continuing graduate instruction at the Master's level in education, business and other fields; evening adult education programs; and assistance to local groups in the development of technical training and re-training programs for skills needed by new industries in the area.

Deans from Pitt's main campus will work with the local college officials in drafting the curriculum. The quality of the offerings will be such that students who complete the program will be able to transfer as juniors to Pitt or any other four-year college or university.

All programs would be offered on the trimester calendar, which provides for an 11-month school year of three terms. Thus, students could elect to complete the four-term course in as little as a year-and-one-third instead of two.

The initial enrollment at the regional campus is expected to be approximately 150 to 175, with that number more than doubling in the second year. Students will be drawn from the area between

Monroeville, Ligonier, Apollo, and Connellsville. An initial faculty of approximately ten members will be recruited.

Chancellor Litchfield said the University's decision to establish regional campuses was based on several factors:

The need for additional college facilities, particularly at the freshman - sophomore level, in Western Pennsylvania.

The need of Pitt and other institutions of higher education for supplemental undergraduate facilities to handle the enrollment bulge expected in school populations by the middle of the 1960's. The regional campuses will enable the university to educate a larger number of students without major new expansion of the Oakland Campus in Pittsburgh.

The need to face the problem of rising college costs. With a regional campus located in or near a community, parents can save the cost of boarding their children away from home. What's more, tuition at the regional campuses will be less than that at Oakland because the course offerings, though high in quality, will be fewer in number. No specific tuition figure has been set for the Greensburg college.

Each of the regional campuses will be self-supporting from tuition once a building and equipment have been provided. No specific site has been selected as yet in Greensburg, but community and area leaders who have been working on this problem are confident about its solution.

Among those who have been consultants to the University in the formation of plans for the Greensburg campus are Dr. Robert F. Nicely, Superintendent of the Greater Greensburg-Salem Joint School System; Theodore W. Fullerton, Superintendent of Hempfield Area Schools; John H. Coulter, president of the First National Bank of Greensburg and chairman of the Education Committee of the Greater Greensburg Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Frank Irvin, editor, The Greensburg Tribune-Review.

Other towns which have been surveyed by the University include Connellsville, Kittanning, Franklin, Titusville, and Bradford. Feasibility studies currently are underway or planned in Butler, Ridgway, Beaver-Ellwood City, and Canonsburg.

No decision has been reached regarding these other locations.

Criteria for selecting regional campus sites include the area's need and its ability to provide facilities and a student enrollment of at least 250 within two years. The latter requirement is necessary in order to assure the college's self-sufficiency.

Among the factors which Pitt has been considering in feasibility studies are socio-economic conditions, population trends, the number of high school students enrolled in academic or pre-college programs, the percentage of high school graduates who go on to college, future potential in terms of current grade and high school enrollments, the degree interests of students, and the opinions of high school principals and counselors.