

Our Region's Business: This is just the beginning of Our Next 75

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By Jeff Broadhurst and Toni Murphy

Last month, the Pittsburgh region showed up.

One thousand people, to be exact, from across the 10-county Pittsburgh region showed up as participants in the Our Next 75 Summit — an unprecedented opportunity to think big and boldly about southwestern Pennsylvania's future.

If you aren't familiar with the initiative, it's an effort to create a vision for the future by bringing together a diverse group of leaders from across the region.

Seventy-five years ago, public and private leaders joined forces near the end of World War II and formed the Committee for Post-War Planning. Ultimately, we know the results of those collaborative efforts as Renaissance One.

Our Next 75 aims to re-imagine this idea, but in a modern, relevant way by bringing together a diverse group of today's and tomorrow's leaders.

To map a future for all, we must be intentional about bringing different voices to the table.

We're honored to serve as the co-chairs of Our Next 75 and to work with an amazing steering committee that's diverse in race, gender, geography, industry and more. From the beginning, we focused on inclusion as a key theme of Our Next 75.

We saw the results last month when we opened wide the doors to the summit and encouraged people to "come as you are."

The crowd reminded us that we're living in a pivotal moment in our region's history — one offering potential as vast as the postwar era. [Allegheny Conference on Community Development](#) CEO [Stefani Pashman](#) said it well when she stated that our collective goal must center on regional vitality: a strong economy plussed by thriving people and an improving quality of place.

We will only succeed in reaching that potential if we join together and involve as many people as possible. The packed room, the energy and the enthusiasm of everyone there proved that we have the ability to propel this place forward to achieve its fullest potential.

The collaborative spirit that has brought us to this moment over the past 75 years will take us into our next 75, but we must continue to be intentional about working collaboratively and in community.

The summit was bold, fun and a success. The participation was terrific, but we must remind ourselves that it was only 1,000 people that we reached on that one day.

We can't claim victory yet.

The team at the Allegheny Conference is sorting through the data and feedback we received from everyone who attended and participated. It will inform the Allegheny Conference's agenda for 2020 and beyond and serve as a roadmap, we hope, for individuals and organizations across our region to work together even more effectively. We plan to share more in the coming months.

Achieving regional vitality will require each of us to contribute. The Allegheny Conference will continue to be a voice and a convener, but we can't do it alone. We'll need you — the entire region — to continue engaging to bring our future into clearer focus.

The summit may be over, but this is just the beginning of our next 75.

Jeff Broadhurst & Toni Murphy are co-chairs of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development's Our Next 75 initiative.