

NEW LEADERSHIP, MOONSHOT PROJECT

The Pennsylvania State University has appointed Justin W. Aglio as senior director of the Endowments-funded Readiness Institute at Penn State, which is a unit of the Penn State Outreach division of the university. Mr. Aglio brings nearly 20 years of experience in various leadership and teaching positions in primary, secondary and higher education, most recently serving as the director of Academic Achievement and District Innovation and director of Innovation for Montour School District in McKees Rocks, Pa.

In January, Penn State Outreach officially assumed operation of the Readiness Institute, which was piloted last year through a partnership between the Endowments and the Consortium for Public Education. Additional funding from the Endowments enabled management of the institute to

be transferred to Penn State Outreach, where it serves as a learning lab in which education, industry and community partners create meaningful experiences for students from diverse backgrounds so that they develop skills and values needed for success. The program is physically located in the Energy Innovation Center in Pittsburgh.

One of the Readiness Institute's first major projects this year involved collecting thousands of messages of hope from around the globe that will be sent to the moon as part of the program's Hope Moonshot. The institute is working on the project with the Pittsburgh-based spacecraft company Astrobotic and a California nonprofit called Global Moonshots in Education. Although a date has not been set, Astrobotic is planning to send a spacecraft to the moon later this year. The firm is allowing the institute's collection of messages, which have been saved on an SD card, to be placed in a storage capsule that will be sent to the moon aboard Astrobotic's Peregrine lander, which will also carry cargo from 16 commercial customers and NASA.



PROSPERITY FOR ALL

The Heinz Endowments has awarded its largest single grant ever — \$30 million over six years — to support the launch of the Center for Shared Prosperity, a Carnegie Mellon University initiative designed to apply the university's intellectual capital, innovation and wealth creation to overcoming long-standing barriers to equity in the Pittsburgh region. The center, which was unveiled in April, will bring together a range of Pittsburgh organizations and neighborhood leaders to work with university researchers and staff as part of a long-term effort to address the economic and social well-being of the region and its citizens.

The Center for Shared Prosperity has three core areas of focus: building a community-university partnership, creating common ground for collaboration through data visualizations, and activating Carnegie Mellon's new mission pillar: shared prosperity. Through community-university partnerships, the center will collaboratively set agendas using a data-driven and community-informed perspective and convening working groups that focus on specific issues.

A FOND FAREWELL

Earlier this year, The Heinz Endowments board and staff members commemorated the retirement of James M. Walton, shown below during a 2003 boat tour of river-front development, from the foundation's board of directors. For nearly 35 years, the vice chairman emeritus served on the boards of the Endowments and the former Vira I. Heinz Endowment, which he chaired. (The Vira I. Heinz Endowment and the Howard Heinz Endowment were merged to form The Heinz Endowments.) Mr. Walton's contributions to the Pittsburgh region as a business and cultural leader include years of service as an executive with the Gulf Oil Corp. and as president of the Carnegie Institute, now known as the Carnegie Museums and Carnegie Library.

As head of the Carnegie Institute, he oversaw plans for visionary growth of the institution, which eventually resulted in the construction of the Andy Warhol Museum and the Carnegie Science Center. Mrs. Teresa Heinz, who was Endowments board chair and currently serves as the foundation's chair emeritus, expressed her appreciation of Mr. Walton's respect and support over the years.

"Now that my sons have taken the helm of one of the nation's most respected family foundations, I am thankful for all that we accomplished together," she said in a farewell statement. "It has been a remarkable journey ... I am sorry to see you leave the board, but I am grateful for your friendship and your dedicated loyalty to The Heinz Endowments all these many years."



Steve Mellon



WASTEFUL SENTENCING

As part of an effort to promote sentencing reform, an Endowments-funded study by the Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity released earlier this year found that the mandatory life-without-parole sentence for second-degree murder in Pennsylvania costs lives that could be rehabilitated and costs taxpayers' billions that could be invested elsewhere while not making anyone safer.

In Pennsylvania, people who participate in a felony such as robbery or kidnapping that results in death can be convicted of second-degree murder, which is only punishable with life in prison. The sentence applies

even if, for example, an individual acted only as a getaway driver or a lookout without knowing that an accomplice was armed. Those convicted of second-degree murder are denied the chance for parole and can only be released through commutation.

According to "Life Without Parole for Second-Degree Murder in Pennsylvania: An Objective Assessment of Sentencing," seven in 10 Pennsylvanians incarcerated for second-degree murder are Black, though Black residents represent just 12 percent of the state's population. White people have received 21 percent of second-degree murder sentences, even though they make up 82 percent of the population. The analysis, which was commissioned by Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, also showed that almost three-quarters of those serving second-degree murder sentences were 25 years old or younger at the time they committed the crime. Research has shown that the brain is not even fully developed until age 25.

ADVANCING DIVERSE LEADERSHIP

Evan Frazier, founding director of The Advanced Leadership Initiative (TALI), has been named president and CEO of The Advanced Leadership Institute, Inc. (TALI Institute). Mr. Frazier was able to leave his position as senior vice president of Community Affairs at Highmark Health and assume this new role after the program received a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to support TALI's expansion into an institute. The initiative was started in 2018 to increase corporate diversity in southwestern Pennsylvania by investing in African American executive talent and has received support from several local corporations and foundations, including the Endowments, with Carnegie Mellon University serving as the academic partner.

Earlier this year, the institute announced the 2021 cohort of its Executive Leadership Academy, which is beginning its third year. The 28 individuals, who hold top-level positions in for-profit corporations, nonprofit agencies, business and education, participate in an eight-month, world-class executive education program through Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business. The program provides leadership development training as well as a curriculum that addresses the specific challenges faced by African Americans in the workplace. Cohort members also are matched with a professional coach and an executive mentor to guide participants in leveraging relationships and maximizing their experience.

DEFENDING VOTING RIGHTS

Heinz Endowments President Grant Oliphant was among the more than 60 foundation and other philanthropic leaders who have joined business executives, scholars and celebrities in protesting efforts in more than 45 states to restrict voting rights. The objections outlined by the heads of philanthropies from across the country were presented in a two-page ad titled "We Stand for Democracy" and published in The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and The Wall Street Journal. The signatures followed a brief statement:

"A government of the people, by the people. A beautifully American ideal, but a reality denied to many for much of this nation's history.

As Americans, we know that in our democracy we should not expect to agree on everything. However, regardless of our political affiliations, we believe the very foundation of our electoral process rests upon the ability of each of us to cast our ballots for the candidates of our choice. For American democracy to work for any of us, we must ensure the right to vote for all of us. We all should feel a responsibility to defend the right to vote and to oppose any discriminatory legislation or measures that restrict or prevent any eligible voter from having an equal and fair opportunity to cast a ballot. Voting is the lifeblood of our democracy, and we call upon all Americans to join us in taking a nonpartisan stand for this most basic and fundamental right of all Americans."



Corey O'Connor

A PLACE FOR PLEASURE AND PEACE

A 15-foot metal barn swallow sculpture, left, is among the new features of the \$9 million, two-acre Plaza at Hazelwood Green that opened in May as a public space for recreation and relaxation as well as an event location. The plaza is part of the transformation of a former 178-acre steel mill into Hazelwood Green, for which plans include new high-tech office and lab space, housing, and riverfront amenities. The development is owned by the Almono partnership consisting of the Endowments, the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Among the other plaza features, so far, are a water sculpture centerpiece constructed from 16,000 square feet of granite slabs with a skim of water flowing over them; decorative tree grates with images of leaves and nuts of the hazel tree for which the neighborhood is named; a set of swings made of robotically steam-bent wood; and custom benches.

Future additions to the plaza include a solar canopy to generate power for the site and provide a shady gathering spot; a tree nursery and a meadow with native species of plants and trees, such as redbuds, tulip poplars, sweetgum, magnolia, serviceberry and American hophornbeam; a water bottle filling station; and bike racks and a bike share station.

The Plaza at Hazelwood Green was designed by Gustafson Guthrie Nichol.