



# Pittsburg State University

## International Programs and Services

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## Pitt State welcomes first in-person international student to Caterpillar ThinkBIGGER program



Pittsburg State University's Automotive Department boasts an extremely unique program. The Caterpillar ThinkBIGGER program at PSU has been the only program of its kind worldwide since its inception in 2001.

According to Tim Dell, the sole advisor of the program, the program enables students who have completed the two-year Caterpillar ThinkBIG associates degree program to earn their baccalaureate degree in two years.

"Caterpillar ThinkBIGGER prospective

students choose the program because it is a tried-and-true proven program that provides a high-quality education with an efficient path and be provided the opportunity to work with a veteran advisor who can help them navigate their short stay on campus," Dell said.

This semester, the program received their first in-person international student. Juan Cavero, of Peru, arrived in August with his family to study in the program, having completed the Caterpillar ThinkBIG program in 2004 at the Tecsup Technological Institute in Lima.

"...I heard about the option of being able to continue my studies at Pittsburg State University," Cavero said. "At that time, it seemed like a dream to be able to come to the United States, study at PSU, and have the possibility of being able to work for Caterpillar."

This is the third degree Cavero is pursuing, and after years of working in a variety of fields and roles in Peru as well as in Australia, Cavero said the pandemic changed his view on life.

"It made me change my goals and leave my comfort zone, and I decided to work toward other goals in my life," he said.

One of these new goals was to complete the ThinkBIGGER program at PSU.

Cavero didn't initially know much about Pittsburg or Pitt State, but he has grown to love it and said "it has a great reputation."

"...in this short time living here I love this town, is the right place to learn and live," he said. "PSU is incredible, I see the quantity of business that came in the job fairs from different state of U.S looking for recruit new people."

So far, Cavero has been impressed by the program as well as the faculty in the program.



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“I love the (Kansas Technology Center), they have modern labs,” he said. “The ThinkBIGGER program manager is Dr. Tim Dell who is an expert in his field, he has many publications and books, and I already understand why Caterpillar asked him to take over the program.”

According to Dell, Cavero has been “a joy to have in class.”

“He is one of the hardest working professionals that is focused on his education,” Dell said. “It would be a privilege to have an entire classroom full of students exactly like Juan.”

Cavero said he would recommend the program to those in a similar field to him.

“I would certainly recommend the program... since it allows you to expand your field of work...with a university degree and even more from a prestigious university like PSU, the possibilities are endless, no matter where you want to work, you will be prepared to face new challenges in your professional life,” he said.