

WPACSR “Retreat” Roundup



Membership Information:

Attendance:

There were 18 folks in attendance at the July 11, 2017, Roundtable Retreat meeting at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Janay Coleman, Pittsburgh Promise, Cheryl DePaolis, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Linda Ebel, Citizens School of Nursing; Denise Fisher, Pittsburgh Technical College; Julie Fontana, PHEAA; Stephanie Hendershot, Robert Morris University; Lorie Johnson-Osho, Grove City College; Zoe Kayton, Pittsburgh Promise; Kim McCurdy, PHEAA; Tasha Peacock, University of Pittsburgh; Samantha Rapp, Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild; Lyndsey Rozzi, Pittsburgh Promise; Peggy Schmeidecke, La Roche College; Kelly Spanos, DHS Office of Behavioral Health; Kristopher Stubbs, Pittsburgh Public Schools; Natalia Wassel, Citizens School of Nursing; Michael White, Slippery Rock University; Traci York, Career Training Academy.

Meeting Items:

Kim McCurdy presented on personality styles and how you might like to work together with a team. The participants then completed the DiSC online free survey to determine what personality type they were – Dominant, influencer, Steady, or Conscientious.

You can complete the online assessment and read about your personality style and how you like to communicate here:

<https://discpersonalitytesting.com/> Just click on the link that says “Click to take a free DiSC test.” You have to enter your email address and they will give you your letters and provide an in-depth report to you.



Following the DiSC assessment and discussion, we broke into groups to discuss our strengths and some of the things we could do as a group going forward.

It was established that when we go around and introduce ourselves at the Roundtable meetings, in addition to your name and your organization, we would like everyone to tell the group, “Why are you here?” This will give us perspective on why people are attending and how we can ensure we are meeting those expectations.

Additionally, the following ideas were discussed as potential projects/events:

- A happy hour for the group. This would allow some networking, especially for those who may not be able to get away from the office during the day.
- A Student Legislative Action Day (locally). We could potentially get a van (MCG might be able to provide transportation) and meet up with a group of 10-20 students and adult mentors. In advance, we could arrange to meet with legislators in their field offices regarding educational issues around funding for k-12 and higher education, counseling, etc.

- Have PCHE (Pittsburgh Council for Higher Education) be more actively involved in our meetings.
- More first-generation student initiatives (such as training to career and income).
- Coming up with some measurement of success – maybe use the students at the transfer forum this summer as a pilot group. How can we follow up with these students to provide them resources to graduate?
- Early initiatives – how can we support middle school students in gaining access to information about career and college sooner?
- What kinds of communication pieces could we provide to younger students? To others about our group in general?
- How can we utilize social networking to allow the almost 450 of us to participate even if we cannot get together personally? (We have a website and LinkedIn page, but Kristopher Stubbs mentioned apps like Buffer and Slack that we could incorporate).
- Along those same lines, how can we use texting to communicate with students (especially those in our pilot this summer) around things like applications, FAFSA, scholarships, or unique opportunities?
- What about a special services on campus panel, OVR speakers, or other resources for students who are disabled or have IEPs?
- How can we promote early scholarships?
- Provide career day information?
- Resources for single parents?
- Can we get grants to carry out these initiatives? We had a grants committee last year, but nothing ever happened with that. Should we look in to non-profit organization status? Is it time?

Executive Council: As we came out of the PACAC organization five years ago and have become a successful, stand-alone organization, we need to start thinking about our sustainability moving forward. We have over 400 members on our distribution list, and we have determined there is value to getting together, learning and developing ourselves professionally, collaborating, and working toward the success of the students we work with on a daily basis.

That being said, it was established at the meeting that an Executive Council be established for the group which will include 10 positions:

- President
- President-Elect
- Past-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer (at this time, this person will coordinate sponsorships)
- Site Coordinator
- Speakers/Training Coordinator
- Committee Coordinator
- Conference (CSF) Coordinator
- PACAC Liaison

We also need to establish a Constitution and By-Laws. Because we don't have that at this time, we have decided that for the first year, we will ask for volunteers to fill the positions mentioned above. Michael White has agreed to work on a Constitution and By-Laws, so for next year, we will have a succession plan in place for elections, etc.

At this time, we are seeking volunteers for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee Coordinator. I have volunteered to be the President for this first year as we start our transition, Peggy Schmiedecke will be the site coordinator, Stephanie Hendershot will be the CSF Coordinator, Sam Rapp will be the Speaker/Training Coordinator, and Loren

Morgan (if she agrees) will be our PACAC liaison.

If you are volunteering, please keep in mind this is a one-year commitment at this point, and we would ask that you make every effort to be at the Roundtable Meetings in September, November, January, March, and May. Additionally, we may have to meet as an Executive Council during the off-months (August, October, December, February, April). We have not determined this schedule yet. Some of these could potentially be conference calls as well.

Give it some thought, and please reach out to me if you have any questions. You can call me at 724.734.8550 or email me at kmccurdy@pheaa.org.



- **Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild Student Transition Forum** – Tuesday, August 15, 2017; 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. and there are still 20 slots left for student registrants). If you know a rising high school senior who would be interested, please have them register ASAP at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mcgaug15>
- **Yinzer 5k** – Saturday, August 19 @ 8 a.m. This is a fun opportunity if you like to run and want to support a good cause – the Light of Life Rescue Mission. (Linda Ebel’s daughter is running this event). You can find more information at www.lightoflife.org/yinzer5k.



Yinzer 5k.pdf

- **PHEAA Counselor Workshops** will be held in September and October. Registration will be available soon. Please see the attached Save the Date information.



counselor workshop
2017 save the date.p

- **North Pittsburgh College Fair** – Monday, October, 9, 2017. If your organization is interested in having a booth, please visit <https://lnkd.in/ef2bvUR> as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please email NorthPittsburghCollegeFair@laroche.edu.



North Pittsburgh
College Fair invite 20:

- **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Summer Programming** is seeking partnerships with postsecondary schools for a summer youth program. They recruit youth for a summer residency program where students will earn college credits. If you’re interested in learning more, please contact Cheryl DePaolis at cdepaolis@pts.edu.



Future Meetings:

-**Tuesday, September 12, 2017**, 10 a.m. – noon;
Robert Morris University, Moon Township, PA.

-**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**, 10 a.m. – noon;
IUP Northpointe Campus, 167 Northpointe
Blvd., Freeport, PA 16229

-**Tuesday, January 9, 2018**, 10 a.m. – noon;
Location TBD

-**Tuesday, January 30, 2018** – College Success
Forum, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; RMU

-**Tuesday, March 13, 2018**; 10 a.m. – noon;
Location TBD

-**Tuesday, May 15, 2018**; 10 a.m. – noon;
Location TBD

**Thanks again to Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary and
Cheryl DePaolis for hosting
our Retreat and for the
wonderful lunch you provided!
I have been receiving feedback
from those who attended that is
was the best! We appreciate
your hospitality and couldn't
do what we do without you!**