Penn State Mont Alto: Performance Review Considering In-Scope and Out-of Scope Campuses

Data-Based Evaluation of Commonwealth Campuses Using Penn State's Own Metrics
(prepared on 7/25/25)

Purpose: To provide a transparent, comparative analysis of Mont Alto's performance across core metrics — including enrollment, academic outcomes, cost efficiency, and community impact — in the context of the broader Commonwealth Campus review.

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This document presents the summary of our analysis of the data included in the [PSU CWC Workgroup Recommendation](). The evaluation was conducted using the performance indicators outlined in the original report to ensure consistency with the framework provided by the Workgroup.

We used the performance indicators outlined in the university's own report as the basis for our analysis. For each measure, we applied two scoring methods:

- **All Campuses (In Scope and Out of Scope):**
  We identified the top 13 performing campuses and assigned each a score of 1; all others received a score of 0.

- **In-Scope Campuses Only:**
  We identified the top 5 performing campuses among those under review and assigned each a score of 1; all others received a score of 0.

This process was applied consistently across all performance criteria. Each campus's scores were totaled to produce an overall performance score. Based on this analysis, we recommended **continued investment in the campuses with the highest total scores**, as they demonstrated the strongest performance using the university's own benchmarks.

We believe these findings offer a **clear, data-driven foundation** for making informed, transparent decisions about the future of Pennsylvania's public higher education system.

The results for both scoring methods are presented below.

- **All Campuses (In Scope and Out of Scope):** the top 13 performing campuses are:

  1- Scranton / York / Brandywine (16 points)
  2- Hazleton / <mark>Mont Alto</mark> / Abington / Berks / Harrisburg (15 points)
  3- Erie (14 points)
  4- Lehigh Valley (13 points)
  5- Beaver / Schuylkill (12 points)
  6- Altoona (11 points)

Using this scoring method, **2 of the 8 top-performing campuses—York** and **Mont Alto**—were **recommended for closure**, despite their strong performance across the university's own metrics.

Criterium	In Scope Campuses												Out of Scope Campuses							
	Beaver	DuBois	Fayette	Greater Allegheny	Hazleton	Mont Alto	New Kensington	Schuylkill	Scranton	Shenango	Wilkes-Barre	York	Abington	Altoona	Berks	Brandywine	Erie / Behrend	Great Valley	Harrisburg	Lehigh Valley
Total Number of Students	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Net Balance / Student	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Maintenance Backlog / Student	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Research Expenditures (5-year	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
PA Students	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
County Students (regional)	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Housing	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Graduation Rate (4-year)	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Degrees Awarded (Bachelors)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Number of institutions (within 50 miles) per 10K inhabitants - **missing data for all out of scope campuses**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Students who continued in the start campus (cohort 2018)	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Employed in PA 1 year after graduation	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Median Earnings 1 year after graduation	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pell Grant Recipients	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Underrepresented minorities	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
First-generation college students	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Student athlete participation	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Population Change	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Youth Population Change	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Total Points	12	5	10	8	15	15	5	12	16	5	9	16	15	11	15	16	14	5	15	13

- **In-Scope Campuses Only:** the top 5 performing campuses are:

  1- Scranton
  2- Mont Alto
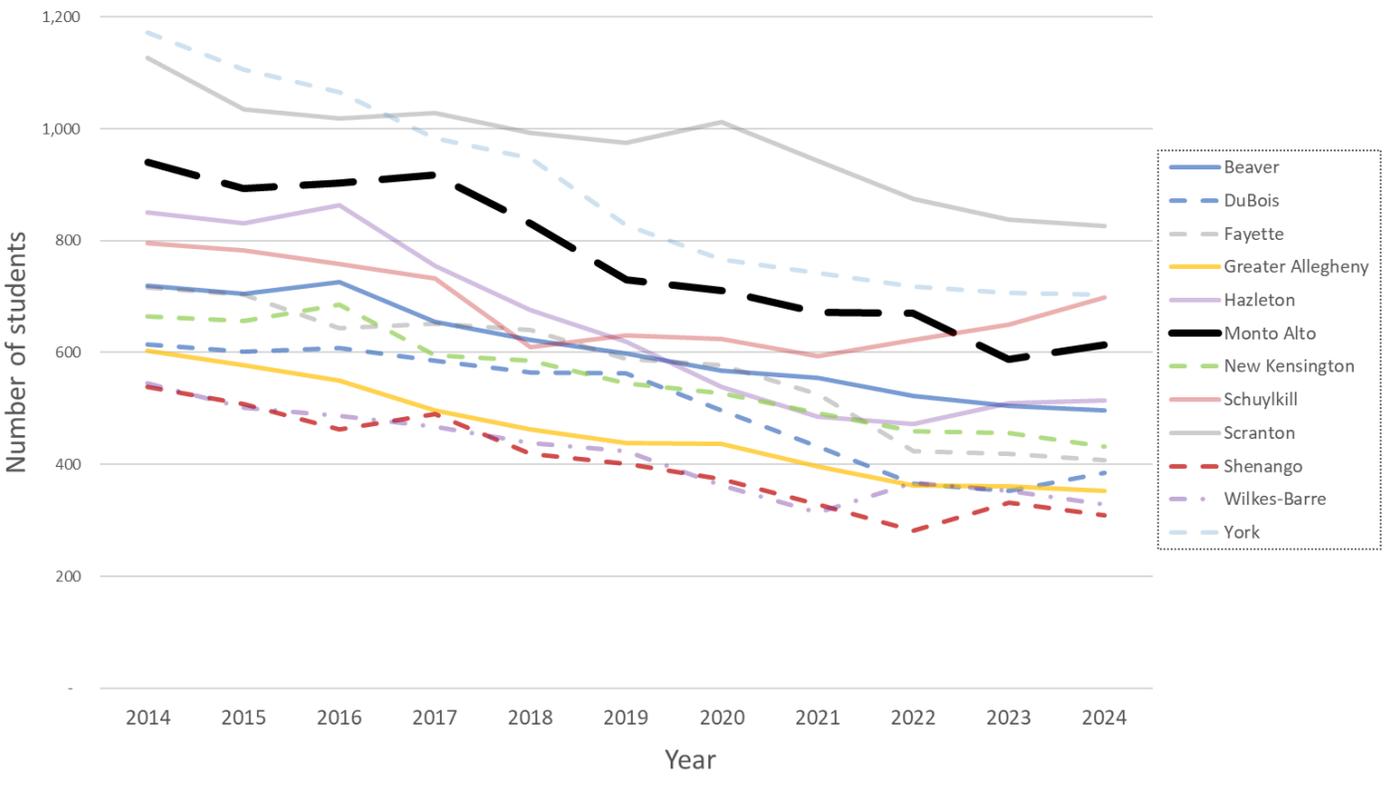 3- Hazleton
  4- Schuylkill
  5- York

Using this scoring method, **2 of the 5 top-performing in-scope campuses—York** and **Mont Alto**—were **recommended for closure**, despite ranking highest across the university's own performance metrics.

Criterium	In-Scope Campuses											
	Beaver	DuBois	Fayette	Greater Allegheny	Hazleton	Mont Alto	New Kensington	Schuylkill	Scranton	Shenango	Wilkes-Barre	York
Total Number of Students	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Net Balance / Student	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Maintenance Backlog / Student	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Research Expenditures (5-year average)	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
PA Students	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
County Students (regional)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Housing	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Graduation Rate (4-year)	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total Degrees Awarded	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Number of institutions (within 50 miles) per 10K inhabitants	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Students who continued in the start campus (cohort 2018)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Employed in PA 1 year after graduation	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Median Earnings 1 year after graduation	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
Pell Grant Recipients	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Underrepresented minorities	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
First-generation college students	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Student athlete participation	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Population Change	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Youth Population Change	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total Points	4	3	8	6	12	13	3	11	15	3	8	10

The following section presents graphs showing the scoring results for the in-scope campuses only.

Performance Breakdown – In-Scope Campuses

Below are the details of the scoring method applied to in-scope campuses only, including graphs for each performance indicator and the top five campuses identified for each indicator.

Performance Indicator	Top 5 campuses	Graph
Total number of students	1. Scranton 2. York 3. Schuylkill 4. Mont Alto 5. Hazelton	 **Number of students enrolled at each Penn State campus (2014 - 2024)** *Beaver, DuBois, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Monto Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, York*

Net Balance / Student	1. Scranton 2. York 3. Schuylkill 4. Beaver 5. Mont Alto	

Core Business Indicators (2024)

Financial Indicators (U$)

Legend:
- Beaver
- DuBois
- Fayette
- Greater Allegheny
- Hazleton
- Mont Alto
- New Kensington
- Schuylkill
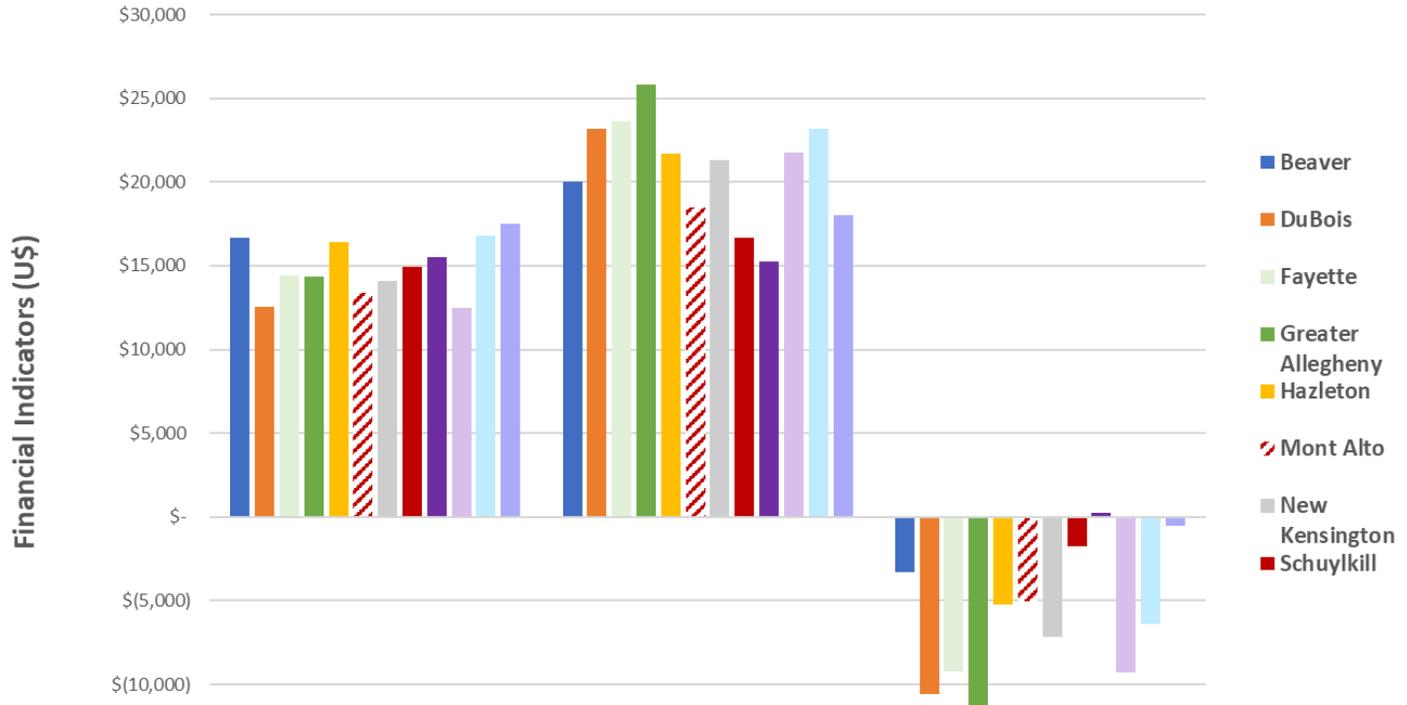
	Net Revenue/Student	Total Expenses/Student	Net Balance / Student
Beaver	$16,678.79	$19,999.81	$(3,321.03)
DuBois	$12,560.42	$23,142.34	$(10,581.92)
Fayette	$14,423.64	$23,648.81	$(9,225.17)
Greater Allegheny	$14,376.49	$25,787.58	$(11,411.09)
Hazleton	$16,408.70	$21,669.28	$(5,260.59)
Mont Alto	$13,403.59	$18,444.48	$(5,040.90)
New Kensington	$14,092.58	$21,275.09	$(7,182.50)
Schuylkill	$14,926.11	$16,660.38	$(1,734.26)
Scranton	$15,509.02	$15,257.15	$251.87
Shenango	$12,476.52	$21,757.35	$(9,280.83)
Wilkes-Barre	$16,805.97	$23,194.23	$(6,388.26)
York	$17,489.87	$18,041.01	$(551.14)

Maintenance Backlog / Student	1. Scranton 2. Schuylkill 3. York 4. Mont Alto 5. Hazelton	

Facilities Indicator (2024)

	Maintenance Backlog (Million dollars)	Maintenance Backlog / Student (Thousand dollars)
Beaver	31.06	63
DuBois	25.73	67
Fayette	29.04	71
Greater Allegheny	29.43	83
Hazleton	27.68	54
Mont Alto	32.19	53
New Kensington	27.8	64
Schuylkill	24.59	35
Scranton	21.05	25
Shenango	23.97	78
Wilkes-Barre	30.93	94
York	29.91	43
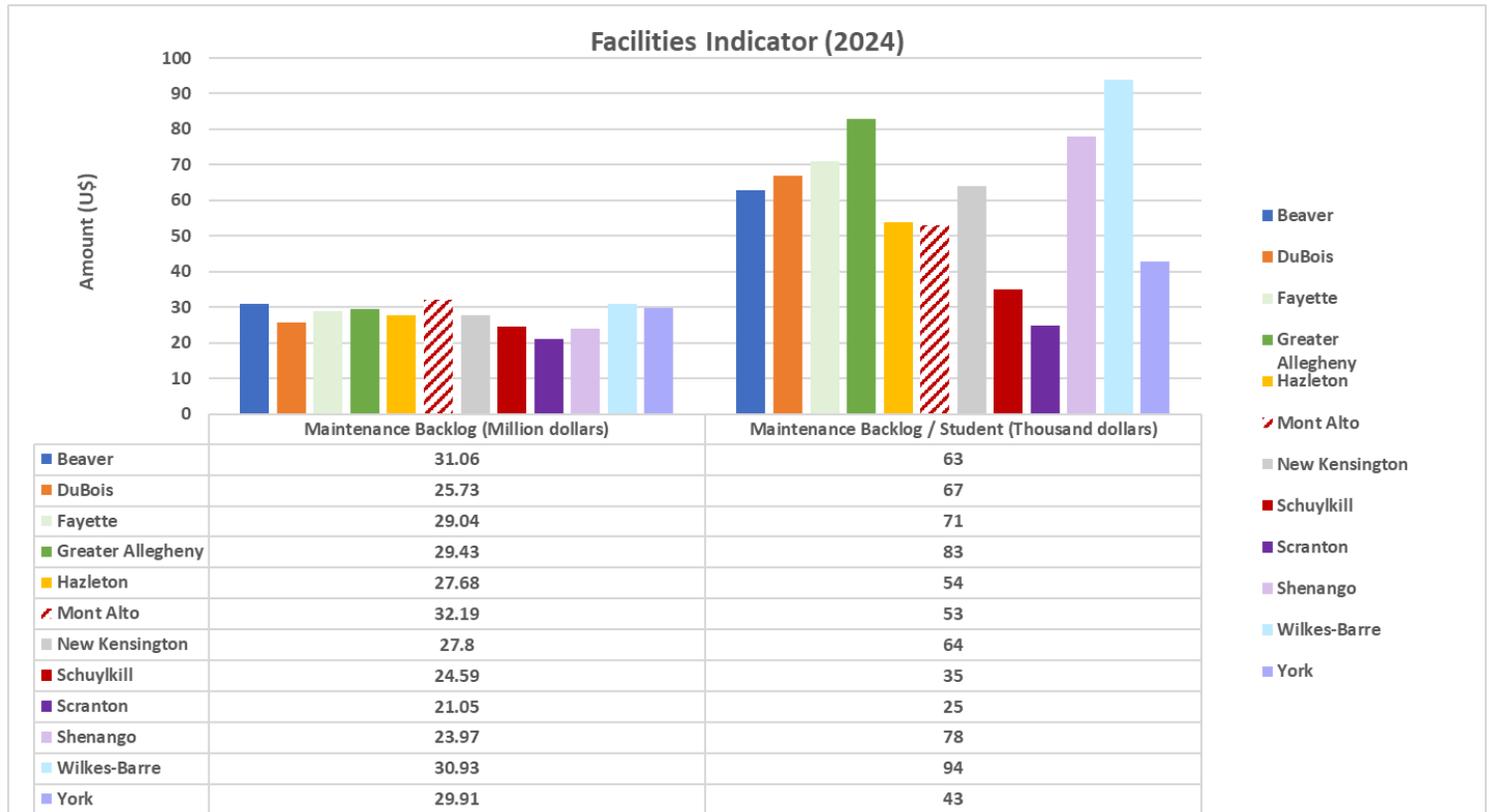
Research Expenditures	2024	Research Expenditures

2024
1. Beaver
2. Wilkes-Barre
3. DuBois
4. Fayette
5. Hazleton

5-year average
1. Wilkes-Barre
2. DuBois
3. Beaver
4. Allegheny
5. Hazleton

Research Expenditures

	Research Expenditures 2024 (thousand dollars)	5-year Average (thousand dollars)
Beaver	405	173.8
DuBois	337	368
Fayette	162	29.04
Greater Allegheny	88	120.5
Hazleton	148	88.3
Mont Alto	15	5.667
New Kensington	75	83.5
Schuylkill	34	71.5
Scranton	38	21.8
Shenango	35	19.2
Wilkes-Barre	400	372
York	88	86.5
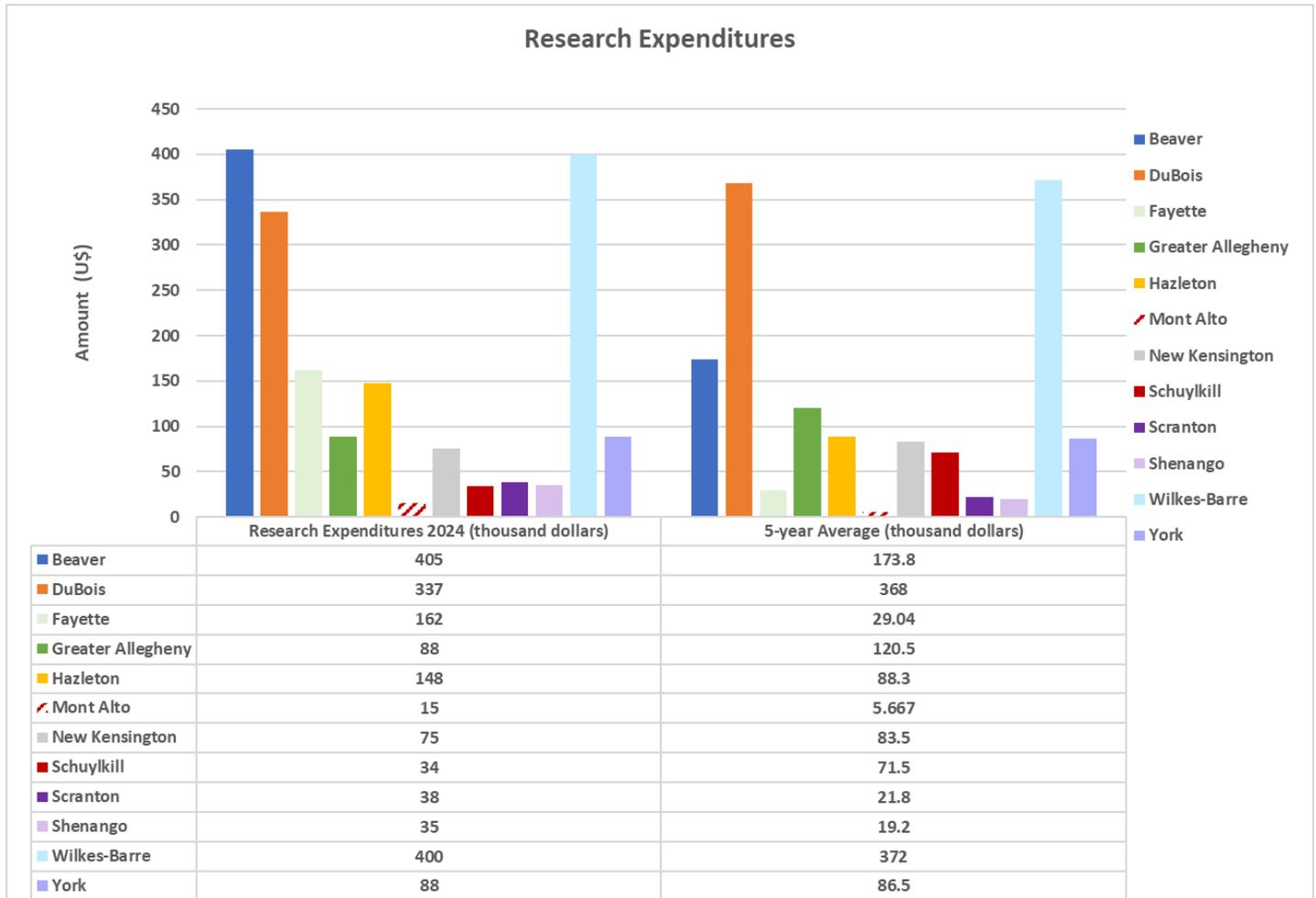
PA Students	1. Scranton 2. Schuylkill 3. York 4. <mark>Mont Alto</mark> 5. Hazleton

Student Residency

Number of Students

	International Students	PA Students	Local Students	PA Students (Non-Local)	Out of State Students	Total Students (2024)
Beaver	10	379	176	203	107	496
DuBois	0	365	143	222	20	385
Fayette	0	376	244	132	31	407
Greater Allegheny	1	289	196	93	63	353
Hazleton	5	429	228	201	81	515
Mont Alto	4	515	322	193	94	613
New Kensington	3	366	123	243	63	432
Schuylkill	3	615	417	198	80	698
Scranton	9	730	451	279	88	827
Shenango	0	238	29	209	71	309
Wilkes-Barre	1	285	214	71	43	329
York	34	597	493	104	72	703

Axis Title

Legend: Beaver, DuBois, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, York

County Students (regional)	1. York 2. Scranton 3. Schuylkill 4. Mont Alto 5. Fayette	

Student Residency

Number of Students

	International Students	PA Students	Local Students	PA Students (Non-Local)	Out of State Students	Total Students (2024)
Beaver	10	379	176	203	107	496
DuBois	0	365	143	222	20	385
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Axis Title

Legend: Beaver, DuBois, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, York

Housing Occupancy (%)	1. Beaver 2. Schuylkill 3. Hazleton 4. Allegheny 5. Mont Alto	

Housing Occupancy
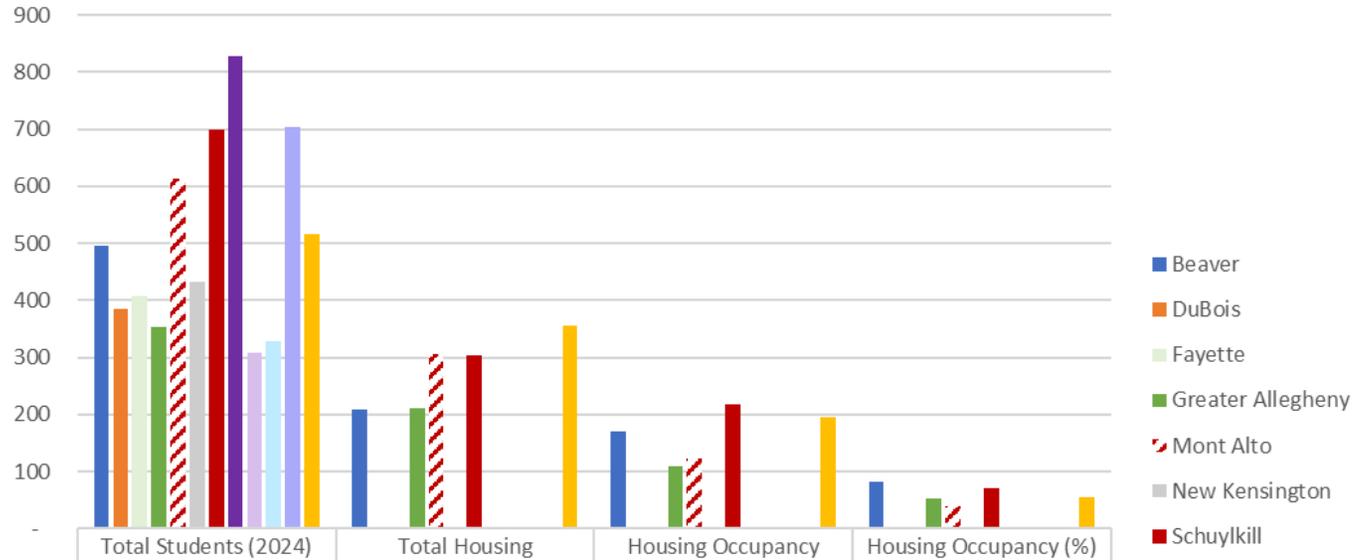
	Total Students (2024)	Total Housing	Housing Occupancy	Housing Occupancy (%)
Beaver	496	208	170	81.7
DuBois	385	0	0	0
Fayette	407	0	0	0
Greater Allegheny	353	210	108	51.4
Mont Alto	613	305	122	40.0
New Kensington	432	0	0	0
Schuylkill	698	304	218	71.7
Scranton	827	0	0	0
Shenango	309	0	0	0
Wilkes-Barre	329	0	0	0
York	703	0	0	0
Hazleton	515	356	194	54.5

Legend: Beaver, DuBois, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, York, Hazleton

| Graduation Rate (4-year)	1. Beaver 2. Mont Alto 3. Fayette 4. Wilkes-Barre 5. Scranton / Hazleton (tie)	Graduation Rate

Graduation Rate

	Beaver	DuBois	Fayette	Greater Allegheny	Hazleton	Monto Alto	New Kensington	Schuylkill	Scranton	Shenango	Wilkes-Barre	York
Graduation Rate Cohort 2018 (6-year; %)	56.5	65.4	53.6	51.8	58.0	57.3	52.2	55.7	63.6	47.7	69.9	63.8
Graduation Rate Cohort 2020 (4-year; %)	50.6	38.4	44.0	31.6	41.2	47.8	38.9	37.4	41.2	25.7	42.0	40.7

■ Graduation Rate Cohort 2020 (4-year; %)   ■ Graduation Rate Cohort 2018 (6-year; %)

Total Degrees Awarded	1. Scranton 2. York 3. Schuylkill 4. Mont Alto 5. Hazleton	Degrees Awarded

Degrees Awarded

■ Associate's Degrees Awarded (23/24)   ■ Bachelor's Degrees Awarded (23/24)   ■ Master's Degrees
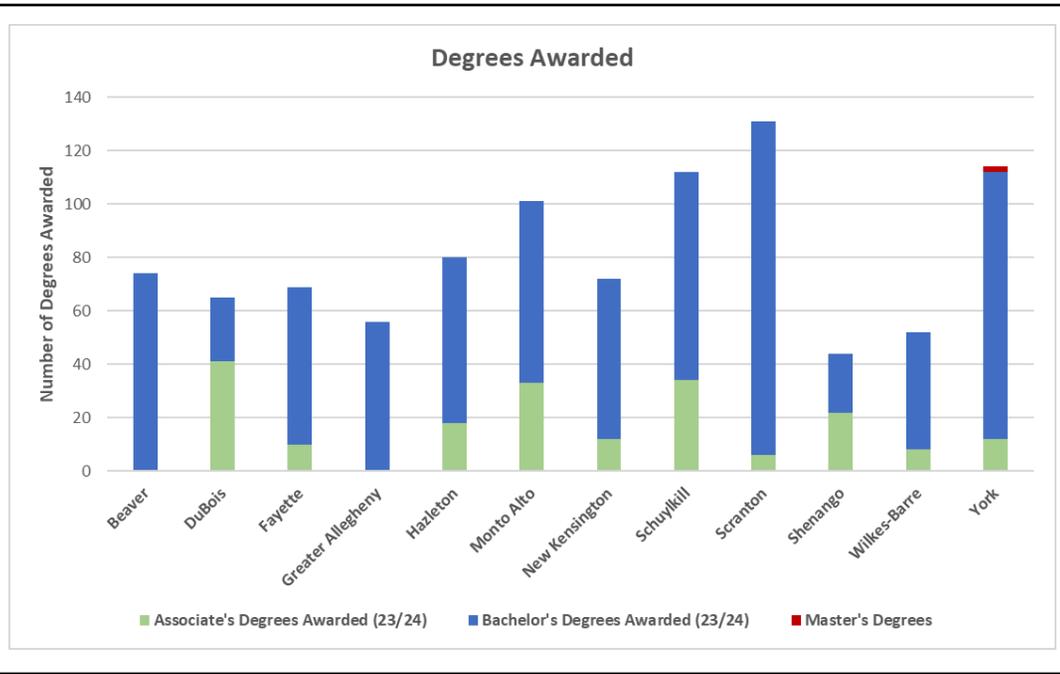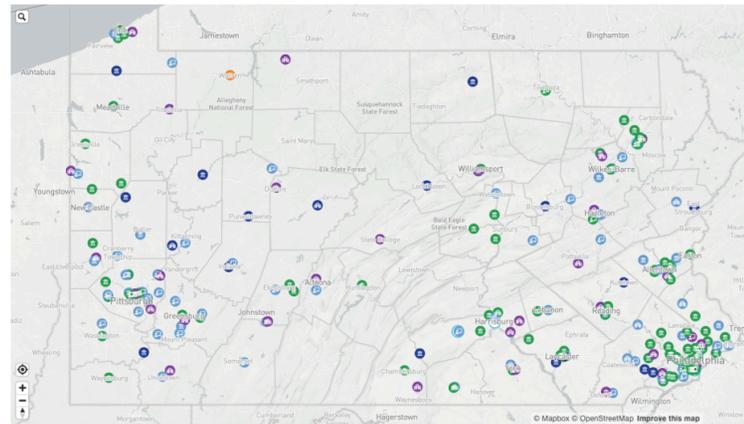
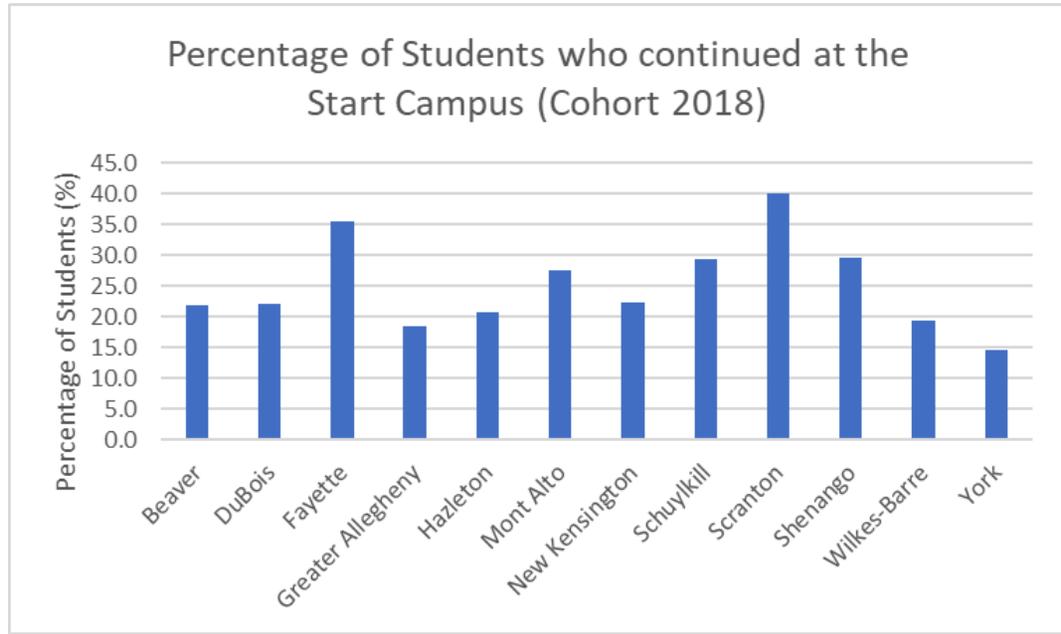| Least number of institutions (within 30 and 50 miles) per 10K inhabitants | 30-mile radius
1. DuBois
2. Allegheny
3. Hazleton
4. Mont Alto
5. Wilkes-Barre

50-mile radius
1. Allegheny
2. Wilkes-Barre
3. York
4. Fayette
5. Scranton |
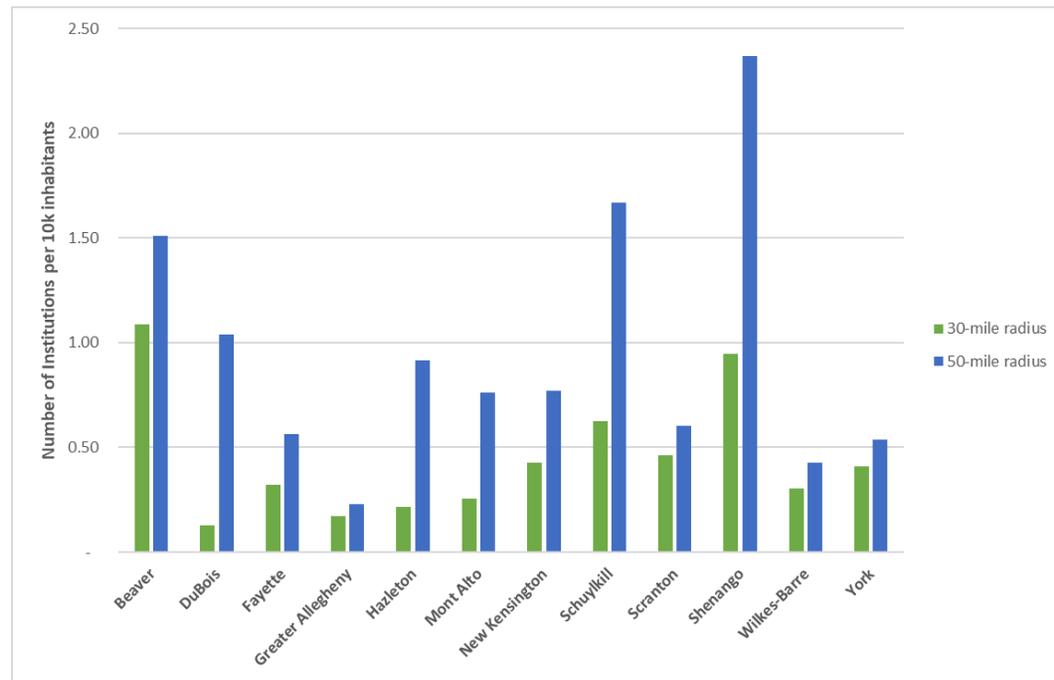
PA Higher Education Institutions by Sector and Type
 |

Students who continued in the start campus (cohort 2018)	1. Scranton 2. Fayette 3. Shenango 4. Schuylkill 5. Mont Alto	
Employed in PA 1 year after graduation	1. Scranton 2. Fayette 3. Mont Alto, DuBois, New Kensington	
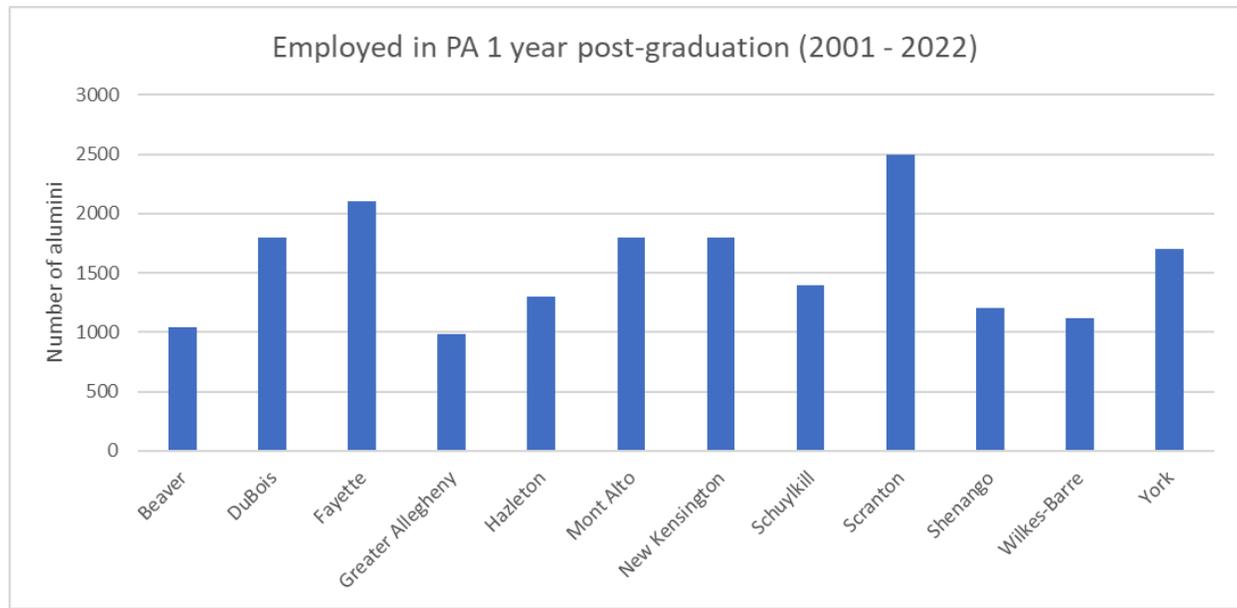
Median Earnings 1 year after graduation	1. Mont Alto 2. New Kensington 3. York 4. Fayette 5. Scranton	

Median Earning Years After Graduation (201 - 2022)

	1 year	5 years	10 years
Beaver	$36,800	$52,800	$68,500
DuBois	$30,900	$43,800	$1,300
Fayette	$42,200	$56,200	
Greater Allegheny	$36,200	$53,400	$70,100
Hazleton	$38,500	$52,400	$63,200
Mont Alto	$46,300	$58,100	
New Kensington	$45,000	$61,300	$76,300
Schuylkill	$38,100	$53,000	
Scranton	$41,500	$57,000	$67,800
Shenango	$34,300	$45,500	
Wilkes-Barre	$38,600	$57,500	$71,800
York	$43,600	$59,200	$68,900

Legend: Beaver, DuBois, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, York

Y-axis: Median Earning ($)

Population Change	1. York
	2. Hazleton /
	   Wilkes-Barre
	   (tie)
	3. Scranton
	4. Mont Alto	

Projected Population Change (2020-2050)

	Population Change	Youth Population Change
Beaver	-8.9	-9.3
DuBois	-7.3	-9.6
Fayette	-4.9	0.9
Greater Allegheny	-1.8	-4.2
Hazleton	3.6	1.7
Mont Alto	0.5	4.1
New Kensington	-16	-18.3
Schuylkill	-10.5	-17.1
Scranton	0.8	-1.3
Shenango	-6.6	-3.6
Wilkes-Barre	3.6	1.7
York	4	-3.9

Projected Population Change, 2020 to 2050

Statewide Population Change, 2020 to 2050 (Proj.) = 1.6%
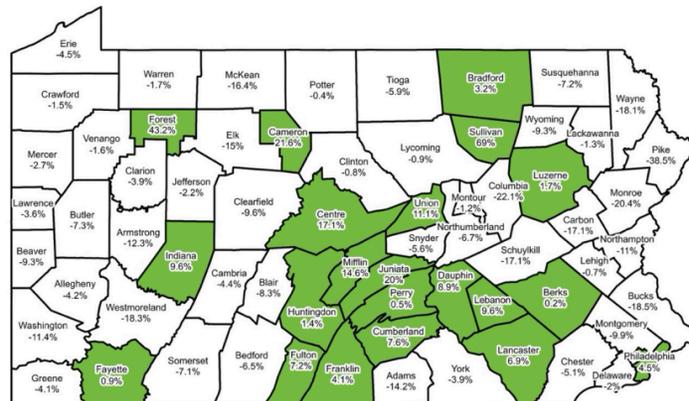Population Decrease or No Change
Population Increase
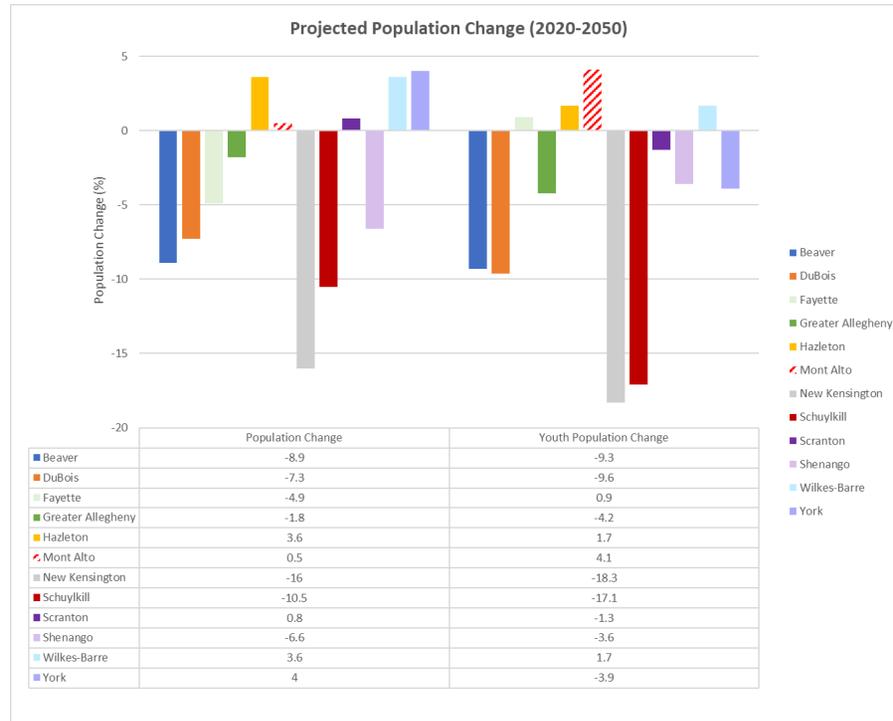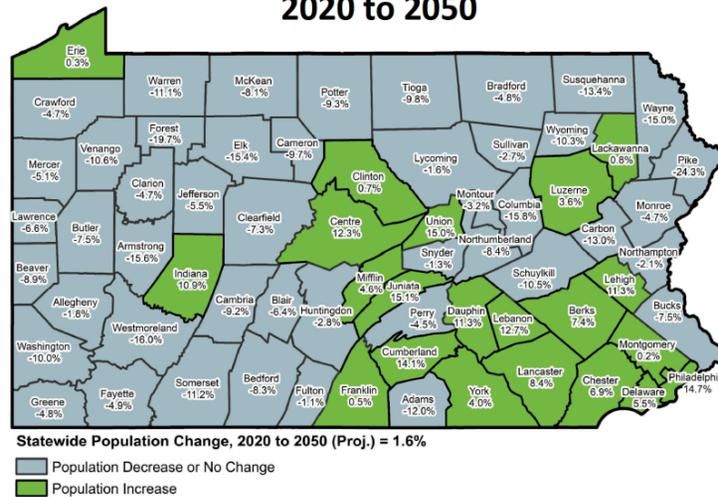
Youth Population Change	1. Mont Alto 2. Hazleton / Wilkes-Barre (tie) 3. Fayette 4. Scranton	

Projected Population Change (2020-2050)

	Population Change	Youth Population Change
■ Beaver	-8.9	-9.3
■ DuBois	-7.3	-9.6
■ Fayette	-4.9	0.9
■ Greater Allegheny	-1.8	-4.2
■ Hazleton	3.6	1.7
◢ Mont Alto	0.5	4.1
■ New Kensington	-16	-18.3
■ Schuylkill	-10.5	-17.1
■ Scranton	0.8	-1.3
■ Shenango	-6.6	-3.6
■ Wilkes-Barre	3.6	1.7
■ York	4	-3.9

□ Population Decrease or No Change ■ Population Increase

			Students Demographics				

Category	Rankings
Pell Grant Recipients	1. Hazleton 2. Allegheny 3. Scranton 4. Wilkes-Barre 5. Shenango
Underrepresented minorities	1. Hazleton 2. Allegheny 3. Schuylkill 4. York 5. Wilkes-Barre
First-generation college students	1. Schuylkill 2. Allegheny 3. Hazleton 4. Fayette 5. Scranton
Student athlete participation	1. Shenango 2. Wilkes-Barre 3. New Kensington 4. DuBois 5. Schuylkill

Students Demographics

Percentage of Students (%)

	Pell Grant Recipients	Underrepresented minorities	First-generation college students	Student athlete participation
Beaver	33.0	17.1	38.3	25.3
DuBois	25.8	7.0	37.9	27.8
Fayette	35.5	7.6	47.7	20.7
Greater Allegheny	41.6	26.9	50.4	26.4
Hazleton	46.2	33.2	48.9	24.2
Mont Alto	25.0	12.4	41.4	25.0
New Kensington	30.5	14.4	43.3	28.4
Schuylkill	35.7	22.5	51.6	27.4
Scranton	41.5	16.1	45.6	16.5
Shenango	36.4	14.6	38.2	34.8
Wilkes-Barre	37.4	17.9	44.4	31.0
York	27.6	18.6	38.3	15.4

Legend: Beaver, DuBois, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, Scranton, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, York

Suggestions for Mont Alto Campus Improvement:

Below is a list of suggestions to improve Mont Alto campus enrollment

1. Community-driven initiatives could play a valuable role in supporting the future of campuses like Mont Alto. For example, local "Save Our Campus" campaigns could be launched in surrounding cities, where donors and community members come together to organize fundraising events such as festivals, with all proceeds benefiting the university.

2. Given that Mont Alto was founded in 1903, the campus may also be eligible for grants aimed at preserving and renovating historic buildings—an opportunity worth exploring to help offset infrastructure costs.

3. Additionally, there is potential for student-led innovation. Business and marketing students could take part in a campus-wide challenge to develop strategies for increasing enrollment. A friendly competition among Commonwealth Campuses could incentivize participation, with the winning team receiving a prize that would directly benefit their home campus. Initiatives like these foster creativity, community investment, and real-world learning opportunities while supporting the long-term sustainability of regional campuses.