The Program for Academic Coaching through Tutoring (PACT) began in 1990 as a community outreach and service learning project of Duquesne University’s Michael P. Weber Learning Skills Center. Organized to provide afterschool and Saturday morning tutoring for children residing in the Hill District community, the Program was expanded in 1997 when an infusion of federal funds allowed the inclusion of in-school and afterschool tutoring services for children residing in Pittsburgh and surrounding communities.

Fall 2014 PACT tutees attend the following schools:

- Pittsburgh Allegheny School
- Walnut Grove Christian School
- Pittsburgh Liberty
- Minadeo Elementary
- Benjamin Fairless Elementary
- Spring Hill Elementary
- Imani Christian Academy
- Carmalt Academy of Science and Technology
- Barack Obama Academy of International Studies
- Linden Elementary
- Sunnyside Elementary
- Sterrett Classical Academy
- Chartiers Valley

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Tutor Emily Boring, a junior from Phoenixville, PA, is an Occupational Therapy major. She tutors PACT students on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. One method she uses to help her tutees grow is to have them read out loud to promote their reading fluency. Her most rewarding moment was when a child who previously struggled brought in an “A” graded test. She said “It lets you know that you’ve done something valuable.” When asked if she feels that the program has helped her grow, her response was, “Definitely. I’ve had to discover how people learn and really learn how to teach, which will help me as an Occupational Therapist later on in life.”

Saturday PACT is the centerpiece of the PACT service learning initiative. It has served Pittsburgh area elementary, middle and high school students and their families for the past 25 years. Participants are identified by their school principals to receive tutorial assistance on campus in reading, math, English composition, social studies and the sciences. Since its inception, more than 700 students have been served.

Evening PACT is the division of PACT that serves Pittsburgh area elementary, middle and high school students on and off the Duquesne University campus weekdays after school between the hours of 6pm and 8pm. Tutors provide assistance in reading, math, English composition, social studies, and the sciences. Since its inception in 1990, more than 500 students have been served.

Tutee Hillary Boyzo is in the 5th grade at Allegheny Traditional Academy and this is her third year as a PACT tutee. She really enjoys the upbeat atmosphere and the parties that the PACT sponsors. Hillary feels that her PACT tutor has helped by assisting her review and understand her math and science homework. Her favorite PACT activity is poetry, and outside of the program she likes to play basketball with her friends. She is also musically gifted and enjoys playing the piano and violin. When she grows up, she aspires to be a medical examiner, and thinks the PACT program can help her achieve her dreams.