

Proposal to Restore the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences (PGSS) presented by the PGSS Campaign, Inc. (www.pgsscampaign.org)

What was PGSS?

PGSS was a 5 week live-in summer program held at Carnegie Mellon University, giving students the opportunity to study advanced sciences with University faculty, perform laboratory experiments, conduct original research, publish their research findings and present the work in a scientific symposium at the culmination of the program. It provided a quality Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based education for the State's highest caliber students. The program was created by Governor Thornburgh in 1982 despite a severe budget crisis because of the importance of STEM education to ensure Pennsylvania's global competitiveness in Science and Technology.

Why was PGSS cancelled?

Due to budgetary reasons, all nine Pennsylvania Governor's Schools were cancelled in 2009. There was not enough time to find alternative funding for PGSS that summer. The program has been inactive ever since.

How did PGSS support STEM educational initiatives?

At PGSS, top performing students who show an aptitude for STEM were given the opportunity to explore their interests at PGSS, beyond what any high school can provide. This propelled many students into college pursuing STEM fields which strengthens the US against the rise of India and China and other foreign powers for technical dominance in science and engineering. The program also improves the student's ability to work cooperatively and interact socially with peers, facilitating personal growth in preparation for a collaborative STEM career.

How did PGSS serve disadvantaged students and minorities?

Admission to the program was merit based, but guaranteed at least one student from every Intermediate Unit to ensure geographic diversity across Pennsylvania for state-wide impact. PGSS students received a full scholarship, so deserving students who were economically challenged could attend. There was a male/female balance.

What have the alumni done to bring PGSS back?

The alumni of PGSS have formed a 501(c)(3) corporation to administer the program. Contact information for over 2,000 of the 2,400 alumni has been gathered. Over 200 testimonials have been collected on the program's benefits. Over \$110,000 has been raised by alumni donations in the past year. Philanthropies and businesses have been identified that will donate money once the program is operational. Details at www.pgssalumni.org

In April 2011, representatives from the PGSS Alumni Association met with Governor Corbett and Secretary of Education Tomalis. Both hold an extremely favorable view of the program.

What does it cost to operate PGSS?

In 2008, the annual budget for PGSS was \$350K for CMU to operate the program, with at least \$50K of administrative costs at the state level. This served 100 students annually. With cutbacks and reducing the number of students, as little as \$250K is needed for restarting the program.

What you group can do to help PGSS:

Provide \$200,000 or match alumni donations with state funding to restart the program. Once the PGSS is operational, funding can be sought out from various philanthropies and donors. Without an operational program, it is very difficult to secure additional funding. The state can jumpstart the program, and strengthen STEM in PA.

With the help of the Pennsylvania Legislature and Governor Corbett, we can restore the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Sciences and transition it to sustainability, while maintaining the program's high level of quality and success.

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PGSS Statistics

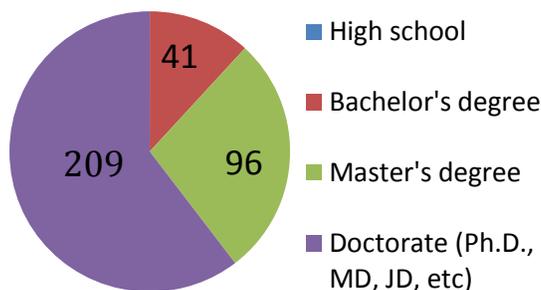
- **Popularity:** Nearly 600 applications were received annually for 100 openings. Those selected are on a full scholarship to PGSS (\$3,500 in 2008).
- **Geographic and Gender Diversity:** PGSS selected at least one qualified applicant from each of PA’s 29 education intermediate units, ensuring geographic diversity and statewide participation in the program. Most years were close to a 50-50 split of males to females.
- **Scholarly Output:** Over 27 summers, PGSS students have produced approximately 324 research journal articles and the PGSS Annual Journals hold over 6000 pages of student produced research.
<http://www.pgssalumni.org/the-pgss-journal>
- **Alumni Base:** As of 2012, the age range of the 2400+ PGSS alumni is from 20-48 years old, and current contact information has been gathered for over 2000 of them.
- **Alumni Fundraising:** In just over a year, the newly formed alumni association collected over \$110,000 in donations from 400+ donors to restart the PGSS program.
- **Alumni Testimonials:** Hundreds of testimonials have been received by the alumni, sharing a similar theme about the positive effect PGSS had on their life. www.pgssalumni.org/testimonials
- **PGSS Alumni College Choice:** List of the top six undergraduate schools attended by PGSS alumni (based on available information for 1820 alumni).

Undergraduate School	# PGSS Students	Percentage of sample
Penn State	170	9.3%
Carnegie Mellon	157	8.6%
MIT	135	7.4%
University of Pennsylvania	132	7.3%
Harvard	129	7.1%
Princeton	112	6.2%
Total	835	45.9%

Over 45% of PGSS grads go to top-tier research universities, half of which are in PA (PSU, CMU, UPenn).

The following are based on a 2011 Survey in which approximately 25% of the alumni responded. Percentages are based on responses for years indicated. Classes after 2000 were omitted because many of the alumni are still in college or pursuing higher degrees and have not yet begun their careers.

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?
Classes of 1982-2000 (n = 346)



% of alumni in STEM-related careers 1982-2000 (Composite)

