Summary

Penn State Mont Alto: A Strategic Performance Review

Data-Based Evaluation of Commonwealth Campuses Using Penn State's Own Metrics

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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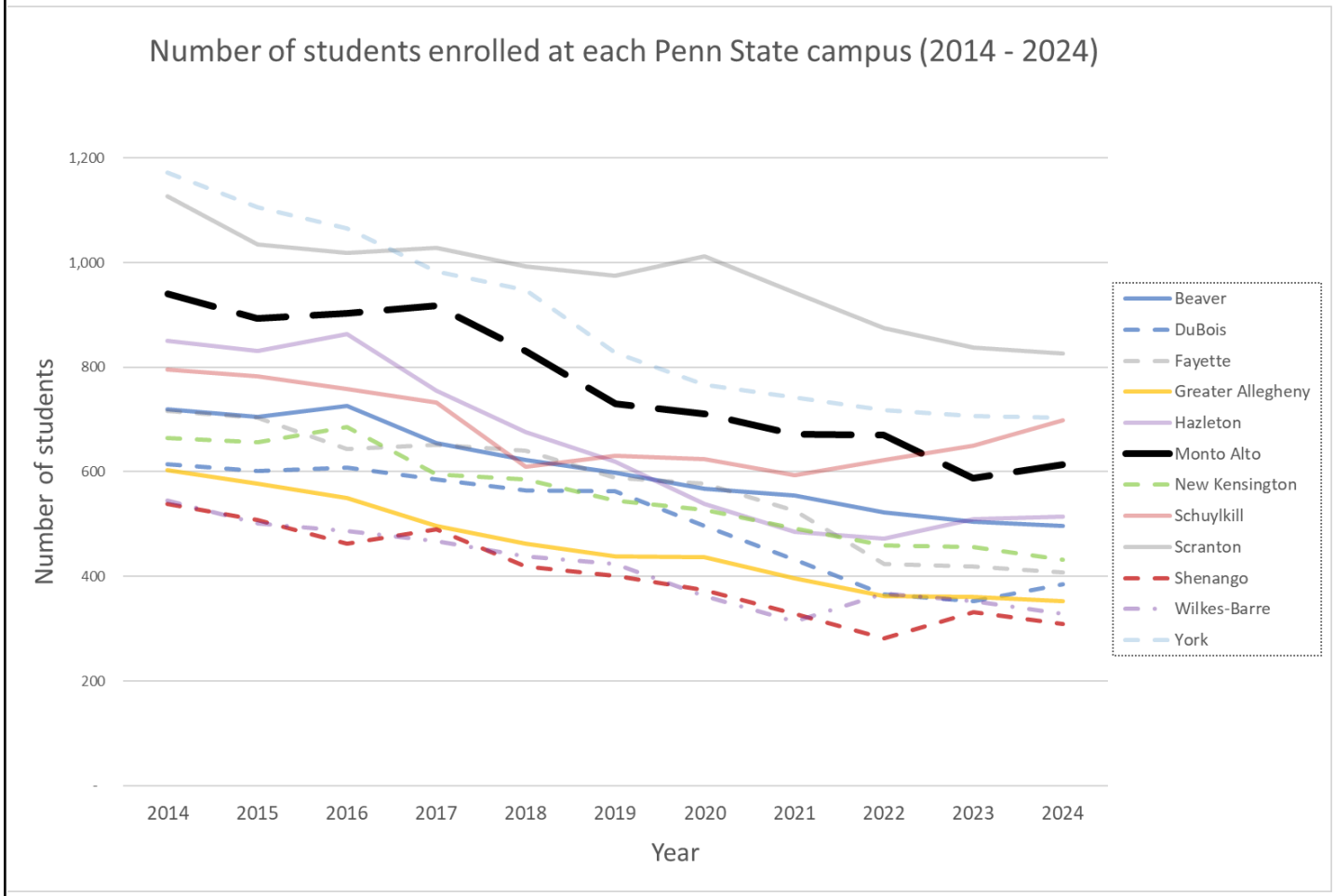
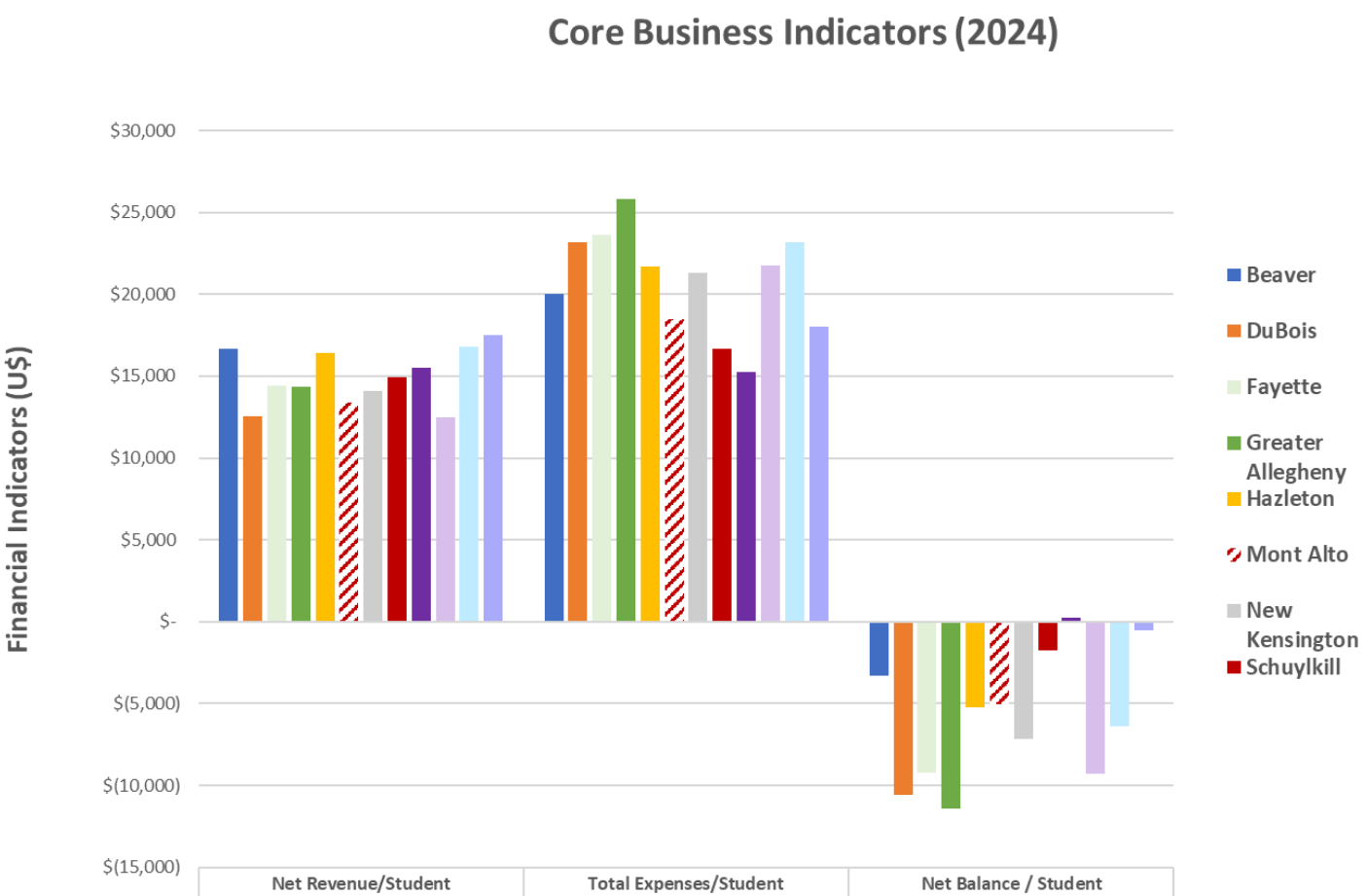
Penn State Parent
(prepared on 7/6/25; updated on 7/27/25)

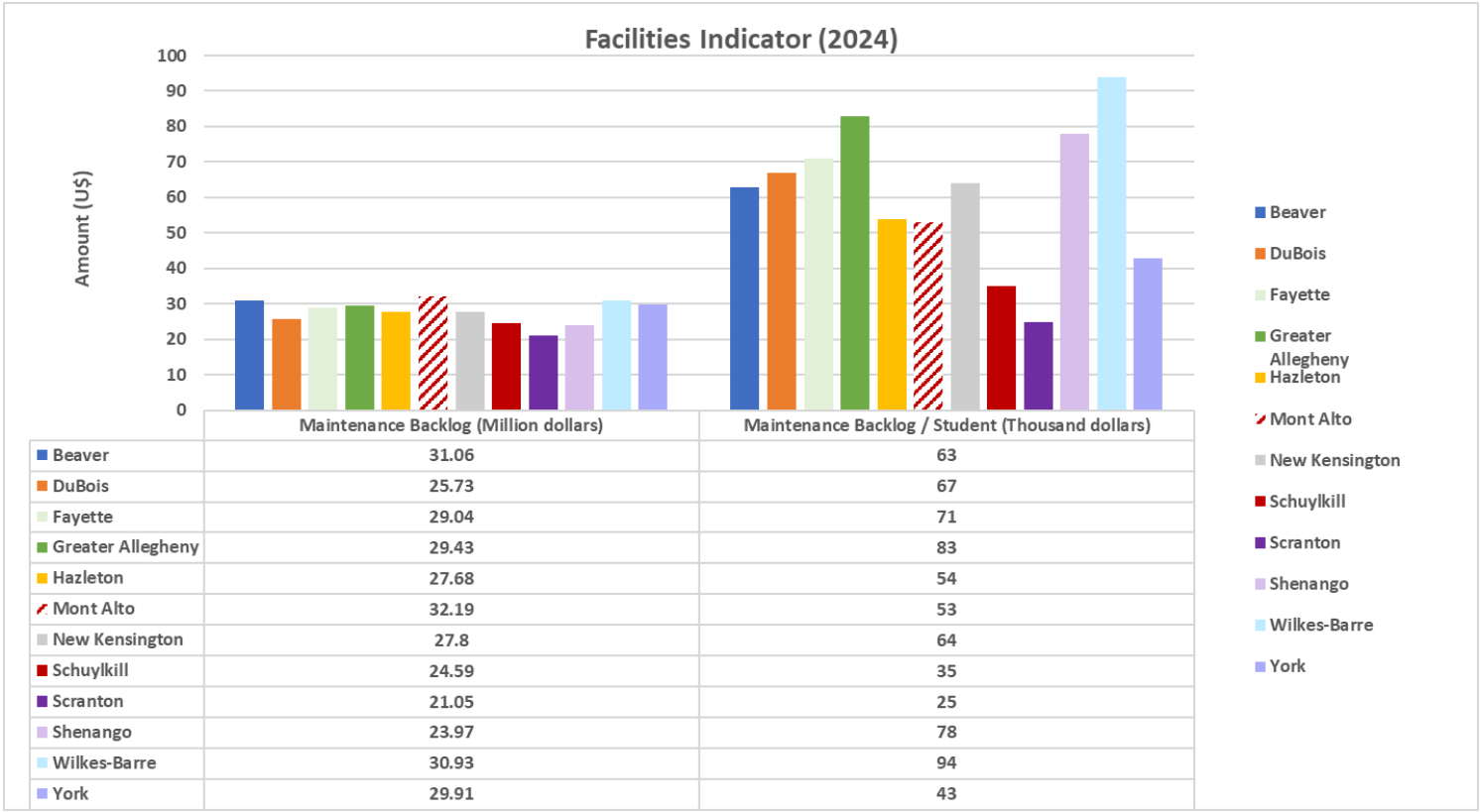
This document presents the summary of our analysis of the data included in the CWC Workgroup Recommendation. The evaluation was conducted using the performance indicators outlined in the original report to ensure consistency with the framework provided by the Workgroup.

Our analysis followed the performance indicators outlined in the university's own report. For each measure, we identified the five campuses performing at the highest level and assigned them a score of 1; all other campuses received a score of 0. This process was applied consistently across all criteria, and the scores were totaled to determine an overall performance score for each campus. Based on this analysis, we recommended continued investment in the five campuses with the highest total scores, as they have shown the strongest performance according to the university's established benchmarks. We believe these findings provide a clear, data-driven foundation for making informed decisions about the future of our public higher education system.

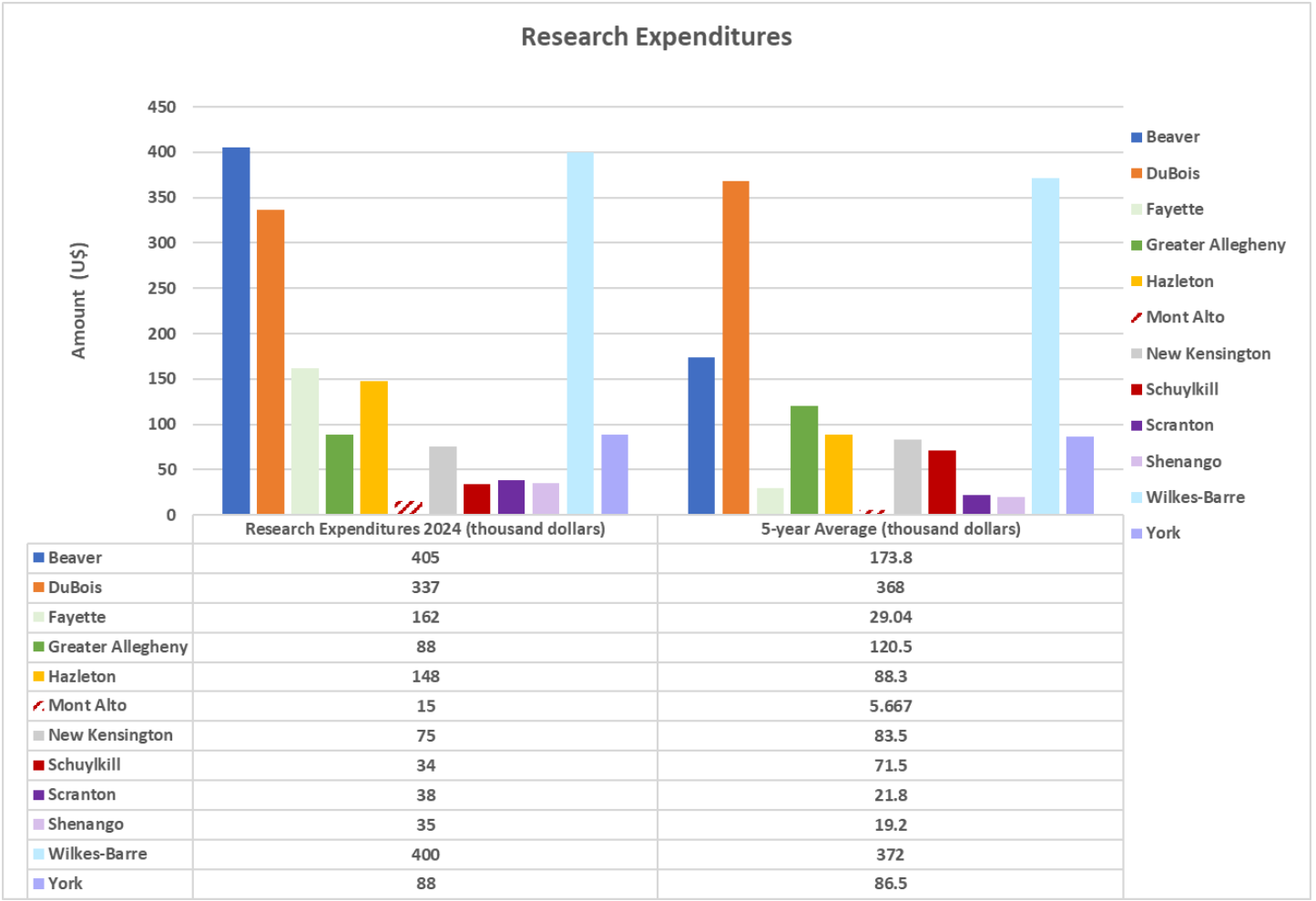
Performance Indicator	Top 5 campuses	Graph
Total number of students	1. Scranton 2. York 3. Schuylkill 4. Mont Alto 5. Hazelton	

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

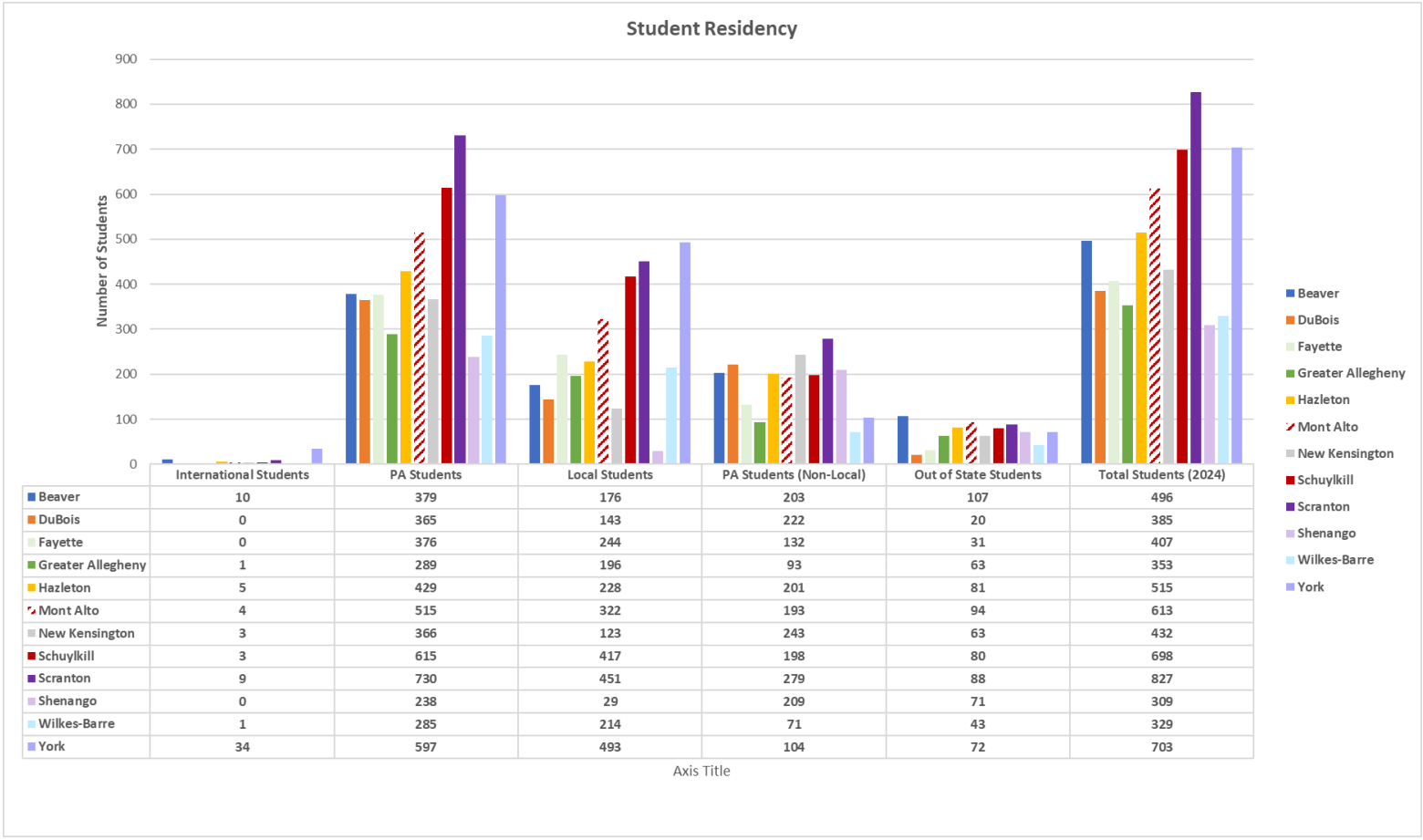
	Net Revenue/Student	Total Expenses/Student	Net Balance / Student
Beaver	$16,678.79	$19,999.81	$(3,321.03)
DuBois	$12,560.42	$23,142.34	$(10,581.92)
Fayette	$14,423.64	$23,648.81	$(9,225.17)
Greater Allegheny	$14,376.49	$25,787.58	$(11,411.09)
Hazleton	$16,408.70	$21,669.28	$(5,260.59)
Mont Alto	$13,403.59	$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	

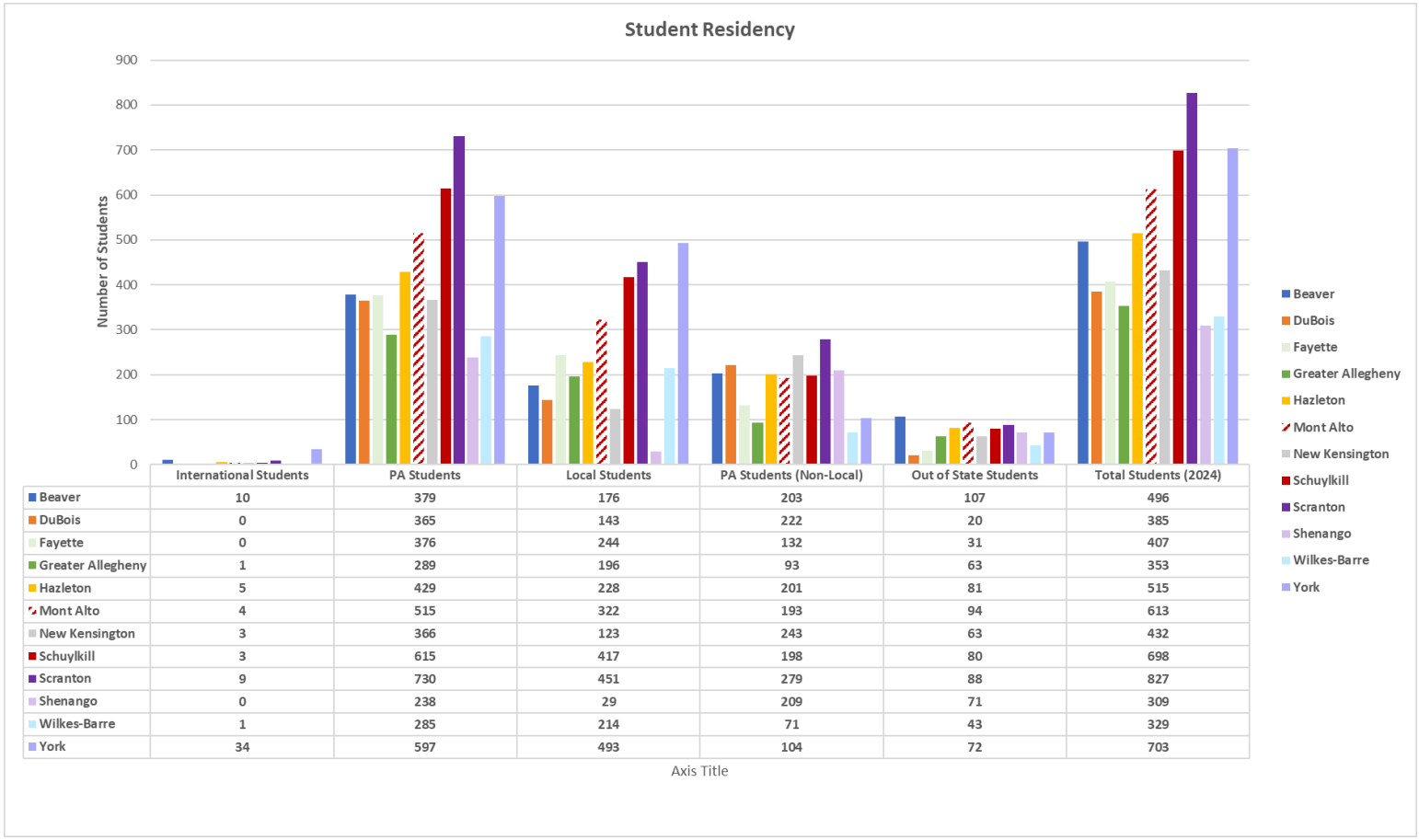
	Maintenance Backlog (Million dollars)	Maintenance Backlog / Student (Thousand dollars)
Beaver	31.06	63
DuBois	25.73	67
Fayette	29.04	71
Greater Allegheny	29.43	83
Hazleton	27.68	54
Mont Alto	32.19	53
New Kensington	27.8	64
Schuylkill	24.59	35
Scranton	21.05	25
Shenango	23.97	78
Wilkes-Barre	30.93	94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

Research Expenditures	<u>2024</u> 1. Beaver 2. Wilkes-Barre 3. DuBois 4. Fayette 5. Hazleton <u>5-year average</u> 1. Wilkes-Barre 2. DuBois 3. Beaver 4. Allegheny 5. Hazleton	

	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. Mont Alto 5. Hazleton	

	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

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

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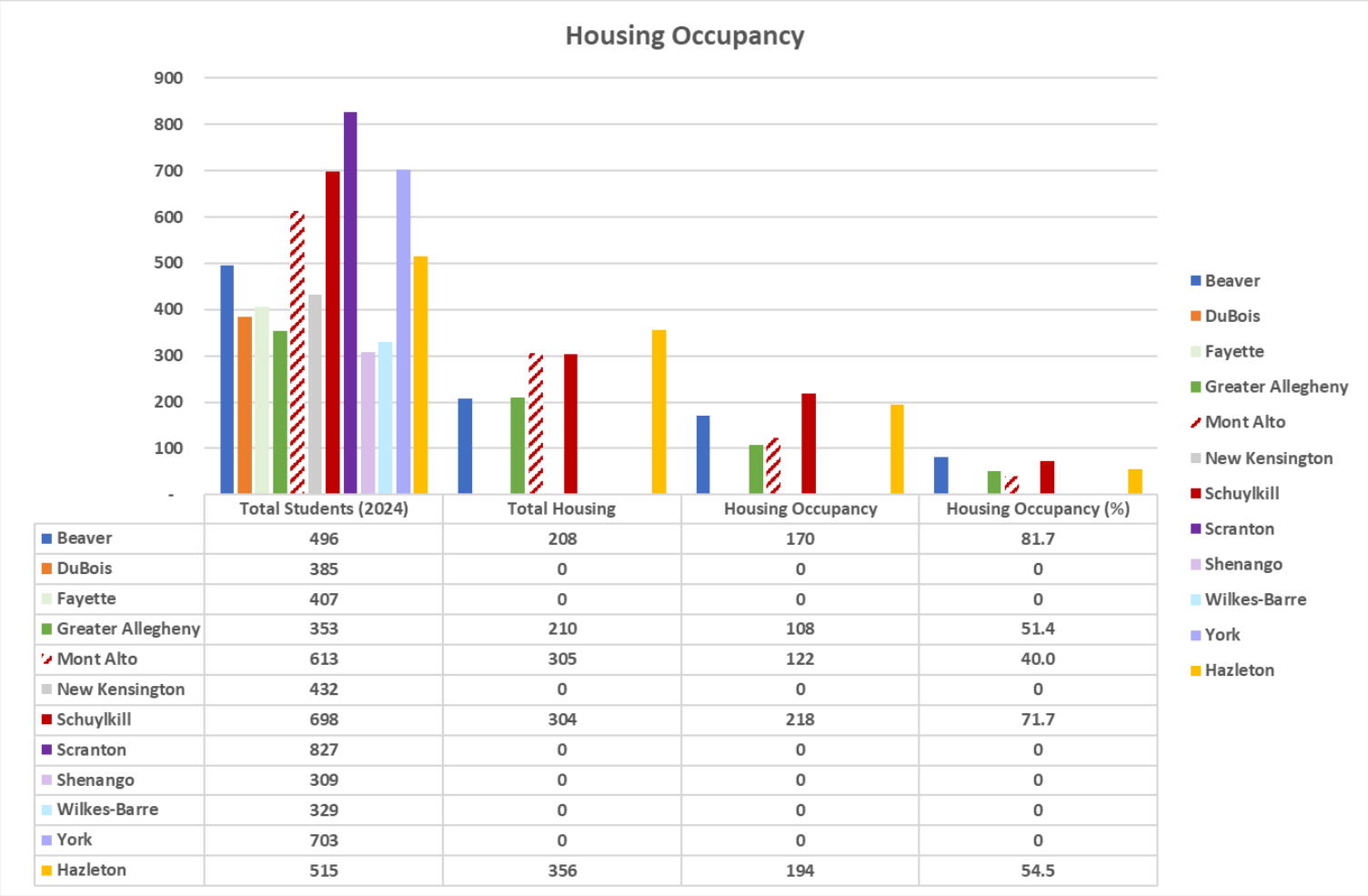
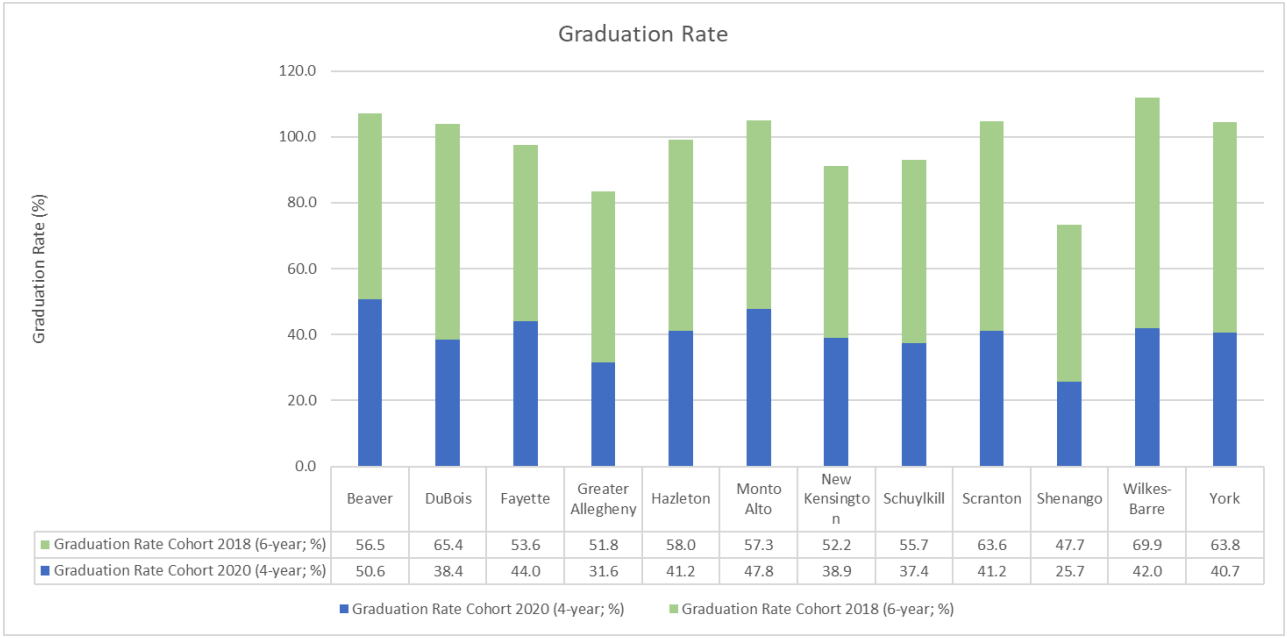
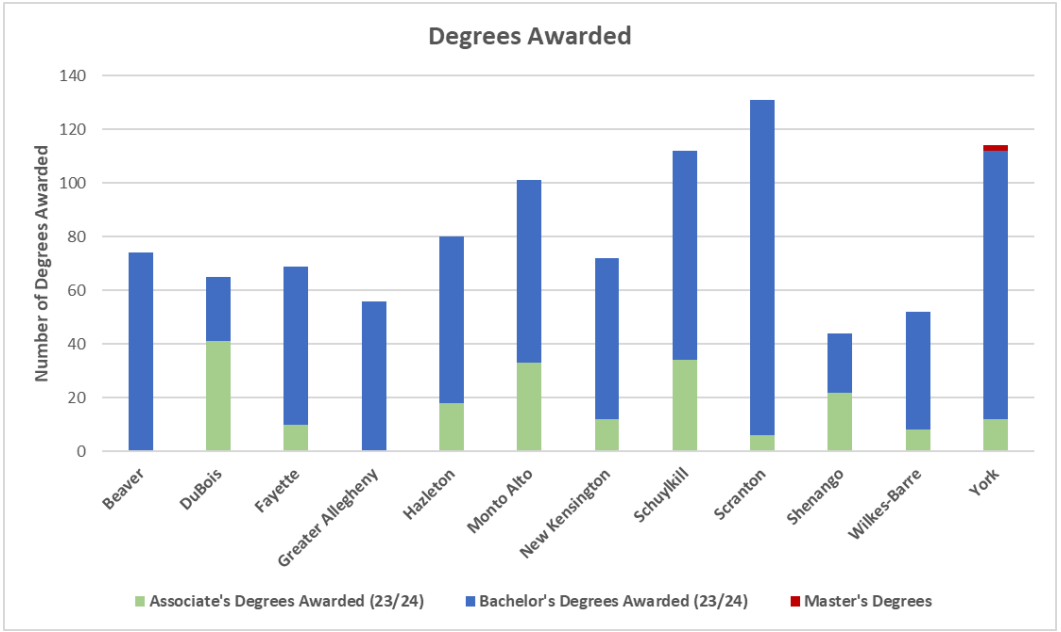
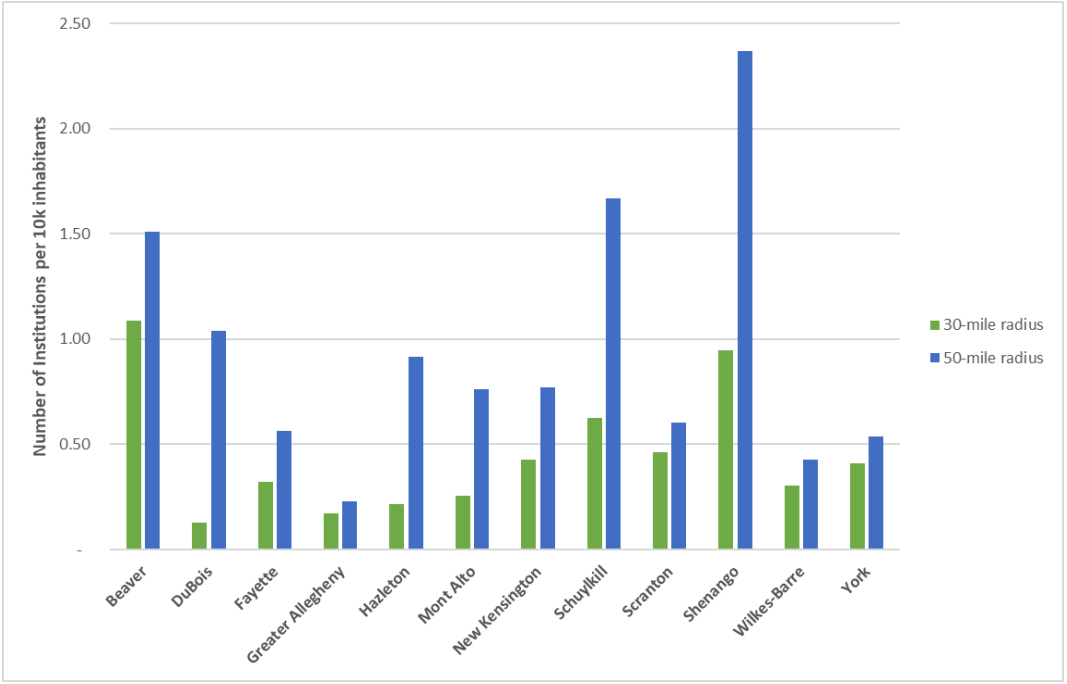
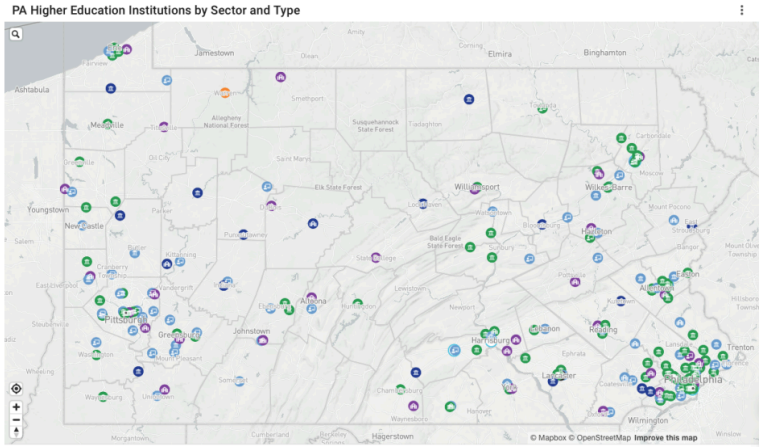
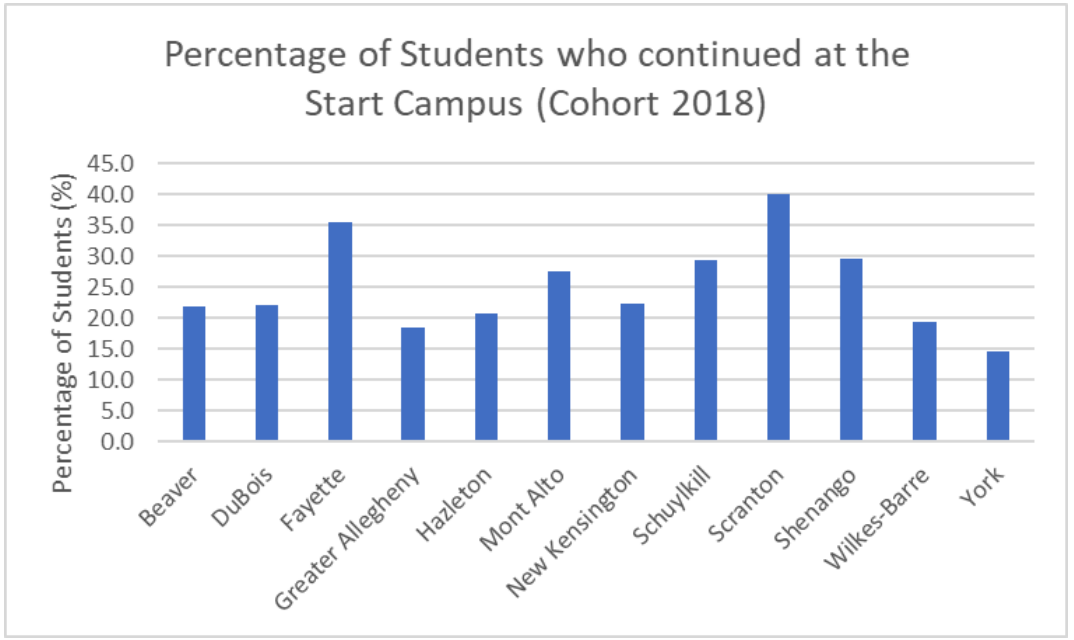
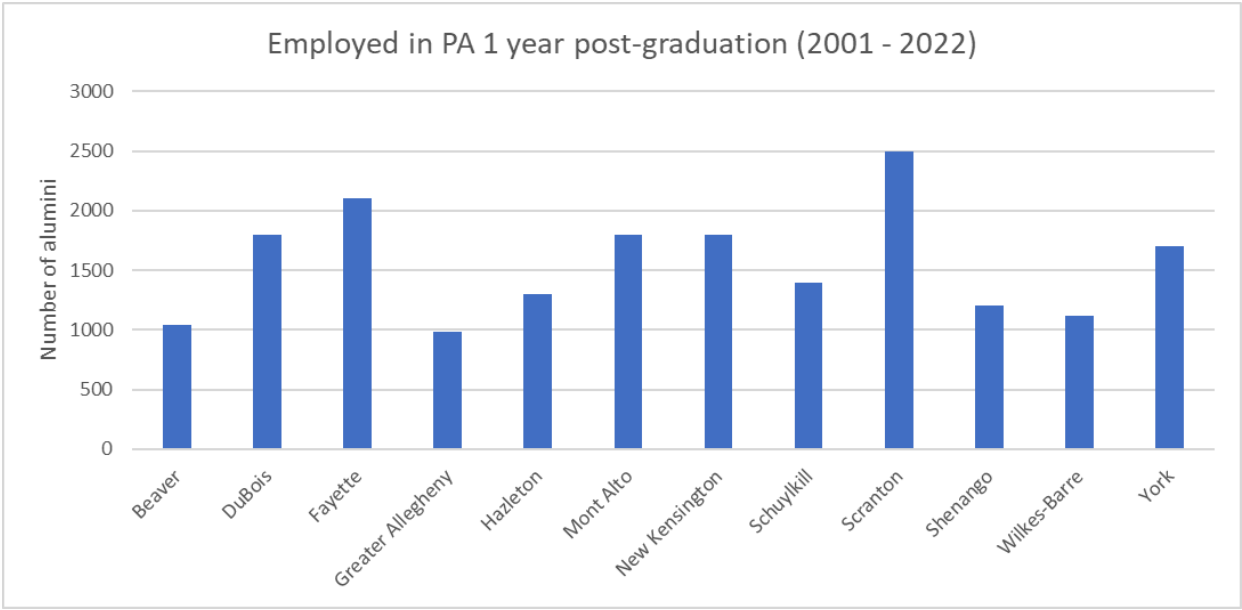
Housing Occupancy (%)	1. Beaver 2. Schuylkill 3. Hazleton 4. Allegheny 5. Mont Alto	

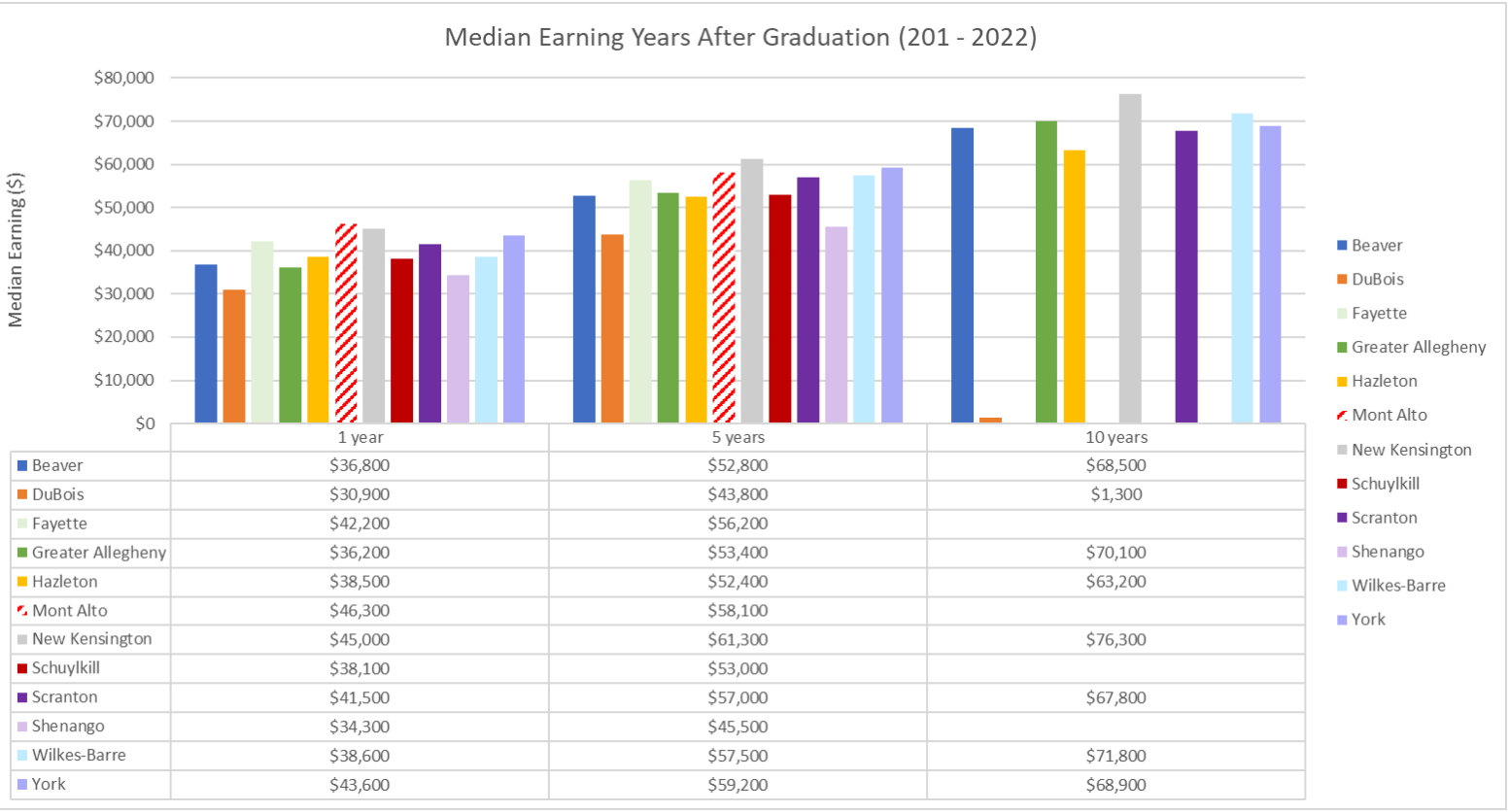
	Total Students (2024)	Total Housing	Housing Occupancy	Housing Occupancy (%)
Beaver	496	208	170	81.7
DuBois	385	0	0	0
Fayette	407	0	0	0
Greater Allegheny	353	210	108	51.4
Mont Alto	613	305	122	40.0
New Kensington	432	0	0	0
Schuylkill	698	304	218	71.7
Scranton	827	0	0	0
Shenango	309	0	0	0
Wilkes-Barre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

Graduation Rate (4-year)	1. Beaver 2. Mont Alto 3. Fayette 4. Wilkes-Barre 5. Scranton / Hazleton (tie)	
Total Degrees Awarded	1. Scranton 2. York 3. Schuylkill 4. Mont Alto 5. Hazleton	

	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

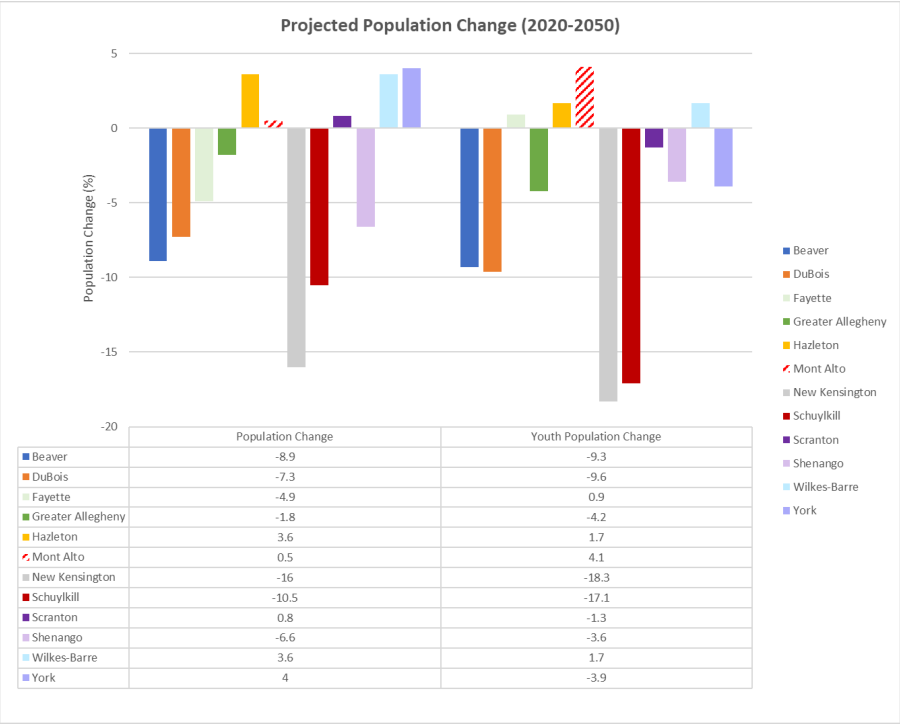
Least number of institutions (within 30 and 50 miles) per 10K inhabitants	<u>30-mile radius</u> 1. DuBois 2. Allegheny 3. Hazleton 4. Mont Alto 5. Wilkes-Barre <u>50-mile radius</u> 1. Allegheny 2. Wilkes-Barre 3. York 4. Fayette 5. Scranton	 

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	

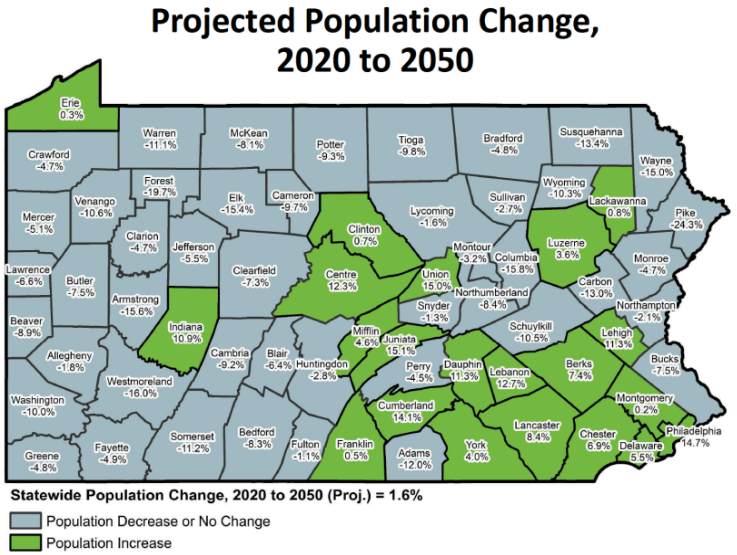
Median Earnings 1 year after graduation	1. Mont Alto 2. New Kensington 3. York 4. Fayette 5. Scranton	

	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

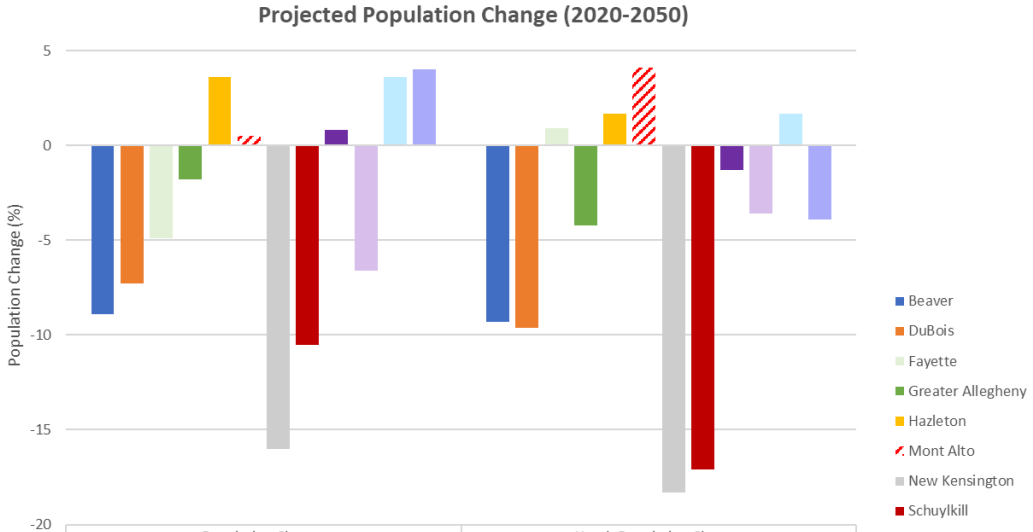
Population Change	1. York 2. Hazleton 3. Wilkes-Barre 4. Scranton 5. Mont Alto	



	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



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



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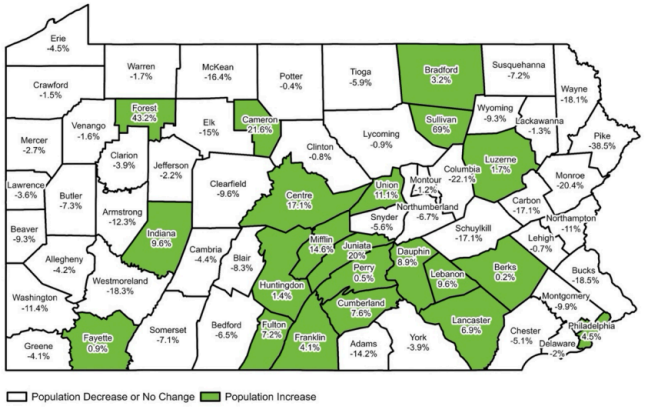
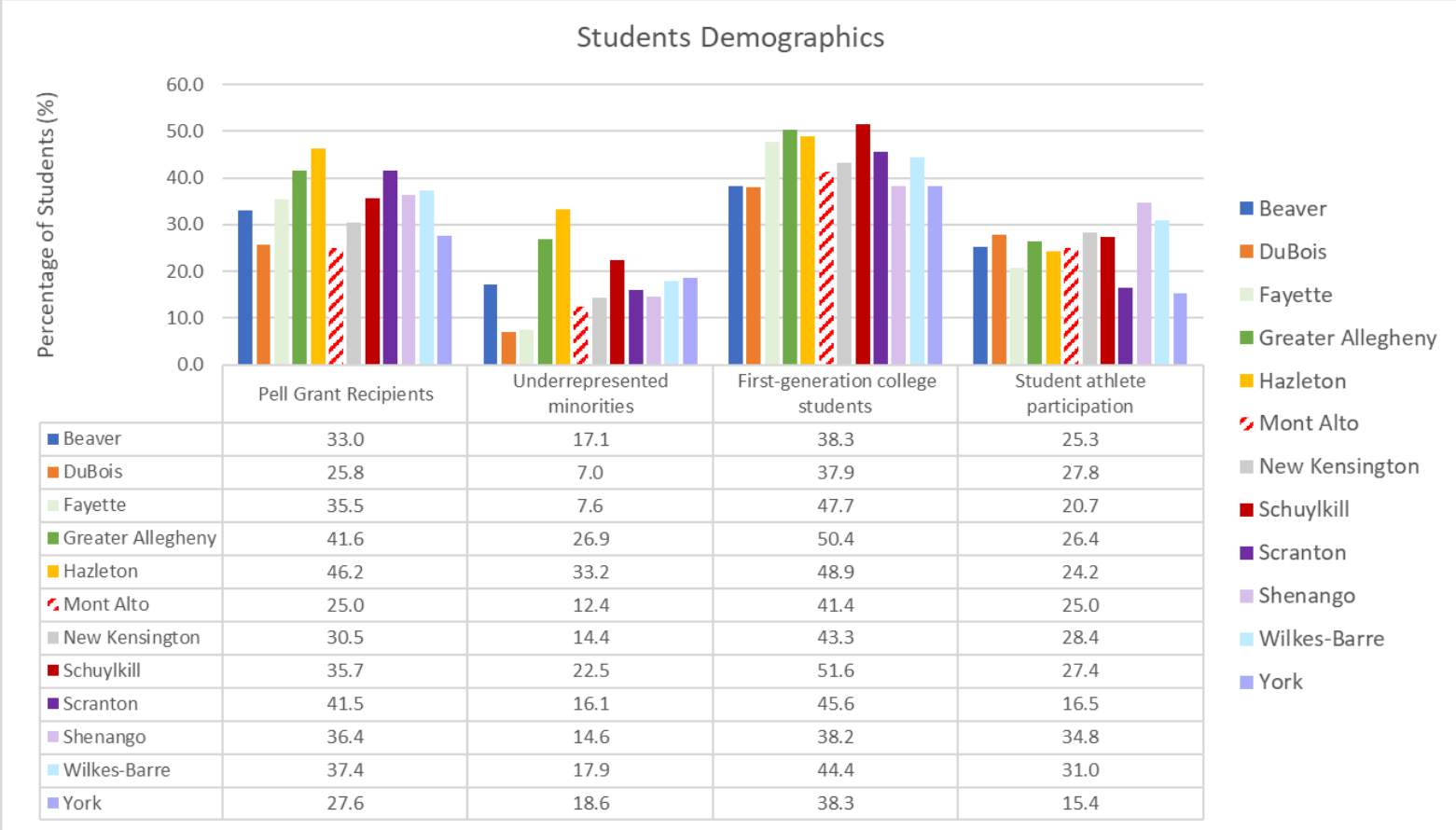
Mont Alto	0.5	4.1
New Kensington	-16	-18.3
Schuylkill	-10.5	-17.1
Scranton	0.8	-1.3
Shenango	-6.6	-3.6
Wilkes-Barre	3.6	1.7
York	4	-3.9



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



	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

Conclusion

For each of the key metrics outlined above, the five top-performing campuses were awarded one point, while all other campuses received a score of zero. Table 1 presents the campuses that ranked in the top five for each measure, along with the total score accumulated by each campus across all metrics.

Based on the total points accumulated across all criteria, we recommend continued investment in the following campuses:

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

Table 1: Points for the top 5 performing campuses on each criterium.

	In-Scope Campuses											
Criterium	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**

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.