



# University of Pittsburgh

*Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor*

801 Cathedral of Learning  
4200 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-4223  
Fax: 412-383-9640

Patricia E. Beeson  
Provost  
Senior Vice Chancellor

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Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that we have designated the upcoming academic year the *Year of Healthy U*. The World Health Organization defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” I anticipate the year will give us the opportunity to recognize and appreciate the fullness of this definition, advance our understanding and implementation of practices that promote healthy outcomes, and allow us to highlight how a cross-disciplinary understanding of health can lead to better lives for us and the entire University.

The *Year of Healthy U* will also allow us to reflect on how the fields of science, medicine, art, humanities, and more contribute to our understanding of health. As a University, we are dedicated to advancing the frontiers of knowledge and preparing students to lead lives of impact. It is my hope that the *Year of Healthy U* will advance our understanding of health in all its forms and renew our commitment to fostering a healthy community.

A committee of faculty, staff, and students is being created to coordinate the *Year of Healthy U*. But the real work, as always, will happen in the schools, campuses, departments, and other units across the University. I ask that you begin working within your area to identify programs and projects that will address this holistic view of health within your area, and suggest you develop programs and perhaps set up committees or use existing committees to lead your efforts to advance the goals of the *Year of Healthy U*.

We anticipate a lively year of student, faculty, and staff discussions and events around the topic. To encourage these efforts, my office will provide matching funds (up to \$5,000) to support lectures, workshops, and other events focused on health. An online form for submissions is [available here](#).

Please share this message with your faculty and staff and encourage them to apply. A web site with more information will be launched soon.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to make this a successful initiative. I look forward to working with you on creative and impactful projects and programs in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia E. Beeson".

Patricia E. Beeson