

THE FORUM for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

April 2021

FORUM MEETING & RECORDING

The Forum for Workforce Development and its members had our first Forum meeting of the year on April 28th. Anthony Princeton and Austin Anderson shared details and opportunities that have been offered in the past year, while also sharing some insights on what to look forward to in the coming academic year. Topics that were covered in our one and a half hour meeting were Virtual Career Mentorship, a "show and tell" of the Career Snapshot of Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center, financials, and possible grant funding for the Forum. The meeting was recorded for any member who could not be in attendance. You can listen and watch the meeting in its entirety below.



The Forum would not be where it is without our members. The Forum would like to thank all the Forum members for their support and patience as we come out of this past year stronger and more poised to offer better, more in-depth and meaningful experiences for our school districts and their students. Thank you!

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 expenses. In Westmoreland County, grants will be awarded up to \$20,000. To learn how to apply online and what documents will need to be submitted, please visit EGC's website [here](#).



Economic Growth Connection

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: DMI COMPANIES

The Forum would like to take a moment to thank Katie Hager and DMI Companies! Katie and her team are currently creating a **Virtual Reality Career Snapshot** that will showcase DMI Companies as a whole, while also highlighting some of their employees and their career journeys. Katie and DMI Companies are always at the forefront to assist the Forum and their community, and we thank them for participating in our Virtual Reality Career Snapshots opportunity!



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](#).



Paul Puleo

Senior VP for Small Business Banking
FNB Corporation

CTC CAREER SNAPSHOTS

The Forum for Workforce Development, thanks to funding from the **Westmoreland Fayette Workforce Investment Board**, has been working in partnership with **Westmoreland IU #7** to create virtual tours for all of the career and technology centers within Westmoreland County. These tours will be used during scheduling time to show students courses available to them at their CTC. Currently, the Forum is finalizing the Career Snapshot for Central Westmoreland CTC, while the Career Snapshot for Northern Westmoreland CTC is currently being worked on. We plan to have these Career Snapshots accessible to everyone by hosting these experiences on the Career Hub in the near future.



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.

VIRTUAL CAREER MENTORING

The Forum, in partnership with the Consortium for Public Education, just concluded our 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 included 10 students and 5 Mentors from Elliott Group. The first session consisted of a broad introduction to Elliott Group, and was followed by sessions in welding, machining, inspections & testing, assembly & material handling, and ended with a session about how to get hired in the manufacturing industry (not just Elliott Group). The students and mentors had a very interactive 6 weeks. Students had plenty of chances to ask questions about not only Elliott Group, but their mentor's career paths, their experiences within the manufacturing industry, what skills they need to be successful in their industry, and what different career pathways they can take to be a part of the industry. We want to extend a huge thank you to Mike Storms and his employees from Elliott Group for dedicating their time to their community and to Richard Schillow and his students at Jeannette City School District.



The Consortium for Public Education is offering separate webinars to employers interested in learning more about facilitating or participating in these small group career mentoring model. This model, which can be offered virtually or as a hybrid, not only helps students explore careers and learn about building professional relationships, but also give employers visibility among the next generation of workers. For schools, small group career mentoring can help expand mentoring opportunities and meet the **Pennsylvania Dept. of Education (PDE)** requirement for work-based learning experiences. Employers should register for the half-hour **May 6th webinar** [here](#). The half-hour session begins at noon.

We look forward to having the rest of our school districts participate in Virtual Career Mentoring in the near future.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

