

# Press Release



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## **Covestro further invests in RMU to create the Covestro Center for Community Engagement**

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- **New center expands the company's social purpose work training throughout Pittsburgh region**
- **Center's training programs help bring the global UN Sustainable Development Goals local**

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Covestro has awarded an additional \$400,000 grant to Pittsburgh-based Robert Morris University (RMU) to create the Covestro Center for Community Engagement, which will provide social purpose training programs to both corporations and nonprofits throughout Southwest Pennsylvania.

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The new Covestro Center for Community Engagement replaces the Covestro Institute for Engagement begun in 2015 at RMU. The Center will continue to work to build bonds between corporations and local nonprofit service organizations. To date, Covestro has invested with the university more than \$750,000 to support this work.

For corporate employees, the Center will offer innovative training programs designed to increase employee engagement and productivity through social purpose service work at local nonprofits serving the region. On the nonprofit side, the Center affords instruction in how these organizations can work more effectively with corporate volunteers to leverage their business expertise.

Many of the nonprofits that benefit from the corporate volunteers trained at the Center are working to address specific social and environmental issues outlined in the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). In Pittsburgh, Covestro is working to bring those global goals, such as Zero Hunger, No Poverty and Climate Action, to the local community.



“When Covestro first began this work, we understood that people need purpose in their lives and be able to contribute to the greater good,” said Rebecca Lucore, head of corporate social responsibility and sustainability at Covestro LLC. “Now, with the results of our new i<sup>3</sup> Index survey, we see that senior executives at some of the country’s largest companies across the country also understand the importance of empowering their employees’ personal sense of purpose and giving them more opportunities to engage meaningfully in their communities.”

The Covestro Center for Community Engagement (CCCE) will offer three training programs, including SkillShare, a skills-based volunteering program that uses business expertise to solve nonprofit business challenges, and BoardsWork!, which is designed to encourage business professionals’ informed participation in nonprofit and corporate governing boards. The third is the Executive Service Corps (ESC), which offers nonprofits a stable of highly trained volunteer project managers, facilitators and consultants from the corporate world.

In the new i<sup>3</sup> Index, skills-based volunteerism is seen by the Fortune 1000 CEOs/c-suite executives polled as an effective way to satisfy employees’ desire for purpose, while also increasing employees’ engagement and productivity in their work at the company. Additionally, the senior executives believe it has benefits for the company, particularly in the areas of leadership development and top talent recruitment.

The Center plans to grow participation to 200 SkillShare projects from 75, and increase the number of BoardWorks! volunteers from 700 to 1,500.

“We are deeply grateful to Covestro for their generous support and commitment to making the innovative work being done at the Center a national model,” said Derya Jacobs, vice president for corporate relations and senior vice provost at RMU.

“These kinds of partnerships are a key component of the *RMU 100* strategic plan, which calls on RMU to be the preferred strategic partner for corporations, organizations and professionals in the Pittsburgh region and beyond,” said Jacobs.

Key findings of the i<sup>3</sup> Index survey and a copy of the executive summary can be found at: [www.covestro.us/csr-and-sustainability/i3/covestro-i3-index](http://www.covestro.us/csr-and-sustainability/i3/covestro-i3-index).



**About Covestro LLC and i<sup>3</sup> (ignite, imagine, innovate):**

Covestro LLC is one of the leading producers of high-performance polymers in North America and is part of the global Covestro business, which is among the world's largest polymer companies with 2017 sales of EUR 14.1 billion. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, construction, wood processing and furniture, electrical and electronics, and medical industries. Other sectors include sports and leisure, cosmetics and the chemical industry itself. Covestro has 30 production sites worldwide and employed approximately 16,200 people at the end of 2017.

i<sup>3</sup> (ignite, imagine, innovate) is Covestro LLC's companywide corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative that aims to spark curiosity, to envision what could be and to help create it. Built on the three pillars of philanthropy (i<sup>3</sup> Give), employee volunteerism (i<sup>3</sup> Engage) and STEM education (i<sup>3</sup> STEM), i<sup>3</sup> seeks to create sustainable and lasting impacts.

Find more information at [www.covestro.us](http://www.covestro.us).

**About Robert Morris University:**

Through more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs across five academic schools, Robert Morris University (RMU) in Pittsburgh, Pa. enrolls more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from 48 states and 39 countries. A nationally ranked, doctoral degree-granting research university, RMU offers fully online courses as well as a traditional residential college experience at its campus on 230 scenic acres 17 miles from downtown Pittsburgh. The Colonials compete in 16 NCAA Division I sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, ice hockey, and lacrosse. Learn more at [rmu.edu](http://rmu.edu).

**Forward-Looking Statements**

This news release may contain forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Covestro AG. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in Covestro's public reports which are available at [www.covestro.com](http://www.covestro.com). The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.

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