Pittsburg State University is working with community and regional leaders in an effort to expand the research park next to PSU’s Tyler Research Center. The university recently hosted more than 60 leaders on its campus during a special conference led by experts from the Association of University Research Parks. “We want people to have a better understanding of what an active research park can mean for our region,” said Shawn Naccarato, executive director of PSU’s Center for Innovation and Business Development. “A research park is an attractive starting point for entrepreneurs who may have innovative products but don’t yet have the capital to build a facility in which to produce them. The end result is increased jobs, higher starting salaries and an increased standard of living within our communities.”

The day-long workshop included sessions led by directors of research parks at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Texas State University. It was made possible by a recent grant (OIS). A $330,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, one of only 12 to be granted, will allow the university and the City of Pittsburg to develop a detailed plan for the construction of new or expanded facilities at the current research park.

“We know that you don’t get anything done unless you have a plan,” said Jay Byers, assistant city manager. “This grant allows us to create a road map for future growth. Once we have it, we can engage our community and fully utilize our research park.”

The research park project is one of many recent successes experienced by the university and city. Pittsburg State recently completed more than $65 million worth of capital improvements and the City of Pittsburg has attracted several new restaurants and smaller businesses. The economic activity is bringing new attention to Pittsburg.

“People see that we’re moving forward and they want to play a role,” said Byers. “We have a great city but by working together (with private industry and the university) we’re making it even more dynamic. The research park can be a tremendous engine for us. If it’s done right, it will propel our entire region into a growth pattern.”
Tech exec: PSU grads “exactly what industry is looking for”

As Steve Waltman walked around the wood technology labs at Pittsburg State’s Kansas Technology Center, he had to keep reminding himself that he was at a university.

“What you have here at Pittsburg State is truly a professional, industry-level operation,” said Waltman, vice president of marketing for Stiles Machinery. “The equipment within the labs at the tech center is high-level machinery that many companies still wish they had.

“That’s why the students who graduate from PSU are exactly what industry is looking for,” Waltman said. “They already know how to work with some of the newest and most advanced wood processing technology.”

Stiles Machinery, based in Grand Rapids, Mich., is among the various industry partners that have made possible the wood tech program’s acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment.

Through a machine loan agreement with various companies, the program has been able to fill its labs with equipment that would otherwise be out of the university’s price range.

“Companies like Stiles Machinery and many others across the nation have generously agreed to lend us some of their best equipment so that our students can be best prepared to go out into the workforce,” said Assistant Professor Doug Hague. “Without industry support, there is no way we’d be able to afford the machines we currently have.”

Waltman, who visited the KTC to view how Stiles machinery is being used by students, said it’s in the industry’s best interest that students have exposure to the highest level of machinery while in school.

“There is no point in students training on equipment that is lesser than that which they’ll experience in the workforce,” Waltman said. “We want to hire graduates who know what they’re doing and who are ready to hit the ground running. We want a seamless transition whenever possible, and we enjoy just that with PSU graduates because they come out fully trained and ready.”

New service shares PSU research and rare library holdings with the world

Every semester, faculty and students at Pittsburg State University conduct an impressive amount of research that is then followed by papers, reports, theses and monographs. Until recently, finding and reading about that research was a task that required both skill and long hours in the library.

Now, thanks to a new service called Digital Commons, the wide range of student and faculty scholarship produced on the PSU campus each year is available for all of the world to see, in digital form, from any computer connected to the Internet.

Deborah White, the digital resources and initiatives manager at PSU’s Leonard H. Axe Library, said Digital Commons is a repository for all kinds of resources, ranging from printed papers and theses to audio and visual files.

“Through Digital Commons,” White said, “Pittsburg State is able to preserve its intellectual output digitally and share it with the wider world.”

Randy Roberts, dean of library services, said one big advantage to using a service like Digital Commons is that it is easily searchable from anywhere in the world. When someone downloads information from a PSU file, the university and the author of the research receive an email so they can track the influence the research has had.

Roberts said acquiring the Digital Commons service was made possible with assistance from the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies and the Academic Affairs Division of the university.

“A library’s role is to share information in the widest and least restrictive way possible,” Roberts said. “A service like Digital Commons is a modern tool that allows us to fulfill our mission in ways that were never before possible.”

To access Digital Commons, go to http://axe.pittstate.edu/. For more about Digital Commons, visit their website at http://
Five students in triple-major club

By the time Katherine Graham graduated from Waverly High School, she had already earned 30 college credits.

So, by the time she enrolled at Pittsburg State as a political science major, she was on pace to graduate in three years.

“But then I got here and absolutely fell in love with PSU,” Graham said. “I really didn’t want to leave early.”

In just her second semester, to help prolong her university experience, Graham added a justice studies major. Just one semester later, she did something very few students even consider: she added a third major, international business.

“A lot of my friends think I’m crazy,” said Graham, now a junior. “They always ask me how I do it.”

Graham is one of just five students at Pitt State who have three unique majors. She’s joined in the triple-major club by Basel Alkassab, who actually has four majors, Zachary Botkin, Viet Nguyen and Jeffrey Yankovich.

Some call them crazy. Some call them over-achievers. The students, however, call themselves … well … nothing.

“I know it’s rare, but it doesn’t really feel that odd to me,” said Yankovich, who was a double-major in finance and international business before adding a third major in modern languages. “I had been taking French since 7th grade, and I already had a French minor. I realized that by taking 9 more hours, I could make it a major, so I did.”

Yankovich, a senior from Lenexa, Kan., acknowledges, however, that having three majors can be a lot of work. But, he said, he likes it that way.

“A lot of people deal with stress by relaxing and getting their minds off busy work,” he said. “I tend to be less stressed when I’m really busy. When I feel the need to de-

Students Jeffrey Yankovich (left), Katherine Graham and Viet Nguyen are three of just five students at PSU who have three majors.

stress, I look for things to do. I’m not really good at relaxing.”

For Nguyen, a senior from Vietnam, having three majors is necessary to being best prepared for his future career in investment banking. Nguyen is majoring in finance, management and economics.

“The three majors I have are excellent choices because they help me develop necessary skills to be a competitive candidate in my career,” he said. “At the beginning, it was hard to plan my class schedule for the next three years, but my advisers provided great help for me.”

Suzanne Hurt is an academic adviser in the Kelce College of Business and has worked with many of the triple-majors. She said the key to their success, outside of the students’ own determination, is time management.

“What I like to tell these type of over-achieving students is that the key is getting through the first few semesters,” Hurt said. “There is no rush to finish, and there is no rush to deciding which or how many majors they’ll have. Once they have decided they want or need two or three majors, the most important thing is helping them develop a schedule that will allow them to succeed without being overwhelmed.”

The type of students who declare multiple majors, Hurt said, typically don’t need much help on the success part.

“These students aren’t just hard workers, they’re also high-achievers,” she said. “They are motivated by an intense desire to succeed. So not only do they have three majors, they also have incredibly high GPAs.”

Graham said that any student considering three majors should not be scared off by the workload.

“If it’s what you really want to do, it’s definitely doable,” she said. “I’m busy, yes, but it’s a necessary busy. I’m pushing hard to reach my goals of getting into law school.”

“Plus,” she said, “I’m used to it. I don’t really know what it’s like to not be busy.”
Pitt C.A.R.E.S (Campus Advisement, Registration and Enrollment Services) is designed to assist new students with their transition to Pittsburg State University. During Pitt C.A.R.E.S., students gain valuable insights about college life, meet with an academic advisor to plan their summer and fall semesters and complete university enrollment procedures.

By attending Pitt C.A.R.E.S. students will:

- Enroll in courses for the summer and fall 2016 semester
- Meet other members of their incoming class
- Meet current PSU students
- Receive their PSU ID card (bring photo ID and know your Social Security Number)
- Feel better prepared to start PSU in the fall
- Be better informed about campus services

It’s almost time to enroll at Pitt State!

Pitt C.A.R.E.S. (Campus Advisement, Registration and Enrollment Services) is designed to assist new students with their transition to Pittsburg State University. During Pitt C.A.R.E.S., students gain valuable insights about college life, meet with an academic advisor to plan their summer and fall semesters and complete university enrollment procedures.

Officials expect more than 20 students to declare as interior design majors now that the program is officially approved by KBOR. They expect enrollment to grow to 60 students within the next three to five years.

“The move to the School of Construction and the awarding of the interior design degree is a critical step to build a career-driven professional program,” Page-Sagehorn said. “For the students to practice as licensed, professional interior designers, we need a strong curriculum with in-depth coursework.”

With the move from an emphasis to a full degree program, the interior design program at Pitt State now sets its sights on earning accreditation from the Council for Interior Design Accreditation.

“Earning CIDA accreditation will be a huge step for our program, as it will give validation to its importance and value on our campus and to its relevance to the interior design industry,” Bertoncino said.

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New Freshmen

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New Transfer Students

Early enrollment is recommended for new incoming transfer students for the best selection of classes.

Click here for more information and to register