

Testimony to the Pennsylvania Performance-Based Funding Council

Good morning, Chair Topper and members of the Council. My name is Patrick Clancy, and I am the President and CEO of Philadelphia Works. Philadelphia Works is the workforce development board for the city of Philadelphia (There are 22 workforce boards in Pennsylvania).

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony today on the importance of aligning Pennsylvania's educational system with the workforce and economic development needs of our Commonwealth.

As the workforce development organization serving the city, Philadelphia Works engages closely with educational institutions like Temple University, the Community College of Philadelphia, local businesses, and non-profits to develop a strategy to ensure residents have access to high quality training programs and employment in high priority occupations.

My remarks today will focus on four areas: the value of Temple University's educational programs, specifically the robust professional schools and research enterprise, the pipeline of highly skilled graduates, Temple University as a key community and educational partner and as a parent of 3 children who have/are attending Temple University (two have graduated and are gainfully employed, one is expected to graduate in May 2025)

Temple University Academic Excellence

Temple University is a public state-related research university in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.

It was founded in 1884 by the Baptist minister Russell Conwell and his congregation at the Grace Baptist Church of Philadelphia, then called Baptist Temple. Today, Temple is the second-largest university in Pennsylvania by enrollment and awarded 9,128 degrees in the 2023-24 academic year. It has a worldwide alumni base of 378,012, with 352,175 alumni residing in the United States.

The university consists of 17 schools and colleges, including five professional schools, offering over 640+ academic programs and over 160 undergraduate majors. As of 2024, about 30,005 undergraduate, graduate and professional

students were enrolled at the university. It is classified among "R1: Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity, spending \$301,395,000 on research and development in 2022 according to the National Science Foundation This type of activity is critical to building the workforce of tomorrow.

Temple's Pipeline of Graduates

Pennsylvania's economic future depends on producing a skilled labor force prepared for high-demand occupations. Temple University is well positioned to produce highly qualified workers for critical industries such as energy, life sciences, information technology, financial services and healthcare occupations. Each year Temple University graduates thousands of students who go on to work for companies in the Southeast Region of Pennsylvania. This pipeline of workers is critical for Pennsylvania to be competitive. As a parent of 2 Temple graduates, I know the value of the Temple education. Both of my children were offered employment before their graduation date, one at Morgan Lewis (law firm) and one at CIGNA (insurance). Temple University is a critical partner in workforce development for the city of Philadelphia and the state of PA. Temple University not only produces thousands of skilled graduates but also drives innovation and entrepreneurship. Its research programs in areas like information technology, energy, medicine and life sciences generate economic activity while attracting companies that benefit from proximity to such cutting-edge expertise.

Moreover, Temple's commitment to workforce development extends beyond its degree programs. Through initiatives like internships, experiential learning opportunities, and partnerships with local businesses, Temple equips students with the practical skills needed to excel in the modern workplace (all of my children participated in internships).

The Importance of Temple University Lenfest Center

Having a major educational institution like Temple University participate in youth workforce development is critical for the city of Philadelphia. The Lenfest Center prepares youth for careers in IT Support (including Google Certifications), Customer Service within the Hospitality sector and general sales/entry level opportunities. The participation of Temple University in youth training is especially critical for the youth in North Philadelphia. Temple is not just a highly

qualified university; it is an important partner in helping residents connect to skills that will lift them out of poverty

Voice of a Parent

As a parent (and investor) of three children who have attended Temple University, I have been thrilled with the education and the experience my children have had with meeting amazing teachers and fellow students. The diversity of the staff and the student body is a huge component of their love for the university. Being in an urban environment has exposed my children to the beauty of the city of Philadelphia. Quick access to downtown restaurants, theaters and other live events has been a great opportunity to have a balanced academic and fun experience. Additionally, all my children have been able to secure internships with local companies (Comcast, IBC, Citizens Bank) because of their degrees and the reputation of Temple University. As I previously mentioned, my 2 children who have already graduated were employed before their graduation ceremony. In my dealings with the university staff (housing, financial aid) I have been impressed by their professionalism and care for the students. I have found the staff to be problem solvers not "oh we're sorry".

Conclusion

In conclusion, Chair Topper and members of the Council, Pennsylvania has an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen its workforce, grow its economy, and position itself as a leader in innovation and job creation. Temple University is positioned to lead the charge with exceptional, relevant degree programs. Temple University is well equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.