

# Office of Community Outreach

## Richard King Mellon Grant Updates



Pictured: Audra Lewis

Photo Credit: Erica Samios

## MOVING THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC NEEDLE

By Erica Samios

Pitt-Greensburg has hired two new full-time staff members to head the newly formed Office of Community Outreach; Audra Lewis and Erica Samios are tasked with designing workshops and events to assist marginalized students in local school districts in preparing for college and careers after graduation.

The Office of Community Outreach is dedicated to building equitable pathways for all students to reach their full potential by affording students opportunities to close the global achievement gap.

The mission of the Office of Community Outreach is to empower students to be productive citizens. The office will serve as a headquarters for students to acquire 21st-century skills to succeed in a global economy. At the university, the Office of Community Outreach are building a framework for students to prepare for the workforce and post-education opportunities through strategic partnerships with our community stakeholders and university partners by providing relevant educational opportunities for underserved and underrepresented students.

### Newsletter Highlights

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#### Upcoming Events

- Summer Bridge Program
- Financial Literacy Workshops
- Peer-Mentoring
- Dual Enrollment



Pictured: Audra Lewis

## Audra Lewis

### Engagement Manager - Office of Community Outreach

Audra Lewis is from Pittsburgh, PA, and relocated to Florida to start her career in Education. She has spent almost two decades transforming the lives of learners in the seventh-largest school district in the nation as an instructional leader. Audra is currently working on an EdD degree in transformational educational leadership. She believes that all learners should have equitable access to education and that their zip code should not determine access to high-quality resources and instruction. Equity gives students what they require to succeed while addressing academic and social needs. Educators must develop the ability to teach across race, class, or cultural background. This includes the ability to develop relationships with respect and empathy for others. Audra is a person of an agency that has employed strong character and leadership in my career and service to her community. She has volunteered to lead a Girl Scout troop and serve on the service unit to improve the world. Her goal is to build capacity in others so that we can shape a better tomorrow for all in our society.

## PITT-GREENSBURG HIRES TWO FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBERS

### Erica Samios

#### Engagement Coordinator - Office of Community Outreach

Erica Samios is originally from Raleigh, North Carolina but moved to Pittsburgh when she was in high school. She has her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Communications/Media Studies and Strategic Communications. She previously worked in the broadcast journalism industry as an Evening News Producer.

Erica's duties at Pitt-Greensburg include data collection, creating marketing materials, videography/photography, and coordinating events.

During her free time, she loves watching movies and television shows and plans to begin her PhD studies in Film/Media Studies in the Fall of 2024.



Pictured: Erica Samios

**“We want to build equitable pathways for students that support school districts in their goal to help students to be college- and career-ready.”**

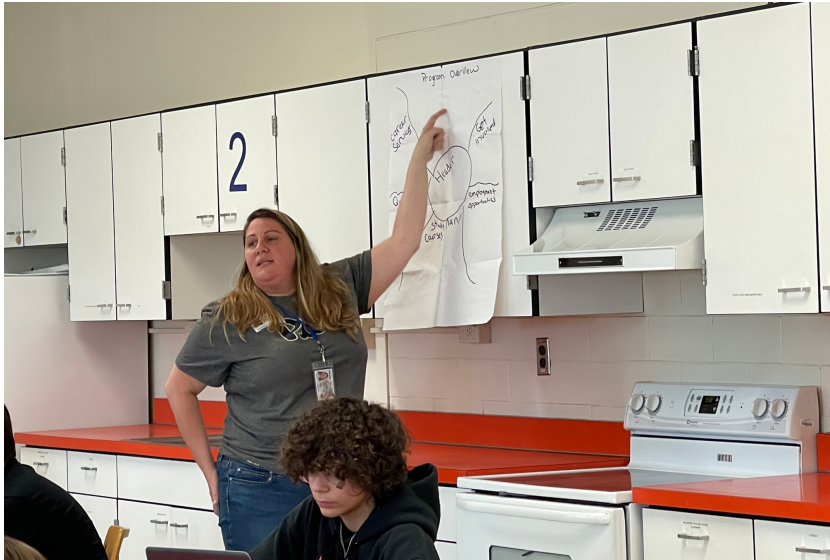
**- Audra Lewis, Engagement Manager**



**RICHARD  
KING MELLON**  
FOUNDATION

The University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg is utilizing support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation's Postsecondary Educational Attainment Grant under Economic Mobility.

The initiative is to increase young adults aged 14-24 years old access to college-ready, career-related, and leadership development activities.



Audra Lewis (pictured above)

Photo Credit to Erica Samios

## STUDENTS GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CAREERS THROUGH CAREER ACADEMIES

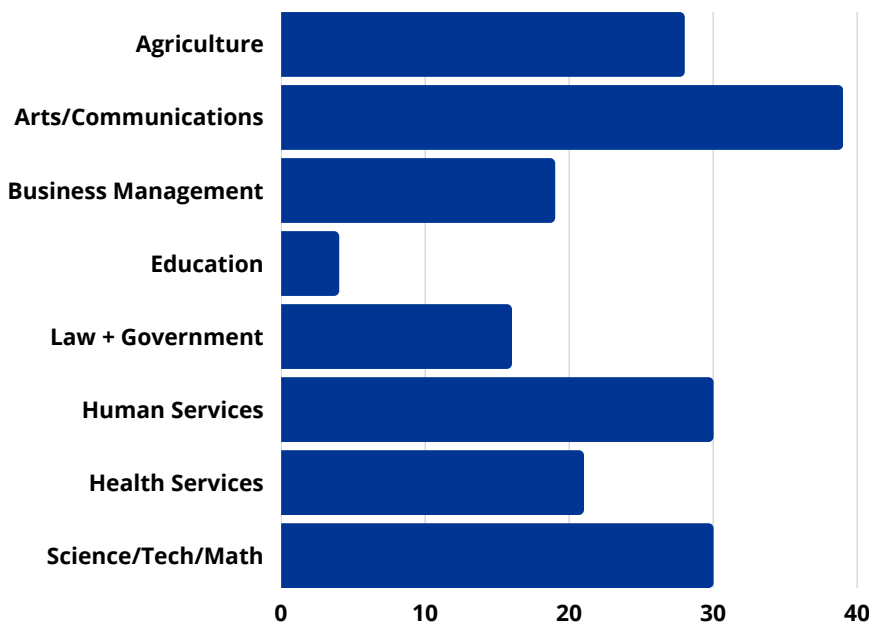
By Erica Samios

### Greensburg, PA - May 2023

The Office of Community Outreach at Pitt-Greensburg is forming partnerships with local school districts. Audra Lewis and Erica Samios conducted Career Cluster Academies at Greensburg-Salem Middle School and Jeannette Area High School. The Career Clusters Academies involve students taking an online quiz where they answer questions about themselves and are given up to four career clusters that align with their personalities and interests.

During the last month of the 22-23 school year, 48 students from Jeannette Area High School and 183 students from Greensburg-Salem Middle School participated in these workshops.

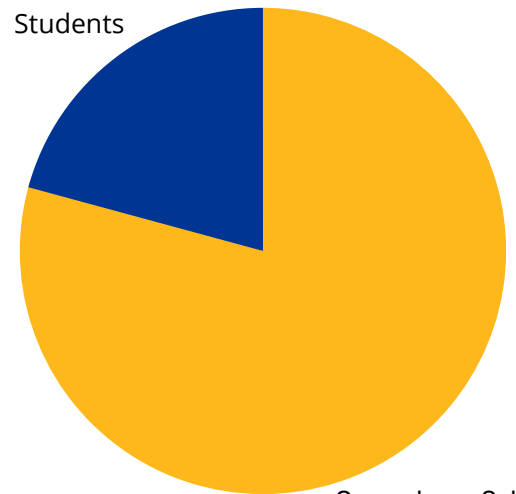
Arts/Video/Communications was the most popular career cluster among students. Human Services, Science/Technology/Mathematics were also popular career clusters.



Jeannette Area HS

48

Students



Greensburg-Salem MS

183  
Students

# LOCAL STUDENTS GAIN COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS SKILLS

By Erica Samios



Pictured: Prof. Amber Bugajski + Student

Photo Credit: Justin Antoszewski

## Greensburg, PA - June 1, 2023

Middle and high school students from Greensburg-Salem Middle School and Jeannette Area High School participated in Career/College Readiness workshops on Pitt-Greensburg's campus. Five faculty members led the workshops designed to target individual career clusters.

Science instructor Christie Orlosky led a Natural Science workshop where students participated in hands-on activities challenging them to use skills to solve scientific problems.

Nursing instructor Amber Bugajski led students in a hands-only CPR course and discussed education requirements and opportunities for registered nurses.

Education Professor Melissa Marks asked students to "draw what education looks like" and evaluate themselves as potential teachers.

Published authors and Creative Writing professors Lori Jakiela and David Newman directed students to draw upon their own experiences through writing pieces.

Associate Professor of Political Science and chairman of the Behavioral Sciences division Paul Adams led a Zoom/in-person workshop discussing employment opportunities in the social sciences.

"The conversation that made the whole experience worthwhile was when one of the boys told me he had originally planned on sleeping in that morning and skipping the field trip; as we were heading over to lunch, he said, "I'm so glad I got out of bed for this workshop."

- Prof. Christie Orlosky

## Just Write

Prof. Lori Jakiela + Prof. Dave Newman  
**Save A Life: With Hands Only CPR**

Prof. Amber Bugajski

**Natural Science Activities**

Prof. Christie Orlosky

**Teaching: What Makes For A Great Education?**

Dr. Melissa Marks

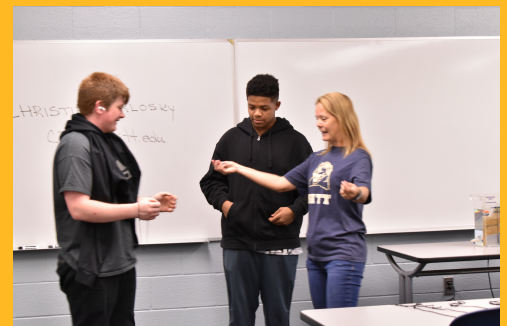
**Public Service, Politics, and**

**Policy - From Passion to Career**

Dr. Paul Adams



Pictured: Dr. Paul Adams + Students  
Photo Credit: Justin Antoszewski



Pictured: Prof. Christie Orlosky + Students  
Photo Credit: Justin Antoszewski



Pictured: Students  
Photo Credit: Justin Antoszewski

**Watch Reel Here**



