

Full Commission Meeting

April 28th, 2025



Opening Agenda Items

Welcome/Introductions and Call to Order

- Quorum
- Conflict of Interest Declarations on Action Items

Action on Minutes from February 24th, 2025 Meeting

Public Comment



Executive Director's Report

Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director

Agenda Item: 4



Executive Director's Report



- CCBC Aviation Building Groundbreaking
 - 30000 Sq. Ft. Facility
 - Terminal and Control Tower
 - CCBC has the only live ATC tower at a college in the USA

- Data Center Announcements
 - Homer City Data Center
 - Fort Cherry Power Plan
 - Many other projects in the works
 - Data Center Presentation at Policy Committee

Executive Director's Report

- Upcoming County Commissioner Harrisburg Trip May 5th
 - Meetings scheduled with several Cabinet Secretaries and Senior Legislators
 - County Commissioners: Please let Dj know if you plan to attend
- Transit Funding
 - Monitoring developments and have meetings scheduled with senior transportation staff
- Broadband Funding
 - Meeting with PBDA staff in Harrisburg
 - Update later in the meeting

Executive Director's Report

- Several great events in the past few months
 - Washington County Housing Expo
 - Meetings with Regional Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs)
- 2026 NFL Draft
 - Pittsburgh is “On the clock!”
 - NFL Source Program - Local business preference
 - Transit discussions continuing
 - Will look for additional ways to plug County Leadership into the process

Transportation Report

Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation Planning

Agenda Item: 5



Transportation Department Activities

- **Program Development**

- US 422 Corridor of Regional Significance Plan framework completed and shared.
- Preparations for the **2027 TIP Development** are underway, including:
 - Staff participation in Statewide Financial Guidance Committee
 - Staff participation in Statewide General and Procedural Guidance Committee
 - Assisting and promoting the STC pre-TYP comment period (Closes Wed 4/30)
 - Scheduling TIP Work Group Meetings - County/City staff have been included
 - Drafting SPC Competitive Program guidance
 - Assisting in PPP orientation meetings
- Application period for the next round of **SPC Competitive funding will open June 2nd**
- Staff will host an informational webinar for prospective applicants to SPC's competitive programs on June 10 at 10:00am. We will be advertising this in May through all our committees and social media accounts.

Transportation Department Activities

- **Operations and Safety**

- Regional Safety Action Plan is in draft stage – will be presented for adoption at the June Commission Meeting
- Allegheny County Safety Action Plan moving along – finalized late 2025/early 2026

- **Transit/Transportation Demand Management**

- FTA Triennial Review June 3rd & 4th
- Subrecipient Monitoring of TMAs – completed
- Bike/Walk to Work Day – May 14th
- National Bike Month & CommuteInfo Commute Options Awareness Month Resolutions

Broadband Update

*Dj Ryan, Director of Communications
and Strategic Initiatives*

Agenda Item: 6



Broadband Update

- PBDA Technical Subcommittee Meeting
 - Regular business and not much official news from NTIA
- PBDA rejected rules for equity implementation
 - This is a different program from the main BEAD funding
- Regular contact with PDBA and board members
 - No official changes from DC
 - PBDA Board has not yet moved forward with BEAD
- Commissioners should continue to educate Federal officials on their counties' priorities related to broadband

ACTION ITEM: Resolution 04-25
To proclaim May 2025 as “National Bike Month”
in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Lillie Gabreski, Director of Transportation

Agenda Item: 7



ACTION ITEM: Resolution 05-25

**To proclaim May 2025 as “CommutelInfo Commute
Options Awareness Month” in Southwestern
Pennsylvania**

Lillie Gabreski, Director of Transportation

Agenda Item: 8



Workforce and Economic Development Report

*Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce
and Economic Development*

Agenda Item: 9



Small Business Support - PREP

- Business Finance
 - 2 Loans Closed
 - 1 being voted on today for next month close
 - Equipment Worries
- Export
 - Multiple events hosted at SPC – Regional Export Network
 - Tariffs Impact on export/import
 - Harrisburg conversations
- Apex – Government Procurement
 - Funding uncertainties and spending freezes
 - DOD APEX program uncertain

Grant & Technical Assistance

- ARC POWER on Hold (NOSA in OMB)
- ARC Area Development and Local Access Road Funding applications Due July 2025
- EDA new projects on hold til Commerce Budget approved
- USDA Rural - TBD

What does this all mean...

- Use this time to really develop shovel ready projects, partnerships and programs
- Keep on pushing and working on what we can control - we are still here to help!
- SPC continually recognized as a convener – happy to brainstorm project ideas

German American Chamber Duisburg Delegation Visit & Reception

- March 14th 2025
- 15 Duisburg Delegates & Elected Officials
- 50+ at German American Chamber Reception
- Discuss best practices
- Revitalization – ARC



German American Chamber Duisburg Delegation Visit & Reception



Stakeholder Engagement & Recent Visits

- CCBC Aviation School Groundbreaking
- DCED Visit to Westmoreland County
- Planning Director Forum hosted
- UPMC Workforce Discussions – WIB Connection
- Labor & Industry Conversation around Workforce
- University of Pittsburgh – Institute of Politics Event
- IUP – College of Osteopathic Medicine visit
- NADO/DDAA – Washington DC
- PREP/Engage Meeting hosted



Build Back Better Update

- Hosted sub-award grant meeting at WCCC ATC
- Hosted Workforce Committee w/ PRN
- Semi-annual report completed
- Working on individual modifications
- Gathering data and working on expanding options for placement data
- Language change requests expected from EDA
- Strong workforce focus on bridging career gaps



What's Coming Up:

- Multiple speaking engagements promoting the great work we're doing here regionally
- Office of Transformation & Opportunity Engagement Meeting
- Helping provide support to the July DDAA Summer Training Conference
- Continued workforce conversations with regional employers and connection to available resources
- Conversations on federal funding and what's next
- More discussions on housing, transportation and understanding regional needs

IUP Rural Healthcare Presentation

Dr. Miko Rose and Christina Koren

Agenda Item: 10



Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine

April 28, 2025

Why the Proposed COM belongs at IUP

- **Positioned for Rural to Rural Pipeline:** Strong clinical partnerships
- **DO's:** Practice more in Primary Care and Underserved regions
- **Robust STEM-H** curricula and programming
- Strong **research** mission
- Enhance undergraduate and graduate enrollment
- **Boost PASSHE enrollment** through predesignated early acceptances



Health Sciences Cluster at IUP



- Health Sciences Cluster includes the **College of Health Sciences** and the proposed **College of Osteopathic Medicine** to be physically located in three existing buildings on the Indiana campus.
 - **The College of Health Sciences Academic Departments include:**
 - **Nursing** – UG, Masters and PhD programs
 - **Allied and Public Health** - UG and Grad programs in athletic training, exercise science, medical technology, medical imaging, nutrition, public health, respiratory care, and speech language pathology,
 - **Psychology** – UG and PsyD programs
- The aim is to increase collaboration and to facilitate interprofessional education across the health professions with a focus on rural health.
- IUP received **approval from the BOG for \$500,000 for DGS to conduct a facilities feasibility study for renovation of an existing 3-building health sciences cluster at IUP**. Plans are being developed in which existing IUP facilities will be used for the Health Sciences Cluster to include **Simulation, cadaver, osteopathic manipulation (OMT) laboratory spaces**.

Potential Economic Impact from an IUP COM

420 jobs

in the region

\$3 million

in new state and local
government revenue

\$67 million

in total economic
impact per year

\$79 million

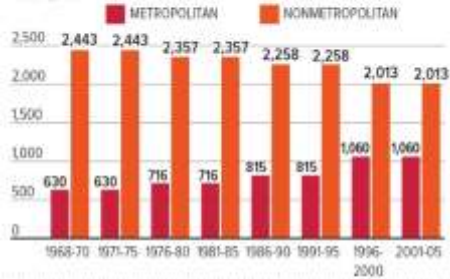
economic impact of the
campus will grow by 2035

Growing health inequity

Advancements in health care have not equally benefited people living in rural parts of the U.S. where rates of death from heart disease, cancer and other problems are higher than in urban centers. Access to health care is the most pervasive health disparity in rural America, where hospitals have been shrinking services.

WHILE THE NUMBER OF RURAL U.S. COUNTIES IS DECLINING ...

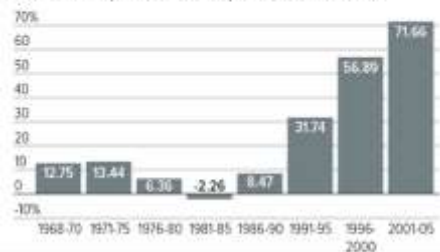
Number of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan U.S. counties, 1968-2004



... EXCESS DEATHS IN RURAL AREAS HAVE BEEN CLIMBING

Rural excess deaths are deaths above the number expected under normal conditions.

Excess nonmetropolitan U.S. deaths, per 100,000, 1968-2004



Source: August 2008 American Journal of Public Health

James Wilson/Post-Gazette

The Rising Cost of Western Pennsylvania's Rural Penalty

Despite decades of groundbreaking advancement in medicine, “life in rural U.S. often means lives cut short by heart disease, cancer, unintentional injuries, lung problems and stroke at higher rates than in urban areas.”

- In 2004, in comparison urban counties, rural counties experienced more than 35,000 additional deaths.
- By 2016, the number number of excess deaths for rural counties, above the number of deaths expected under normal conditions, **ballooned to about 61,000 annually.**

This reflects an increase of 75% in the past 12 years.

Why IUP?

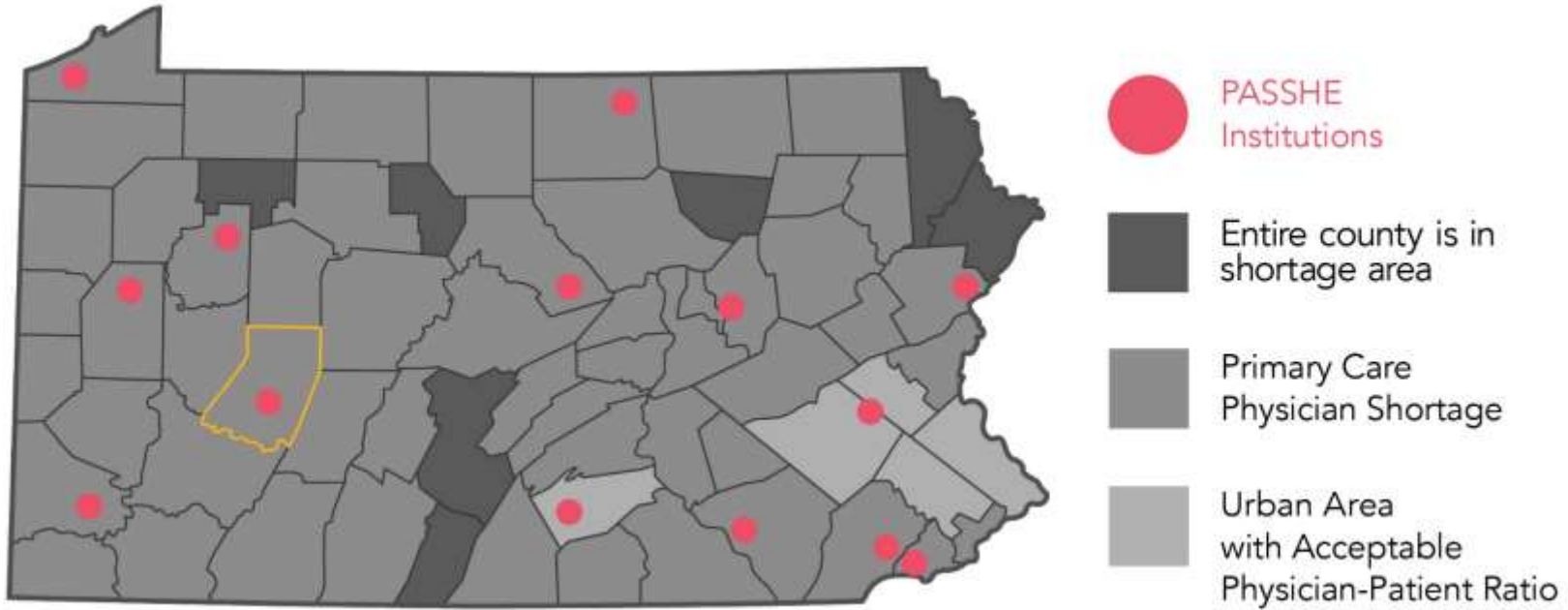
- Strong base for establishing clinical partnerships with rural entities (recent *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* Editorial)
- Partner in establishing Family Practice Residency



1 OF 93
PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
WITH HIGH RESEARCH
ACTIVITY DESIGNATION

-
- After start-up, COMs are revenue positive which will enhance IUP's fiscal health
 - Boost to university and system reputation and attract new students in complementary, revenue-generating masters-level programs
 - Doctoral research mission/experience
 - Strong existing science and health programs
 - Nursing, Allied Health, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology (PsyD)
 - 30% of current IUP students are in STEM-H majors
 - Strong fundraising infrastructure, community leader support, strong prospects for Congressional support, state legislative support
 - Ability to repurpose underutilized facilities

Filling Rural Health Care Shortage Areas - PASSHE



Drawing upon the foundation of the statewide infrastructure of existing Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) to bolster educational opportunities and economic development, highlighting rural regions throughout the Commonwealth.

IUPCOM in the News

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Editorial: Punxsy Hospital, IUP collaboration could be model for rural health care



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Submit a letter to the editor
letters@post-gazette.com

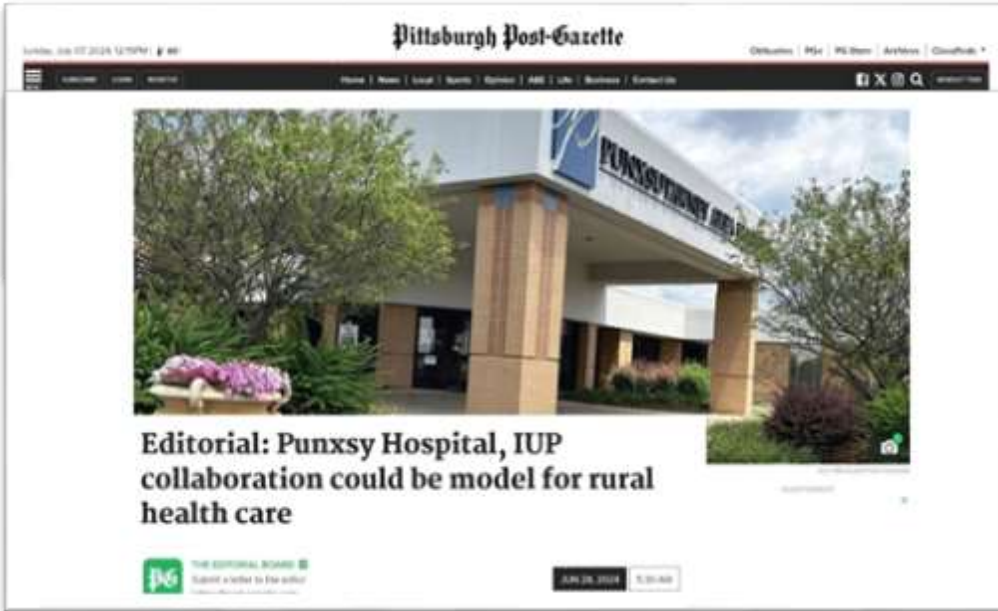
JUN 28, 2024

5:30 AM

“It’s exactly the kind of creativity that communities across Pennsylvania and the U.S. need: As leaders at all levels consider reforms of the current system, IUP and PAH are doing the hard work of experimenting with building entirely new institutions and systems designed by and for rural America.”

IUPCOM Mission

The mission of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, *recognizing our roots as a public institution, is to increase the number of community physicians throughout rural and underserved Pennsylvania while creating a national model for rural healthcare.* We will fulfill this goal by providing an innovative program of osteopathic medical education that is evidence-based, inspiring, compassion-focused, holistic, community-centered, and affordable.



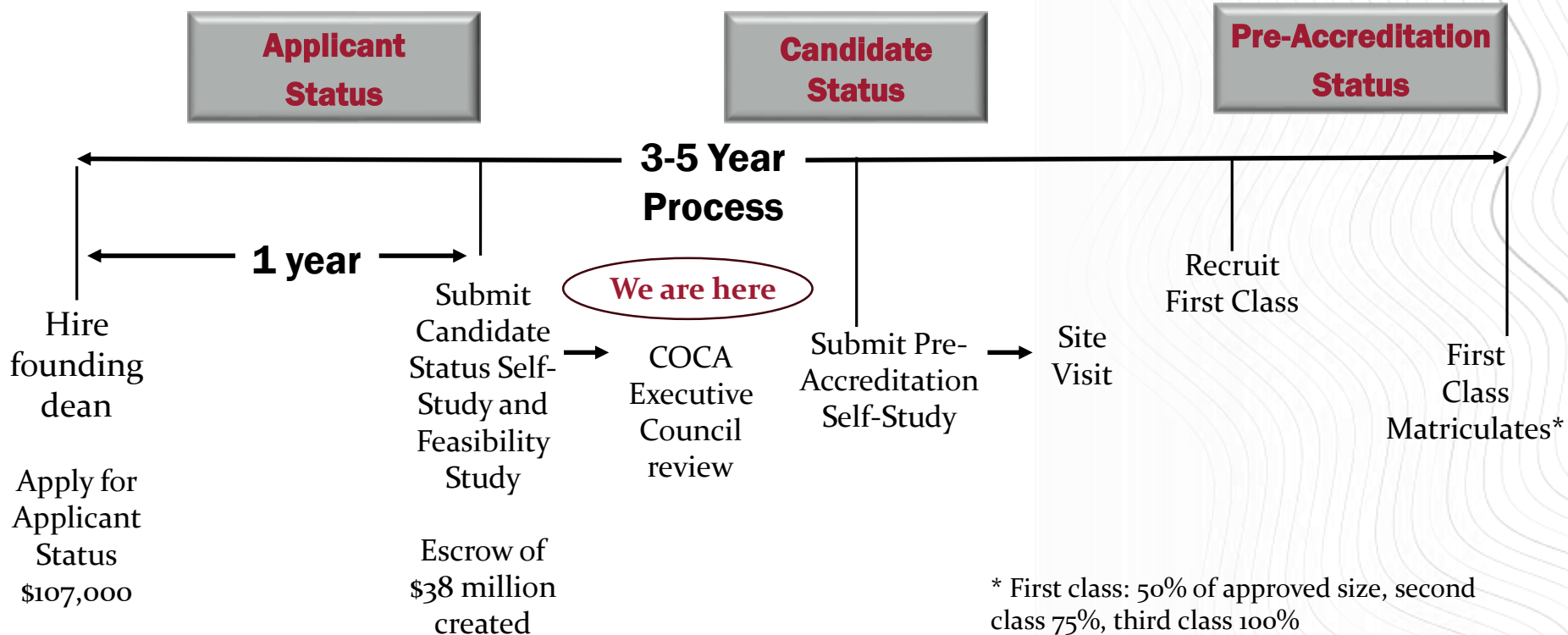
3 Key Components Necessary to Move to Candidate Status



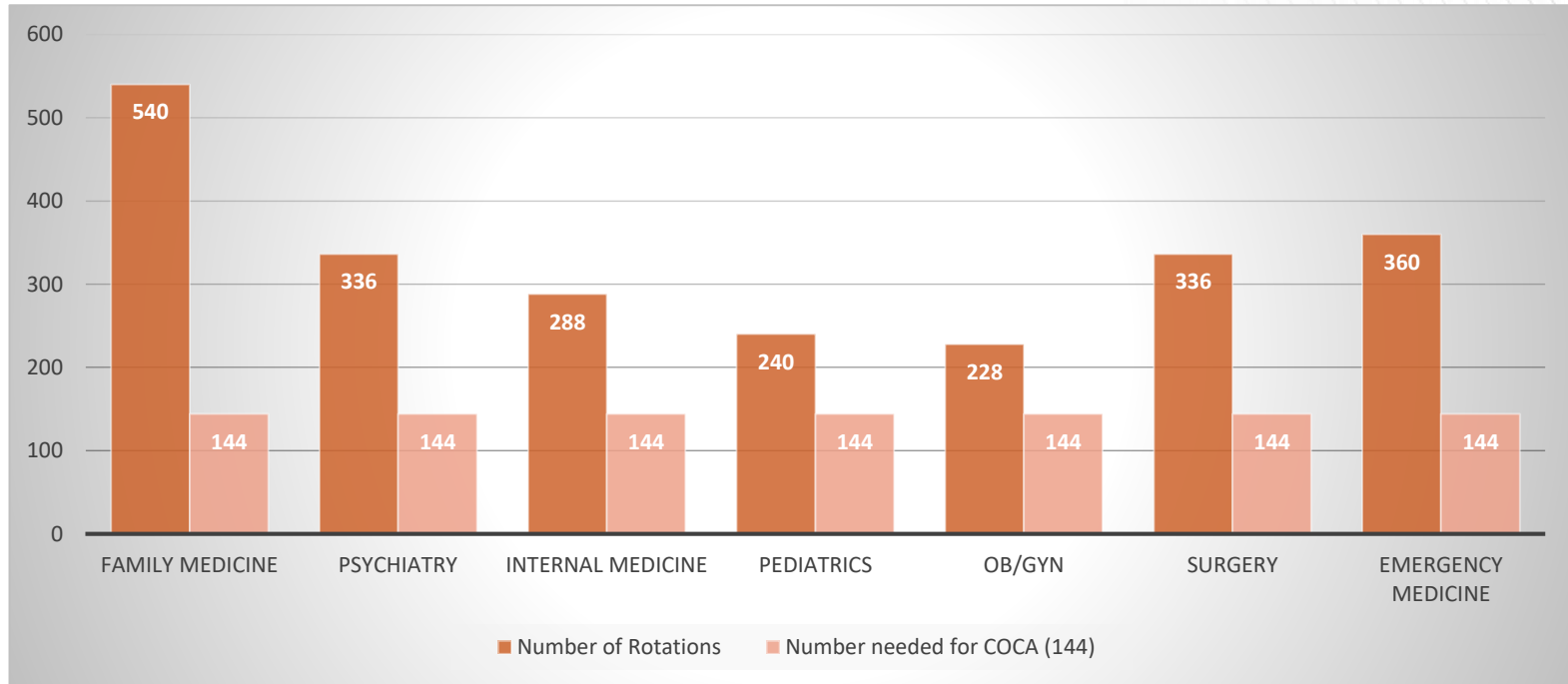
COCA Standards must be met.

1. Escrow and Operating Reserve must be funded.
2. Development of Self Study (including feasibility and business plan) submitted and approved by COCA.
3. Affiliation Agreements – executed for one year of clinical rotations to cover 120% of full class size (120 students)

Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) Process



Clinical Affiliation Numbers – Verbal and Written Agreements By specialty



Proposed COM Progress

Accreditation: COCA application – IUP Proposed COM is currently in Applicant status

Affiliate Agreements that are in place:

- Armstrong County Memorial Hospital
- Broad Top Area Medical Center
- Clarion Psychiatric Center
- Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center
- Conemaugh Nason Medical Center
- Hyndman Area Health Centers
- Indiana Regional Medical Center
- Nulton Diagnostics and Treatment Center
- Penn Highlands Healthcare
- Punxsutawney Area Hospital
- The Primary Health Network
- Torrance State Hospital

Clinical Partnerships –While all minimum clinical rotation requirements have been met for COCA accreditation standards, we continue to forge partnerships to ensure adequate physician pathways for targeted rural regions in greatest need.



Clinical Affiliation Signing Events: Punxsutawney Area Hospital, June 24, 2024



[How IUP and Punxsutawney Area Hospital's medical school deal helps rural Pennsylvania | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



Clinical Affiliation Signing Events: Indiana Regional Medical Center, September 10, 2024



[IUP, IRMC sign clinical training agreement for proposed college of osteopathic medicine | Local News | tribdem.com](#)



Clinical Affiliation Signing Events - Broad Top Area Medical Center, Hyndman Area Health Center, Nulton Diagnostic and Treatment Center, Primary Health Network – November 21, 2024



Clinical Affiliation Signing Events – Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center – December 4, 2024



[IUP and Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center sign clinical training agreement for proposed college of osteopathic medicine - CBS Pittsburgh](#)



[IUP Partners With Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center - FOX8](#)

Clinical Affiliation Signing Events – Armstrong County Memorial Hospital – January 29, 2025



[Armstrong County Memorial Hospital partners with IUP to sign clinical training agreement - CBS Pittsburgh](#)

Clinical Affiliation Signing Events – Clarion Psychiatric Center – February 11, 2025



[Clarion Psychiatric Center signs training pact with IUP's proposed college](#) | [IUP News](#) | [indianagazette.com](#)

Clinical Affiliation Signing Events – Penn Highlands Healthcare – February 19, 2025



[Penn Highlands and IUP sign clinical training agreement](#)



Clinical Affiliation Signing Events – Conemaugh Nason Medical Center – February 25, 2025



[IUP signs clinical training affiliation agreement with Conemaugh Nason to end rural healthcare crisis](#)

Clinical Affiliation Signing Events – Torrance State Hospital – March 25, 2025



[Department of Human Services, IUP Announce Collaboration to Train Future Physicians in Clinical Setting at Torrance State Hospital, Helping to Address Urgent Need for Rural Health Care Workers | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

Meet the team!

ITUP

Dr. Miko Rose, DO, FACN, FNAOME

Founding Dean



Dr. Rose, a board-certified physician in psychiatry and neurology who is nationally known for wellness programming, began work as the founding dean for IUP's proposed college of osteopathic medicine in November 2023.

Dr. Rose came to IUP from Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, where she was Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Psychiatry in the Department of Clinical Medicine and Assistant Dean for Clinical Education.

She was also an Associate Professor and Program Director of the Joy Initiative Wellness Program at Michigan State University. She founded and started the Joy Initiative at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine schools. She completed her medical training at Michigan State.

In May, she was elected as a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists by the Fellows of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists/American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists. Candidates for ACN fellowship are nominated by two current fellows and are reviewed by the ACN Board of Governors. Fellows must be board certified and serve the American College of Neurologists and Psychiatrists in some capacity.

Prior to entering medical school, Dr. Rose worked as a program officer, fundraiser, and advocate for the underserved with a focus on overcoming domestic violence and trauma.

Dr. Luke Mortensen, PhD, FAHA, FNAOME

Associate Dean of Pre-clinical Affairs



Luke H. Mortensen, PhD, FAHA, FNAOME, is the Associate Dean of Pre-clinical Affairs at the Indiana University Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine (IUPCOM) in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Prior to his role at IUPCOM, he was founding Associate Dean of Educational Development, Innovation, and Diversity at the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine in Meridian, Idaho. His areas of emphasis are in Professional Development, Interprofessional Education and Practice, and Medical Education Leadership Development. From 2012-2017 he served as Vice President and Chair of Medical Education at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) engaging with their member colleges to promote teaching/learning excellence in osteopathic medical education. From 1995-2012, he was a tenured faculty member at Des Moines University in clinical pharmacology and toxicology and served as Assistant Dean and Director of faculty development. He received his doctoral training at Michigan State University and post-doctoral experience at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. He is a Fellow of the American Heart Association and of the National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators.

Dr. Ryan Smith, DO, PhD

Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs



Ryan Smith, DO, PhD, is a psychiatrist and the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine (IUPCOM). Prior to his role at IUPCOM, he served as Associate Dean of Pre-Clinical Affairs and Professor of Psychiatry at the Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine, and before that, was Chief of Psychiatry, Director of Year 2 Systems Based Education, and an Associate Professor Psychiatry at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Maine. He also has practiced clinically for the past 13 years at the New Hampshire State Psychiatric Hospital/Dartmouth Medical School and has opened graduate medical education (residency) programs in New England.

Ryan now lives in Indiana borough in a home he recently purchased. His husband, Howard Pelkey, JD, taught in the Employment Relations and Hospitality Department in Eberly College of Business.

Melanie Muscatello

Management Technician



Melanie Muscatello is a Management Technician at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine (IUPCOM) since April 2024. After serving as the Credentialing Coordinator at Windber Medical Center, Melanie accepted a position in the chemistry department at IUP. During her nearly 20-year career with IUP, Melanie has worked in the departments of biology and financial aid, the school of graduate studies and research, and university advancement. In 2012, she earned a bachelor of science in human resource management from the Eberly College of Business. Melanie's experience, combined with her passion for serving the university community, has given her the ability to hit the ground running in her new position.

Melanie, and her husband, Joshua, and their dog, George, live in Indiana borough. Joshua is employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is co-owner of a local restaurant. Melanie loves taking George for walks, traveling, doing puzzles, and baking.

John A. (Jack) Brose, DO, FAAFP Executive Dean Emeritus and Professor of Family Medicine at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine; Executive Mentor and Consultant to the IUP Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine



Dr. John A. (Jack) Brose is the Executive Dean Emeritus and a Professor of Family Medicine at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (HCOM), as well as the former Vice Provost for Health Affairs at Ohio University. He holds a B.A. in Biology from Gettysburg College and a D.O. from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. After completing a Family Practice residency at Scott Air Force Medical Center, where he served as Chief Resident, he achieved the rank of Major and later completed an academic fellowship at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Throughout his career, Dr. Brose has held faculty positions at various universities, including Ohio University and St. Louis University, earning 30 teaching awards, such as the Ohio Academy of Family Physician's "Family Practice Educator of the Year Award."

From 2001 to 2012, he served as Executive Dean of HCOM, where he successfully expanded the entering class size from 100 to 250 students and raised over \$130 million for various initiatives, including a historic \$105 million grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation. He was instrumental in establishing new branch campuses in Dublin and Warrensville Heights, Ohio, and created a non-profit faculty practice plan. Dr. Brose has also authored two editions of the "Guide to EKG Interpretation," published over 20 research papers, and hosted a nationwide radio program on Family Health.

In addition to his executive roles, he has consulted for the American Board of Medical Specialties on the AOA/ACGME residency merger and worked to increase African American representation in healthcare. Currently, he is involved in the HCOM Admissions Committee, teaching EKG interpretation and Cultural Medicine, and consulting with universities on creating new medical colleges. Outside of his professional achievements, Dr. Brose has been married for 52 years and is the father of two physicians.

ACTION ITEM: Resolution 06-25
To adopt the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

***Dj Ryan, Director of Communications
and Strategic Initiatives***

Agenda Item: 11



SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION
**LIMITED ENGLISH
PROFICIENCY
PLAN**



Regional LEP Estimates:

- 8,351 Spanish
- 5,534 Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)
- 4,260-Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic language
- 1,976-Italian
- 1,435-Vietnamese

ACTION ITEM: Resolution 07-25
To adopt the Public Participation Plan (PPP)

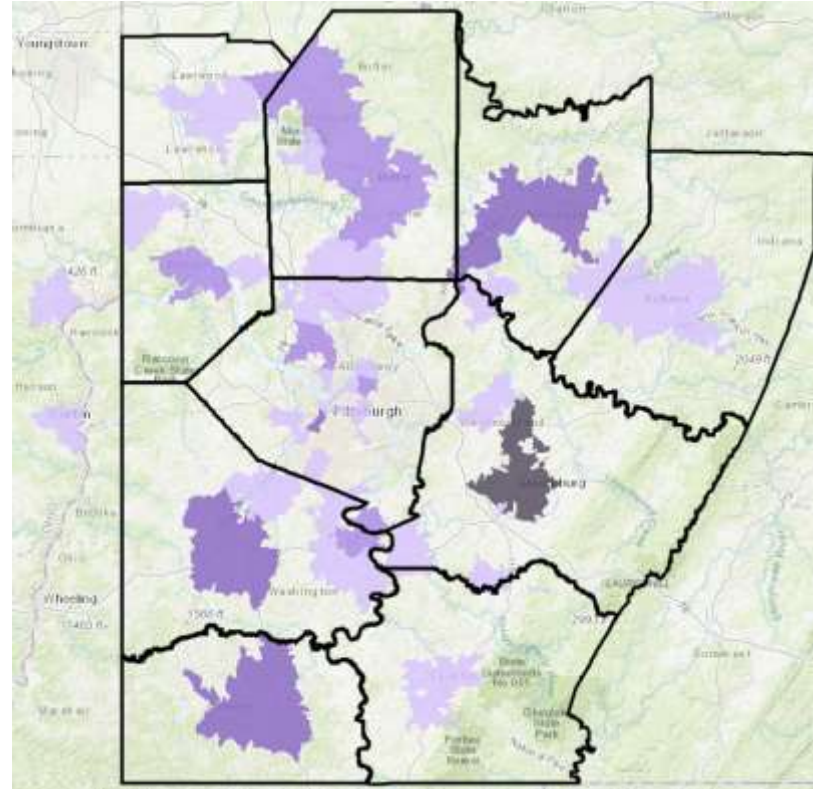
Ronda Craig, Public Involvement Coordinator

Agenda Item: 12



PPP Outreach and Public Comment

- Public Participation Plan (PPP) is the official document that governs how SPC interacts with the public.
- Draft copy was sent in the meeting materials.
- Public Comment period for PPP March 3rd-April 17th.
- Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) and Transit Operators Committee (TOC) have both been briefed on the PPP and recommended its adoption.



Public Comments Survey

- Survey conducted to gauge public opinion around SPC's engagement
- SPC received 74 responses with a 100% completion Rate
 - **32%** never attended or commented on a plan
 - **30%** are highly involved
 - **64%** that answered would describe themselves as working in the SPC region
 - **78%** like to receive information about upcoming events and meetings via emails from event organizers, quarterly newsletter, social media
 - **49%** said that they want to see more online meetings options
 - **42%** said more outreach and volume of outreach
 - **45%** said they prefer giving feedback through hybrid meetings
 - **41%** said virtual
- In the process of developing a full report – more information forthcoming

Other Business

Agenda Item: 13



Next Meeting: June 23rd, 2025

Agenda Item: 14



Adjourn

