

Milestone or Event	Time Frame	Significance
Hire Academic Coordinator, Project Coordinator, Program Manager, and Rural Recruiter	January – March 2024	The hire of four positions to support project implementation and yield project outcomes is paramount to its success.
Engage the Bradford, Greensburg, and Johnstown campuses in discussions for grant initiatives including, but not limited to, Degree Finder, me3, Pitt Commons and determine needs or wishes from each campus.	February – May 2024	This project is centered around regional campus support, where our largest populations of rural students reside and/or study, and onboarding regional campuses and understanding regional campus student needs is required.
Research, assess, and document trends in academic performance and support needs of rural students currently on campus	April – July 2024	In national and state-wide research, general needs of students who hail from rural locales can be gleaned, however to best serve our campus’ population of rural students, additional research is necessary to provide most effective intervention.
Establish relationships and communities of practice and networking with academic and career-guiding professionals on at least one regional campus	July – October 2024	In the scaffolding and implementation of degree pathway and workforce development resources, partnerships will need to be trusting and strong with regional campus career experts.
Understand needs of rural student access to internships and funding opportunities with regional campuses written into the RPED grant.	August – December 2024	It is known through internal research that rural students have access to internships and experiential learning differently than Pittsburgh students. In further studying this need, we are best able to create a program through which students can secure funding to supplement internship (particularly unpaid) experiences.
Partner with existing cohort-based programs on campus addressing academic support needs of students by offering monthly programming (potential for virtual attendance); communicate these offerings to rural students with intention for their first term.	August – December 2024	The ability to scale programming in Pittsburgh to regional campuses potentially hours away presents challenges in reaching students. By leveraging IT resources, virtual attendance will need to be made possible.
Focus intentional rural student recruitment efforts across Pennsylvania at-scale for first admissions cycle on this project.	August 2024 – April 2025	With the hire of an additional rural recruiter for Pennsylvania recruitment territories, more intention can be placed in visiting specific high schools or community spaces to communicate Pitt’s Pittsburgh and regional campus offerings.
Build and launch Degree Finder for one regional campus	September 2024 –	Degree Finder is a platform sought by the regional campuses to be scaled from the

	January 2025	Pittsburgh campus to assist with collating all degree offerings at the campus in time for summer and fall class schedules being released.
Build and launch me3 for one regional campus	September 2024 – January 2025	Me3 offers students and the public a mechanism for mapping degree offerings to career outcomes, allowing for students to plan for what comes after college sooner.
Assess retention and persistence assessment of rural students at all University of Pittsburgh campuses and tailor initiatives to necessary interventions.	January 2025	The retention and persistence of rural students is within one of the absolute priorities of this project, and assessing these measures allows for mid-project course correction.
Build a funding stream and application and award processes for rural students pursuing internship opportunities in rural locales or near regional campuses.	January – February 2025	Around the time of students exploring summer plans (coursework or otherwise), it will be essential to this project’s success that rural students have opportunity to be funded for otherwise unpaid or underpaid internship or apprenticeship opportunities.
Explore embedding Degree Finder, me3, and belongingness interventions into student orientation/onboarding for relevant regional campuses	February 2025	While rural students will have some resource exposure to the University of Pittsburgh prior to being matriculated, the phase of matriculant is integral to finding a sense of belonging and establishing a clear path to degree.
Embed Pitt Commons at one regional campus in support of rural student mentorship.	February – April 2025	Providing infrastructure for mentorship for rural students at the regional campuses will help with establishing connection to an alumni base and provide opportunity for degree and career pathing conversations for rural students.
Scale the Catalog of Opportunities & Suitable to one regional campus	May – July 2025	Advertisement of academic learning and skill building opportunities is essential to getting students in the door – in scaling a “Catalog of Opportunities” to one regional campus, we are able to get academic programming and other programs to students and track their engagement in a singular platform.
Build and launch mentoring programs for additional regional campuses	June – December 2025	Providing infrastructure for mentorship for rural students at the regional campuses will help with establishing connection to an alumni base and provide opportunity for degree and career pathing conversations for rural students.

Partner with existing cohort-based programs on campus addressing academic support needs of students by offering monthly programming (potential for virtual attendance); communicate these offerings to rural students with intention for their first term.	August – December 2025	The ability to scale programming in Pittsburgh to regional campuses potentially hours away presents challenges in reaching students. By leveraging IT resources, virtual attendance will need to be made possible.
Build me3 and Degree Finders for additional regional campuses	September 2025 – January 2026	<p>Degree Finder is a platform sought by the regional campuses to be scaled from the Pittsburgh campus to assist with collating all degree offerings at the campus in time for summer and fall class schedules being released.</p> <p>Me3 offers students and the public a mechanism for mapping degree offerings to career outcomes, allowing for students to plan for what comes after college sooner.</p>
Assess retention and persistence assessment of rural students at all University of Pittsburgh campuses and tailor initiatives to necessary interventions.	January 2026	The retention and persistence of rural students is within one of the absolute priorities of this project, and assessing these measures allows for mid-project course correction.
Explore embedding Degree Finder, Pitt Commons, and me3 into student orientation/onboarding for additional regional campuses	February 2026	While rural students will have some resource exposure to the University of Pittsburgh prior to being matriculated, the phase of matriculant is integral to finding a sense of belonging and establishing a clear path to degree.
Scale the Catalog of Opportunities & Suitable to additional regional campuses	February – July 2026	Advertisement of academic learning and skill building opportunities is essential to getting students in the door – in scaling a “Catalog of Opportunities” to one regional campus, we are able to get academic programming and other programs to students and track their engagement in a singular platform.
Re-evaluate and engage cohort-based programs on campus addressing academic support needs of students by offering monthly programming (potential for virtual attendance); communicate these offerings to rural students with intention for their first term.	August – December 2026	The ability to scale programming in Pittsburgh to regional campuses potentially hours away presents challenges in reaching students. By leveraging IT resources, virtual attendance will need to be made possible.
Focus intentional rural student	August 2026	With the hire of an additional rural

recruitment efforts across Pennsylvania at-scale for third admissions cycle on this project.	– April 2027	recruiter for Pennsylvania recruitment territories, more intention can be placed in visiting specific high schools or community spaces to communicate Pitt’s Pittsburgh and regional campus offerings.
Assess retention and persistence assessment of rural students at all University of Pittsburgh campuses and tailor initiatives to necessary interventions.	January 2027	The retention and persistence of rural students is within one of the absolute priorities of this project, and assessing these measures allows for mid-project course correction.
Re-evaluate and engage cohort-based programs on campus addressing academic support needs of students by offering monthly programming (potential for virtual attendance); communicate these offerings to rural students with intention for their first term.	August – December 2027	The ability to scale programming in Pittsburgh to regional campuses potentially hours away presents challenges in reaching students. By leveraging IT resources, virtual attendance will need to be made possible.