



Building the Foundation of a Diverse Health Care Workforce: [Andrea Hergenroeder](#), faculty, [Pitt Interprofessional Center for Health Careers](#)

Pitt's Interprofessional Center for Health Careers will connect with existing units on campus and build new programs that extend the University's excellence in health professions education to its undergraduate underrepresented minority (URM) students who aspire to health-related careers. Outcomes will include a 1) strengthened system of mentoring URM students into health-related careers, 2) a campus culture supportive of pre-health students from diverse backgrounds, 3) a more diverse pipeline of Pitt alumni entering graduate professional programs and 4) a transformed environment that results in Pitt becoming a recognized leader in preparing the array of health providers needed to ensure the health of underserved and diverse populations.

Serving Those Who Protect the Public: The Pitt Center for Emergency Responder Wellness: [Eric Meyer](#), faculty, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Emergency response personnel (ERP) protect the public, despite occupational hazards that threaten their mental health. This center will be a clinical innovation hub that 1) delivers accessible, culturally adapted, evidence-based mental health interventions; 2) trains the next generation of health science students to work with ERP; 3) fosters the success of local ERP peer support networks and 4) as a future goal, makes major contributions to the scientific understanding of post-trauma recovery processes. Goals for the seed phase are to establish a team, build collaborations with local ERP departments, demonstrate feasibility and initial clinical impact and compete for federal funding.

Infant Oral Health Education at the Pitt Community Engagement Center at Homewood: [Jacqueline Burgette](#), faculty, School of Dental Medicine

Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me meets community needs in Homewood by providing education on oral health and connecting families with services to keep children's mouths healthy. Faculty and students from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dental and Social Work provide this interprofessional oral health education at the University of Pittsburgh's Community Engagement Center in Homewood. This approach develops a collaborative workforce to improve child health while also addressing a community-inspired and community-informed need. Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me impacts not only the child's overall health, but the quality of life for families in the Homewood community.

Active Accommodations for Laboratories: [Rory Cooper](#), faculty, [Human Engineering Research Laboratories](#)

Students with disabilities face barriers while attending university courses that require hands-on laboratory activities. Typically, those students are forced to take a passive role rather than actively participating in the labs, which leaves them with a subpar education. This project will attempt to provide students with disabilities the necessary accommodations for them to actively participate in their lab activities along with their peers to the greatest extent possible.

— *From Pittwire*