

2024 Annual Conference

Leading
International
Education
at a Crossroads

## Navigating Global Partnerships: Strategies for Effective Assessment & Impactful Collaboration

### **Vlad Likholetov**

Associate Director for Partnership Agreements Pennsylvania State University

### Sarah Olson

Director of Global Partnerships North Carolina State University

#### **Laura Daversa**

Assistant Director of Global Partnerships & Events University of Pittsburgh



## **Session Goals**

- Understand the importance of partnership inventory/evaluation and its unique benefits to diverse institutions
- Consider the gathering, weighting, and analysis of data
- Identify key stakeholders, data stewards, and unique benefits to all parties
- Discuss common logistical challenges and stakeholder concerns to address proactively
- Discuss **realistic timelines and resources** for implementing and maintaining sustainable systems

## Agenda

- Why Assess/Inventory?
- Case Studies
  - The Pennsylvania State University
  - The University of Pittsburgh
- Critical Takeaways
  - Universal challenges
  - Unique perspectives
- Questions & Discussion



## NC STATE UNIVERSITY



**12** 

COLLEGES representing all major fields



36,700

STUDENTS across 300+ degree programs



2,400

FACULTY with a student-faculty ratio of 15:1



148

PARTNERSHIPS with academic institutions globally



44

CENTERS and institutes for applied research



\$547

MILLION in research expenditures



\$1.64

BILLION in proposals submitted



\$383

MILLION in sponsored research awards



269

DISCLOSURES based on intellectual property (IP)



\$6.5 Billion

Annual Economic Impact in North Carolina



## Why Assessing Partnerships Matters

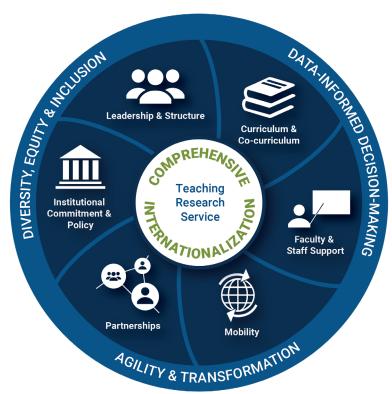
#### **Universal Benefits**

- Better allocate limited resources
- Identify gaps in engagement (region, area of study, etc.)
- Guide decision-making to **nurture** or **sunset** partnerships
- Connect people around themes, regions, etc.
- Strategize funding opportunities
- Offer comprehensive **snapshot reports** for various audiences

#### **Universal Challenges**

- Buy-in
- Resources
- Messy data
- Lack of reporting
- Disparate systems of data management

**ACE Model for Comprehensive Internationalization** 



## Using International Agreement Data for Partnership Typology and Analysis

#### **Vlad Likholetov**

Associate Director, Partnership Agreements Penn State Global





## Penn State

- Public Land-Grant University (est. 1853)
- 14 colleges at UP; 20+ commonwealth campuses
- Total Enrollment 87,903; international 9,671
- Penn State Global
- Global Partnerships & Strategy group













## Context

- Legacy (GEN)
- Key agreement metrics
- Org structure: Global Partnerships and Strategy team
- Strategic Framework Development process

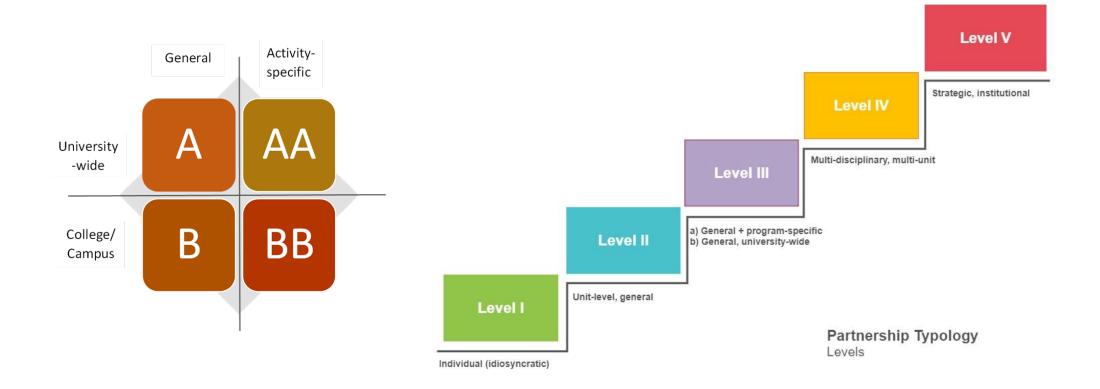
## Considerations

- A formal partnership requires an active agreement in place
- Partnerships exist on a continuum, from individual to institutional
- Partnerships are dynamic entities, i.e., they evolve over time and have different trajectories – importance of monitoring/tracking tools
- Data and feedback collection are essential for partnership analysis
- Levels reflect the formalized scope (breadth and depth) of engagement
- Both quantitative and qualitative evaluations are important in determining the "health" of each partnership





## Exercise in partnership typology







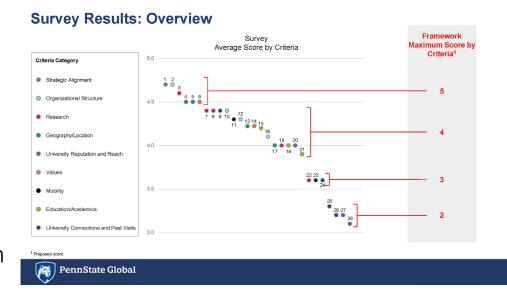
## Framework for Global Partnership Strategy

- Goal: Develop a portfolio that includes a limited number of high-impact, priority partner institutions or organizations with broad engagement across Penn State and transformational outcomes across teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and service/outreach.
- International partnerships advisory group composed of faculty, administrators, & staff
- Criteria survey (categories, criteria, metrics, data sources)
- Apply criteria to analyze the current partnership portfolio and identify potential or emerging "priority" partnerships

## Model for partnership analysis

Develop a dynamic model for periodic partnership analysis and evaluation for:

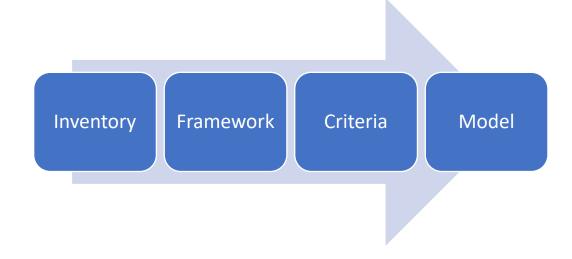
- Strategic institutional partnership development
- New partnership opportunity evaluation
- Monitoring of partnership progress (growth or decline)





## **Conclusions**

- Framework for global partnership strategy has important implications for the collection, tracking, and dissemination of agreement- and partnership-related data.
- Data analysis supports executive decisionmaking at both university and college/campus levels aimed at creating intentional, mutually beneficial, and longterm relationships, i.e., strategic partnerships.









#AIEA2024
Leading International Education at a Crossroads





#1 Public University in the Northeast - WSJ



24,000+ undergraduate 6,700+ graduate 2,600+ doctoral/professional 33,700+ total enrollment



Top Fulbright Producer



652 degrees & certificate programs



3,140+ international students from 104 countries



501 area-studies faculty members



1,560 global experiences



6 Title VI National Resource Centers



150+ international agreements



35+ foreign languages taught





## Pitt Global Partnerships Landscape



2019

- Partnerships Team created per Global Plan for Pitt
- No standardized metrics to understand partnerships, global engagement, & impact
- Siloed data stored in disparate systems



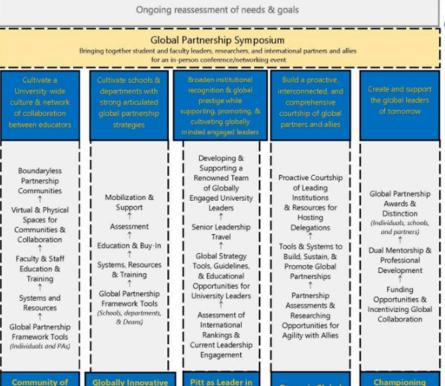
**2024** 

- Global Partnership Incubator
- Global Partnership Operational Strategy
- Global Partnerships Inventory Tracking Tool (GPITT)
- Global Partnership Framework Tool (GPFT)
- Global Engagement Data System (MoveON)



## The University of Pittsburgh **Global Partnership Incubator**





Global

Education Foundational Groundwork: Research, Benchmarking, Systems Analysis/Development

Pitt Global Network and Global Partnerships & Partner Engagement Team Expertise



### Five pillars focus on:

- Individual Faculty and Staff
- Schools & Departments
- The University
- Global Networks
- Championing Global Leaders (professional development & recognition)



#### **Critical Tools:**

- **GP** Operational Strategy
- **GPFT & Website Resources**
- Global Engagement Data System
- **GPITT**



Globally Minded

Leaders

Departments

**Dynamic Global** 

Network

Global

**Trailblazers** 

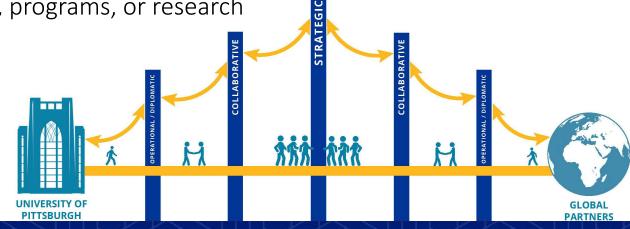


## Pitt Global Partnerships Strategy

#### Appropriate allocation of resources to varying levels of valued partnerships

#### **Strategic partnerships** should:

- Address Pitt's key Impact Areas with diverse perspectives and address timely global challenges
- Commit significant institutional investment
- Deliver multi-dimensional and multi-level engagement
- Offer a diversified delivery model
- Build upon or create new, cutting-edge initiatives, programs, or research
- Enhance learning and scholarly exchange
- Cultivate collaboration
- Produce results





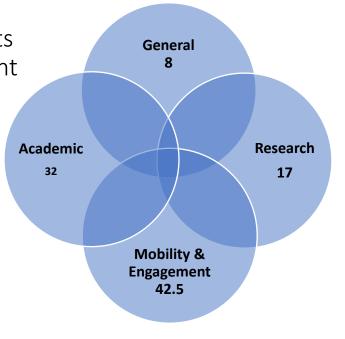
### **Understanding the Data:**

## **Global Partnerships Inventory Tracking Tool (GPITT)**

## GPITT measures depth and scope, not partnership value

 High score reflects broad engagement

- Low score may indicate focused collaboration
- Max. points indicate possible unique opportunities

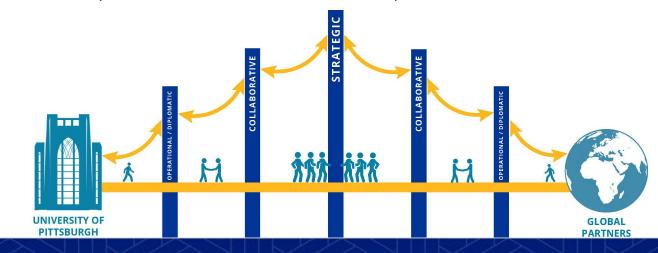


### Tiers of Partner Engagement

Operational/Diplomatic Partnerships: Transactional, specific

**Collaborative Partnerships:** Multifaceted, cross-departmental, diverse purposes

**Strategic Partnerships:** Complex, results-driven, multifaceted, university-wide collaboration and impact







# **GPITT Data**Categories

#### General (8)

Operational Insights

Number of Agreements

Length of Partnership

Signing Ceremony

Alignment with Impact Areas

## Mobility & Engagement (42.5)

People Mobility

Academic Opportunities

Visitors & Exchanges

Community Engagement

Global Operations
Support

Affiliates & Providers

Remote Engagement Academic (32)

Formal Training Programs

Joint Academic Endeavors

Credit Articulation

Pitt to You Programs

Accelerated Programs

**ELI Utilization** 

Remote Academics

Online Dual Degrees Research (17)

Publications

Funding

Research Impact

Active Research

Innovation Collaboration

Remote Research

Data points and weight determined with extensive socialization with data stewards and consultation with Pitt Statistics Consulting Center





## Partnership Tiers and Strategic Criteria



Operational/Diplomatic Partnerships (Scoring 13 or Less)

Serve transactional and potentially singular purposes.



Collaborative Partnerships (Scoring 14 and Above)

Involve multiple forms of collaboration, cross departments, and diverse purposes.



Strategic Partnership Criteria

**Diverse portfolio** of collaboration with minimum of 25 points.

Score at least 15% of potential points in **each** of 3 categories.



**Distribution Requirement** 

A partner's score must have a **diverse distribution** across categories for true **strategic** partnership status.



## **Key Considerations**

- Engage stakeholders early to:
  - Better understand partnership landscape
  - Ensure value-add to all
- Carefully consider language and framing
  - Assessment vs. Inventory
  - Strategic partners vs. Key Partners, etc.
- Proactively address faculty reticence ("Big Brother")
  - Identify touchpoints and create opportunities, not oversee/evaluate
  - Simplify and incentivize
- Understanding Resources
  - Connect data stewards before reinventing the wheel
  - Development of inventory tool and future updates
  - Realistic challenges with global engagement data systems





# **Takeaways: The NEED** for Assessment/Inventory

- Limited resources necessitate need for:
  - Identifying invested partners
  - Leveraging existing partnerships efficiently
  - Appropriately allocating resources
  - Recognizing growing partners for focused efforts
- All partnership levels vital to global engagement and institutional strategy but require <u>unique</u> forms of support
- Assessment benefits extend beyond partnership teams:
  - Enhanced reporting, understanding, and strategizing for leaders
  - Identification of connections and opportunities for individuals and faculty agendas



# Takeaways: Institutional BUY-IN Key Considerations & Developing Your Pitch



### **Institutional Alignment**

- Consider uniqueness of institutional goals
- Determine strongest indicators of a healthy/impactful partnership

#### **Determining Your Assessment Data**

- Assess and utilize existing information and data systems
- Determine which data points reflect strong partnership impact
- Consider weight of data points
- Avoid overly granular data
- Develop clear terminology and definitions

# Takeaways: Institutional BUY-IN Key Considerations & Developing Your Pitch



### **Identifying and Engaging Your Stakeholders**

- Engage diverse stakeholders & data stewards insitution-wide
- Determine audience access & sensitivities
- Create a socialization plan for leadership buy-in
- Communicate ROI for various stakeholders
- Customize reporting for various audiences

## **Setting Reasonable Expectations and Ensuring Sustainability**

- Set **reasonable expectations** of time & resources
- Ensure **sustainability** of processes & relevant data systems





## **Thank You**



#### Laura Daversa

Assistant Director, Global Partnerships & Events <a href="mailto:Laura.Daversa@pitt.edu">Laura.Daversa@pitt.edu</a>



#### Sarah Olson

Director of Global Partnerships solson3@ncsu.edu



#### **Vlad Likholetov**

Associate Director for Partnership Agreements vzl12@psu.edu



### Next Up

Monday February 19th 11:30-12:30

Session: Global Engagement Data as a Catalyst for Evidence-Based Decision Making

#### **Tomorrow**

Tuesday February 20th 10:30-11:30

Session: A New Era in Partnership
Strategies & Development:
Quality Over Quantity
Location: Marquis Salon 1





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# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS PROFESSIONALS



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