

March 2021

ABC CREATE STEAM SHOW & TELL

ABC CREATE is very excited to share that the ABC CREATE STEAM Show & Tell 2021 is coming up soon and that registration is now open!

ABC CREATE is re-imagining its annual STEAM Showcase (typically a one-day conference style event held redesigning it with shorter, online period from April 8 - May 12. The set up is composed of three parts over the 6 weeks:

- ABC CREATE STEAM Show & Tell Kickoff - April 8th
- ABC CREATE STEAM Show & Tell Sessions - April 12th -May 11th
- ABC CREATE STEAM Show & Tell Celebration - May 12th



These sessions are designed to allow you to participate in what works for that ABC CREATE hopes will work for you. To register for the ABC CREATE STEAM Show & Tell, please click here.

CHIRP GRANT PROGRAM

The **Economic Growth Connection** has been engaged by Westmoreland County to administer the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP). Under this program, restaurants, bars, inns and others who have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for grant funding to alleviate revenue losses and pay eligible operating grants will be awarded up to \$20,000. To please visit EGC's website here.



Economic Growth Connection

VIRTUAL FORUM **MEETING**

The Forum is hoping that we will be able to hold in-person Forum meetings again in the near future. Until then, we plan to hold a virtual Forum meeting in the next few weeks. This meeting will be held via Zoom. As soon as there is a set date, we will announce it in a future newsletter. Please look out for an announcement via email from Anthony Princeton, along with the link and details for the Zoom meeting.

CAREER JOURNEYS VIDEO SERIES

The Forum has partnered with the Consortium for Public Education to help create Career Journeys. a video series focused on giving students a chance to explore careers by having informal conversations with people in a wide array of occupations spanning many industries.

To view more Career Journeys videos, along with supplemental materials for educators to help students explore careers, visit the Consortium for Public Education's website HERE.



Brittany Katofsky

Product Development Chemist PPG

VIRTUAL CAREER MENTORING UPDATE

The Forum, in partnership with the Consortium for Public Education, has started the pilot session of Virtual Career Mentoring. Mike Storms, Director of Operations for Elliott Group, graciously volunteered to partner with Jeannette City School District and one of their Career Counselors, Richard Schillow.

The pilot session includes 10 students and 5 Mentors from Elliott Group. The first session consisted of a broad introduction to Elliott Group, and will be followed by sessions in welding, machining, inspections & testing, assembly & material handling, and ending with a session about how to get hired in the manufacturing industry (not just Elliott Group). We look forward to having the rest of our school districts participate in Virtual Career



VR CAREER SNAPSHOT UPDATES

The Forum for Workforce Development, with the generosity of the **First Energy Foundation**, is working on creating a library of Virtual Reality Career Snapshots. This experience functions on the premise best outlined by author Philip Roth: "Seeing is believing and believing is knowing and knowing beats unknowing and the unknown."

The Virtual Reality Career Snapshot experience aims to transport students, educators, and parents to the workspace of high priority occupations within our region, giving the viewer a first-hand experience of a day in the life of a profession while also highlighting the different tools and skills necessary to succeed within that field. These experiences help to eliminate the need for district transportation to worksites, while also addressing business concerns with student visitation from a safety perspective.

Currently, the Forum is working with Stellar Precision, DMI Companies, and Ventana USA to create these experiences to showcase their companies and industries. In the next coming months, we plan to create these experiences with Quality Machined Products, TribLive, and Tronix 3D.

Do you have a company/industry students want to see and explore? Feel free to email with your thoughts and ideas. We look forward to this initiative creating more business partners and opportunities for our students in the Forum.

We could not have had success with Career Snapshots without the generous support of the First Energy Foundation. A huge thank you to the First Energy Foundation and their staff!





THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

