



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

801 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-4223
Fax: 412-383-9640
beeson@pitt.edu

Patricia E. Beeson
Provost
Senior Vice Chancellor

July 27, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

Sharon P. Smith has served as president of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and as a valued member of the Council of Deans since 2007. It is with appreciation for all she has contributed to the University that I write to let you know of her decision to retire effective June 30, 2019.

As Pitt-Greensburg's fourth president, Sharon navigated the campus through challenging times and positioned it well for the future by focusing on building strong academic and student programs that position graduates for future success. She led the campus in reconceiving the structure of its liberal arts programs by integrating them with digital learning, and introduced new majors in Nursing, Healthcare Management, Public Policy, Education, and Spanish, as well as five new certificate programs. Also impressive has been the establishment of two centers—the Center for Applied Research and the Center for the Digital Text—and the expansion in internships and other experiential learning options currently available to Pitt-Greensburg students. Sharon has also overseen physical plant changes to campus, including the construction of Frank A. Cassell Hall, which received a gold LEED designation.

Sharon has also been a force within the Greensburg community as she has generously shared her expertise with the community through her service on the boards of Excelsa Health (including as board chair), Economic Growth Connection, Smart Growth, and the Westmoreland Cultural Trust. She has brought to these boards extensive experience as an economist and prior service as a governor of the Security Traders Association, a trustee of St. Barnabas Hospital, chair of the Partners in Health Board of Trustees, president of the NASDAQ Stock Market Educational Foundation, and as a governor of the National Association of Security Dealers. In addition, while President at Pitt-Greensburg, Sharon also remained active with the TIAA Research Institute.

Sharon came to the University of Pittsburgh as part of a distinguished and diversified career in academic, research, and business activities. In her previous position at National University, she served as vice chancellor for academic affairs, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and special projects advisor. Prior to that, she served as professor of management systems and dean of the School of Business (now the Gabelli School) at Fordham University. She also held positions with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and AT&T. Sharon earned her PhD, MA, and AB degrees—all in economics—from Rutgers University. She was a visiting fellow with the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University and a visiting senior research economist for Princeton University.

She has published more than 40 professional articles and book reviews and is the author (or co-author) of three books or monographs: "Equal Pay in the Public Sector: Fact or Fantasy," "Faculty Retirement in the Arts and Sciences," and "Finding the Best Business School for You: Looking Past the Rankings."

It has been a pleasure to work with Sharon, both in her role as president of Pitt-Greensburg and as a member of the Council of Deans. Her leadership and commitment to the University's broader goals have been an important part of Pitt's sustained progress over the last 10 years, and she will be deeply missed. As she continues her work through the 2018-2019 academic year, I know you will all join me as we thank her for her dedication to the University of Pittsburgh. A search committee will be formed to identify her successor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia E. Beeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patricia E. Beeson