



NTRPDC update



SERVING BRADFORD, SULLIVAN, SUSQUEHANNA, TIOGA, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

Local Youth Build Skills through Summer Employment



Summer Employment Program participants tour Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. Left to right: Thomas Stroud, Nicholas Davidson, Catherine Chandler, Caroline Chandler, Nakota Frye, Caitlin Willow, Susan Liu, Brandon Walters, Andrew Jampo, Monica Jampo, Brant Buchanan, Dylan Ray Marbaker, Logan Route, Tyler Benson, David Alvoid, and Austin Willow.

Local youth across the Northern Tier were able to earn a paycheck this summer while gaining work experience. Fifty-nine young people ages 14 to 21 participated in the Summer Employment Program in our five-county region. Through classroom sessions, site tours, and on-the-job experience, participants learned valuable skills that will shape their future working careers.

The six-week program began in June. It included a week of employer and college tours as well as workshops on topics

such as interviewing and resume writing, career exploration, finance and budgeting, healthy habits, team building, and services available through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). Youth were placed in jobs with participating employers and paid \$7.25 an hour. They were also given the opportunity to earn the National Retail Federation's certification in customer service—a nationally recognized credential that will help them obtain retail employment.

The 28 participating worksites represented the public and private sectors, for-profit companies, and non-profit organizations. They included area school districts, Project Grow, Sullivan County Library, Susquehanna Borough, Wheeland Lumber Company, Tioga County YMCA, Goodwill, Canyon County Cabs, Wellsboro Pet Complex, Wellsboro Borough, Mansfield Borough, TREHAB Inc., Wyoming County Senior Center, Interfaith Friends, Endless Mountains Visitor's Bureau, Wyoming County Recycling, and Star Hill Rest Home.

The Summer Employment Program is administered by Bradford County Action in Bradford County and TREHAB in Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties. Funding is provided by the Workforce Investment Act and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

For more information contact Sherry Felten, NTRPDC Workforce Development Program Manager, at 888-868-8800 or felten@northerntier.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.
September 19, 2014
November 21, 2014
kulick@northerntier.org

Economic Development Advisory Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.
October 8, 2014
hauser@northerntier.org

Local Management Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
11:00 a.m.
October 28, 2014
fay@northerntier.org

RTAC

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:00 a.m.
October 20, 2014
baker@northerntier.org

Workforce Investment Board

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.
October 15, 2014
warner@northerntier.org

Youth Council

NTRPDC Conference Room
9:30 a.m.
October 15, 2014
felten@northerntier.org

Upcoming Workshop for Agricultural Businesses

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Wysox Volunteer Fire Company

The Bradford County Agricultural Coalition invites local farms and other agricultural businesses to attend a free dinner and workshop on October 15, 2014, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Wysox Volunteer Fire Company.

The evening will begin with registration and a buffet dinner at 5:30, followed by remarks from several organizations throughout the region who help agricultural businesses succeed. The Bradford County Conservation District,

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and NTRPDC will provide information on public funding opportunities, agriculture best management practices, and technical assistance available to agricultural businesses. The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will discuss its business planning services for new enterprises or existing businesses looking to expand.

Planning partners for this event include the Bradford

County Conservation District, the Farm Service Agency, NTRPDC, and the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center.

Sponsors are AgChoice Farm Credit, Dairy Farmers of America, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. For more information or to register, please contact Tony Liguori at the Bradford County Conservation District at tony.liguori@pa.nacdnet.net or 570-265-5539, x114.

Small Business Survey

The Federal Reserve Banks of New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Atlanta and their regional partners are conducting a survey of small businesses to evaluate their access to and use of financial credit. The results of the survey will be used by participating institutions to enhance our understanding of small business credit needs and challenges. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

[Click to access survey](#)

Connecting Communities to the Susquehanna

Sayre and Athens partner to promote trail development

Sayre Borough, Athens Borough, and the Valley Joint Sewer Authority have partnered to plan and construct a trail along the Susquehanna River in Sayre and Athens. Futurescapes, a local nonprofit that has spearheaded this effort, has brought together Sayre and Athens as well as many other key organizations to address Riverfront Recreation. The Diahoga Trail, as it will be known, would connect the Athens Bridge to the Hayden Street/Higgins Avenue plateau. Eventually, the vision for the trail is to extend it northward beyond the Hayden Street/Higgins Avenue access point.

The goal is to provide a safe way for residents and visitors to view the river and en-

joy outdoor recreation. Many residents already walk near or along the river, but do so either on the road by the Athens Bridge or by creating their own path through the woods. A trail would provide a safer way to enjoy and promote the riverfront.

The trail would safely connect Downtown Teoga Square (Athens), Valley Playground (Athens), Sayre Riverfront Park (including the boat launch), and a portion of the Carantouan Greenway (Destiny Kinal Trail). The trail would be designed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards.

Partners include: Futurescapes; Susquehanna Greenway Partnership; Bradford County Conservation Dis-

trict; Endless Mountains Heritage Region; Todd Babcock, PLS; Civil and Environmental Consultants; NTRPDC; Athens Borough; Sayre Borough; Athens Township Parks and Recreation; and the Valley Joint Sewer Authority.

Project partners assisted in preparing a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for funds to support engineering and construction of the trail as well as parking improvements at the proposed access points and trailheads. Both Athens Borough and Sayre Borough, as strong supporters of this project, have worked together to provide services to help see this project through.



Unemployment Compensation Seminars Held

30 participated in Wellsboro and Towanda sessions

Two Unemployment Compensation (UC) seminars were held in the Northern Tier region in August and September: one in Wellsboro and one in Towanda. Thirty participants represented 19 businesses.

Hosted by PA CareerLink® and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the seminars guided employers through the UC claims process, beginning when an employee is determined financially eligible for benefits.

Cathy Van Valen was the featured speaker; topics included determining which

employers are eligible for relief from charges, how employers are notified of a person's eligibility for UC, how accounts are charged when multiple employers are involved, documentation and eligibility for UC, and deadlines for employers to file for relief from charges.

Also at the seminars, PA CareerLink® staff presented functions of the JobGateway® system that assist employers in their recruiting efforts. JobGateway® is Pennsylvania's operating system that allows businesses to advertise jobs and easily search and connect

to qualified candidates at no cost.

"These seminars provide information that helps employers better understand the UC program and how it affects their business. The seminars also provide employers an opportunity to meet with a UC representative and ask questions specific to their workplace, which they may not get otherwise," said Melissa Fleming, PA CareerLink® Site Administrator.

For more information on unemployment compensation, please visit www.uc.pa.gov.

Business Growth Resource Networks Forming

Facilitated by PREP partners with D2PA funding

Northern Tier Partnership for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) partners are establishing regional business growth resource networks as a way to help businesses share best practices, foster innovation, increase awareness of Commonwealth-sponsored resources, and provide CEOs with networking, educational, and supply chain opportunities. Networks being planned include:

- Small Business Owner Networks
- Marcellus Shale Supplier Networks
- Manufacturer Networks

Six networks are planned: one in each category for Tioga, Bradford, and Sullivan counties; and a second network in each category for Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. It is anticipated that networks will meet quarterly.

Costs for facilitating the business growth networks are supported in part by a \$24,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Discovered and Developed in PA (D2PA) program.

Northern Tier PREP partners include the Progress Au-

thority, Tioga County Development Corporation, Sullivan County Planning and Development, Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center (from the University of Scranton and Wilkes University), the Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, Penn State's PennTAP, and NTRPDC.

For more information, please contact Kim Barnes, NTRPDC Deputy Director, at 570-265-9103 or barnes@northertier.org.



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