PRSSIM Year 2 Updates

The University of Pittsburgh's Partners for Rural Student Success Impact and Mobility (PRSSIM) Project aims to support rural students by increasing pre-college engagement, university enrollment, retention, graduation, and internship attainment. This page summarizes Year 2 achievements and progress towards these goals.

Initiatives with direct impact on Project Objectives

1. **Recruiting Rural Students –** In collaboration with the Office of the Admissions, a continued vital partner of the project, the recruiting team successfully engaged with rural students through a range of initiatives. A new initiative this year was piloting extended contact between recruiters and rural students who may be in transition from Pittsburgh to a regional campus.
2. **Transforming Rural Student Success Symposium –** In Q2, the project team hosted a professional development day focused on rural student success for faculty and staff at the University. Total attendance was 50 attendees with representations from all campuses. This event increased awareness for rural student experiences and strengthened cross-campus relationships and capacity to support this student population.
3. **Degree Finder Scaling for Pitt-Greensburg –** In Q2, the Greensburg campus Degree Finder tool launched.
4. **me3® –** Throughout Q2 and Q3, me3® was scaled and updated to include program information for all the University of Pittsburgh campuses. Each campus page has a direct landing page with information about the career assessment tool.
5. **Experiential Learning Academy –** Early Q1, the Experiential Learning Academy (ELA) was launched. It became a requirement for students receiving internship stipends through the project.
6. **Internship Stipend Funding** – Throughout the summer and fall of 2025, the project provided stipends to eleven (11) students on the University of Pittsburgh regional campuses.
7. **Rural Scholars Pitt Commons Group –** In Q3, the project team created a group on Pitt Commons to connect rural students, staff, and faculty across all the campuses. The team shares resources for students with information on all the campuses as well as shares project news. At the conclusion of the fall 2025 semester, the group had over 100 members – 99 students with representation from each campus!
8. **Pittsburgh Campus Rural Student Mixer** – In Q4, the first rural student mixer was hosted on the Pittsburgh campus. This mixer created opportunities for community building, peer connection, and an increased sense of belonging among rural students.