

For Immediate Release
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The following is a statement from **Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky** regarding the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University being recognized today as among the nation's Top 25 "Best Neighbor" Colleges & Universities.

"On behalf of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its Affiliates, I congratulate Mark Nordenberg, chancellor at the University of Pittsburgh and Jared Cohon, president of Carnegie Mellon University on their institutions being named today among the Top 25 "Best Neighbor" Colleges and Universities in the nation.

Being a "best neighbor" college or university is dependent on demonstrated and long-standing cooperation and partnership with communities and civic leadership for urban redevelopment and renewal.

In Pittsburgh, institutions of higher education have been chief among the catalysts for the region's strategic transformation to a 21st-century economy that capitalizes on research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The new Pittsburgh's diverse, balanced and knowledge-based economy—recently lauded by the White House and global media as 'model'—is inextricably linked to a power to imagine and to accomplish that has historically been at the heart of Pittsburgh's academic community. A 'model' transformation without our neighbors and partners in academia would not have been possible.

The Pittsburgh region's business community applauds our "best neighbors" and transformation partners at both the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University on this distinct honor."

The [news release](#) for the 2009 Nation's Best Top 25 "Best Neighbor" Colleges and Universities is available here.