

FIVE COUNTIES BEGIN INTERSTATE WORKFORCE COLLABORATIVE



**WEST CENTRAL
JOB PARTNERSHIP
WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT
AREA**

The Ohio/ Pennsylvania Five County Interstate Regional Leadership Committee met to discuss and plan strategies for the advancement of workforce and economic development met at FNB Corporation headquarters in Hermitage, PA on April 4th. The region includes Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties of Ohio and Mercer and Lawrence counties of Pennsylvania.

The committee reviewed a current research study being conducted in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties which identifies critical job skills in demand, find potential for skill shortages and project training needs in order to fill those shortages. The committee also considered expanding the study to include Mercer and Lawrence counties.

Another topic discussed was U.S. Rep. Jason Altmire (D - PA - 4th District) and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan's (D - OH - 17th District) "Tech Belt" proposal which would establish a corridor through the five counties. as the center of a technological region stretching from Cleveland to Pittsburgh. A summit for further development of the interstate concept will be held in August.



Gary Gulla, Assistant Manager for the City of Hermitage, speaks to the committee about the development of a workforce development center on the Lindenpointe Technology Campus in Hermitage.

A workforce development center for the electronics industry in Lindenpointe Technology Center in Hermitage is currently being developed and is projected to be completed in Spring 2009.

An update was given on the status of the committee's application for the U.S. Department of Labor's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) grant. The committee has completed the initial application and is waiting for the Department of Labor and Industry's request for the second

part of the process to be completed. The funds received would be used to identify potential protégés and to assist them in the development of STEM skills.

The committee discussed the RIG (Regional Innovation Grant) program. It will be used to focus on talent development and collaborate on regional economic transformation.

A regional summit meeting is planned for early 2009.

“ We have a highly educated and dedicated workforce and some of our nation's top research facilities right in our own backyard. . . . Our region is primed to become one of the top high tech corridors in the country and to lead the nation and the world with new innovations and high tech job creation.

- U.S. Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA- 4th District)



Happy Independence Day!

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**CareerLink of
Lawrence County
EMPLOYER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

July 11

8:00 a.m.
HR Audits for Small Companies
Bruce & Merrilees Electric
Company
930 Cass Street
New Castle, PA

August 1

8:00 a.m.
Performance Evaluations
Lawrence County CareerLink
102 Margaret Street
New Castle, PA

September 5

8:00 a.m.
Wellness Programs that Work
Inmetco
One Inmetco Drive
Ellwood City, PA

Pennsylvania
CareerLink

Lawrence County

102 Margaret Street
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WELDING PROGRAM A SUCCESS

In March, West Central Job Partnership in collaboration with the Northwest Industrial Resource Center and the Mercer County Career Center developed a customized welding instruction program which was conducted by Clarion University's Division of Continuing Education.

Fourteen trainees from five companies participated in the training program. The participating companies were: **Apex Engineered Products, Bucks Fabricating, Chevron Inc., Imperial Systems Inc. and Northeast Industrial Manufacturing Inc.**

Training was conducted at the Mercer County Career Center - which generously provided use of their facilities at a subsidized rate - and trainees were instructed in topics such as: Safety,



Participants from left to right are: Aaron VanSickle, Shawn King, Vincent Shaffer, Adam Greenlee, Dustin Schmidt, Clifford Hamilton, Jarrod Wittenauer, Craig Brick and James P. Orndorff (Instructor). Trainees not pictured are: Brandon Fraizer, Paul Gault, Jason Greggs, Dustin Hartnett, Mike Renninger, and Kyle Shook.

Review of Welding Codes and Documents, Power Sources, and Hands-on Customized Welding.

Funding for the program was

provided through an incumbent worker training grant made available through Governor Rendell's Job Ready PA Initiative.

T.E.E.N. VISITS TRUCK WORLD

On May 21st, West Central Job Partnership held a photo shoot at Truck World in Hubbard, OH for the Transportation Education and Economic Network (T.E.E.N.) that took place from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Footage taken at this event will be included in the T.E.E.N. informational DVD. The purpose of the DVD is to educate youth in a 17 county region about the educational and vocational opportunities in the logistics and transportation industry and will be ready for distribution this fall.



Eric Karmecy, Assistant Director of Workforce Development at West Central Job Partnership, and Sam Fadhli from Stevens Transport during the filming of the informational DVD in front of the T.E.E.N. trailer.

More information on T.E.E.N. can be found at: www.TeenIndustryPartnership.com

JOB FAIRS BRING EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS TOGETHER

Two job fairs were held in the month of June to bring together employers and job-seekers.

The Mercer county job fair was held on June 4th at the Radisson hotel in West Middlesex, PA. Over 52 employers registered for the fair and nearly 200 job-seekers attended the event.

The fair highlighted high-priority occupations fields of Healthcare, Transportation and Logistics, Manufacturing, Business Support Services, Skilled Trades and Financial Services.

The Lawrence county job fair was held at the New Englander banquet room in Neshannock Township, PA on June 11th. Over 60 local employers and 360 job-seekers attended the event.

Both job fairs were sponsored in part by the Manufacturing Education and Economic Network (M.E.E.N.) and the Workforce Investment Board.



Job-seekers filling out registration forms prior to the fair.



Debbie Gagliano, Employment Training Specialist, invites attendees to seek their fortunes at the Lawrence County Career Link booth.



Angela Palumbo, Mercer County Career Link Site Manager promotes the job fair on-air with WPIC's Joe Biro.



Raymond Klimchuk and Marianne Fleis welcome job-seekers and employers upon arrival.

Calendar of Events

July 9
WIB Meeting
 6:00 p.m.
 Radisson Hotel
 West Middlesex, PA

July 10
Governing Board Meeting
 1:30 p.m.
 Lawrence County Court-
 house
 New Castle, PA

July 18
**Senior and Health
 Education Fair**
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Shenango Valley Mall
 Hermitage, PA

September 10
WIB Meeting
 6:00 p.m.
 New Englander Banquet
 Center
 New Castle, PA

September 23
Job Expo
 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 The Chevy Centre
 Youngstown, OH

September 24
PA WIB Meeting
 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Hilton Hotel
 Harrisburg, PA

October 14
Youth Council Meeting
 7:30 a.m.
 Radisson Hotel
 West Middlesex, PA

Notice

West Central Job Partnership, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer, and all programs administered or operated by West Central Job Partnership, Inc. are equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to individuals with disabilities, and interpretation services are available, at no charge, for individuals who lack proficiency in English language skills.

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Mercer County
Commissioner

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Congratulations!

LOCAL INDIVIDUAL AND COMPANIES HONORED

West Central Job Partnership wants to offer its congratulations to the following honorees who were recognized in May at the Pennsylvania Partners conference in Hershey:

Jeniria Owens (Sharon, PA) was recognized by the PA Department of Labor and Industry as the Outstanding Youth Program Participant.

K.O. Greene's BBQ (Sharon, PA) was named as a 2008 Employer Honor Roll winner by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Ellwood Group, Inc. (Ellwood City, PA) was the recipient of the Governor's Workforce Development Award for Western Pennsylvania.

Congratulations also to **Berner International** (New Castle, PA) and **SRF America LLC** (New Castle, PA) for being named as the winners of the American Legion's 2008 Pennsylvania Employer of Veterans Award in the Medium and Small business categories, respectively. They were recognized in a ceremony in King of Prussia, PA.

VETERANS RECOGNIZE BERNER INTERNATIONAL

Berner International (New Castle, PA) received the 1st place Veterans of Foreign Wars 2007 - 2008 award for Small Employer of the Year and the 2nd place Veterans of Foreign Wars 2006 - 2007 award for Small Employer of the Year. It was honored at a ceremony at Berner Headquarters on June 11th.

Gary Zarilla, the Department of Labor and Industry's Local Veterans Employment Representative and Larry M. Wade Sr. Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Senior Vice Commander presented the awards.

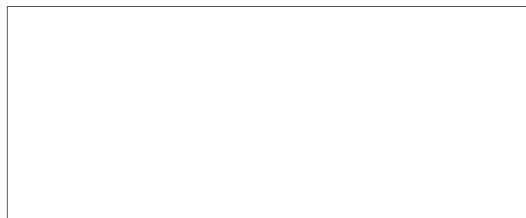


Pictured in front is Ms. Georgia Berner holding the 2nd place 2006 - 2007 and the 1st place 2007 - 2008 Veterans of Foreign Wars awards. Pictured from left to right in the second row are: Clint Runion, Jeff Hilyard, Dan Hilyard, Mark McNulty, Al Mazzocca and Gary Zarilla. In the third row are: Mike O'Relli, Tom Angle, Larry Wade Sr., Rob Sloan, Howard Lichtenthaler and Tim Donaldson.

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