What is PACT?

The Program for Academic Coaching through Tutoring (PACT) began in 1990 as a community outreach and service 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 school and afterschool tutoring services for children residing in Pittsburgh and surrounding communities. Duquesne University students serve as PACT tutors and are noted for the commitment to helping children who have come to them for learning support. Duquesne students tutor for course credit, as volunteers, or as college work-study students.

For more information, contact
Vicki R. Bush
PACT Tutees: Hilary and Angel

Hilary Boyzo, grade 8, attends Pittsburgh Science Technology Academy and Angel Boyzo, grade 3, attends Allegheny Traditional Academy. Hilary enjoys biology and plans to become a nurse. Hillary says: "I like my tutors; they are very funny and friendly, and they really help me a lot with my math and science." Hilary has more than one tutor who provide her with good advice and who help her with study strategies. Angel likes math and reading. He says: "The tutors are nice and help me with my school work; they make it easier for me to understand the material.” When he grows up, Angel plans to work with computers and design video games.

PACT Parent: Mr. Roberto Boyzo

Mr. Boyzo’s children have been attending PACT for the past seven years. He found PACT while looking for a program to assist his children with their academics. He described PACT as a “good program” that Hilary and Angel are always excited to attend. Mr. Boyzo shared that PACT has helped his children improve their academics; the program has had a positive impact on their attitude towards learning, studying, and being respectful. He hopes that in the future, PACT secures a Spanish-English tutor for Spanish speaking students.

PACT Tutor: Emily Caja

Emily, a Duquesne freshman majoring in business, will enroll in August 2018 for her sophomore year in the School of Education. A PACT work-study student, she now realizes that her long-term career goal is not business, but education. She now plans to work with children. She has had previous teaching experience as a camp counselor and as a tennis instructor.

Emily describes her role as a PACT tutor as primarily serving as a “mentor” for her students. She enjoys their company and hope that they feel the same way about her. She says that one of the most important aspects of her role as a PACT tutor is: “Making sure that my tutees are comfortable with me; I don’t want them to be afraid to ask me questions.” She has observed that some students don’t learn in a classroom setting as easily as others; she know that tutors have to be patient and respectful. She says that the best features of being a part of PACT is building relationships, and watching students interact with their peers.