

October 26, 2023

A Statement to College Community

Re: Moving Forward Together

On October 16, 2023, we were voted in by the Co-Chairs of the Pittsburgh Technical College (PTC) Board of Trustees to become Board Members. We know the importance that PTC has on the local and regional community, and we are excited to be a part of an organization that has filled the workforce pipeline for almost 80 years. With a 96% job placement rate for our graduates, we are educating and training the next generation of necessary workers in Western Pennsylvania and beyond.

We each took time to read the full report of an internal investigation that was completed July-September of this year. We also read President Dr. Alicia Harvey-Smith's Rebuttal Report. Without a doubt, we agree with the decision made by the Co-Chairs to dismiss the allegations and fully support Dr. Harvey-Smith in leading Pittsburgh Technical College. We believe she acted within her right, role, and power as President and with the College's best interest at heart.

Now, it is time to move on. It is time to move forward together!

But we are facing headwinds. We have a significant concern over the efforts of certain individuals who are actively trying to harm the College and its students. These individuals are making egregious, inaccurate claims and spreading lies and misinformation about PTC. They are contacting media, financial institutions, and higher education commissions with the sole purpose of shutting down a college that our region so direly needs.

These actions are negatively impacting PTC. These efforts are in fact harming and placing every employee and student at risk.

We are asking these individuals to refocus on the future. We are asking them to come to PTC's community meetings. We are asking them to attend Dr. Harvey-Smith's open office hours on Wednesdays. We are asking them to work together to remedy any real issues and move forward together.

We are proud and impressed by Dr. Harvey-Smith's almost 40 years of success in executive leadership during times of transformation and change. Because of her history as a scholar, educator, and proven leader, she was brought in to address and lead in a difficult environment facing significant change. She remains a brave and committed leader in the face of these attacks that serve only to harm the college. She has our full and unwavering support.

It is time to come together. It is time to move forward.

With warm regards,

Dr. Kanak Iyer, President, Kanak Financial
Orlando Houston, Financial Advisor, Equitable Advisors
Dr. Beverly Moore, Deputy Executive Director, Allegheny County Housing
Steve Trusnovic, Mayor, City of Oakdale
Dr. Linda Yankoski, Chief Executive Officer, Holy Family Institute

CC:
Co-Chair Ms. Carla Ryba
Co-Chair Ms. Patricia Grey