



# THE FORUM

for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

May 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!

## GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Forum is currently looking to be funded by several sources heading into the 2021-2022 academic year.

On March 31, 2020, there was an application submitted to the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board's Business Education Partnership Grant for monies to assist with costs associated with further building out the Forum's Virtual Resources and supplement Austin Anderson's time spent on these projects.

Further, the Forum is seeking funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, centered around creating a Virtual Pathway System for the students of Forum Districts.

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: DR. CHRIS OLDHAM

The Forum for Workforce Development would like to take a moment to thank Dr. Christine Oldham, Superintendent for Ligonier Valley School District. Dr. Oldham is a founding member of the Forum, and a tireless advocate for her students. We want to take a moment to thank her for time and knowledge that she has shared with us as she has served as a member of the Forum's Steering Committee and as a board member for the Economic Growth Connection.

We wish her nothing but the best in her retirement, and she will be missed dearly. Thank you greatly for everything you have done, Chris!



## 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](#).



Steve Simqu

CAD & Product Manager  
DMI Companies

## POSSIBLE FORUM EXPANSION

The Forum for Workforce Development has in the past been focused solely on Westmoreland County, and has previously been named the "Westmoreland County Forum for Workforce Development." As we realize and understand that workforce development is a regional problem and not just a Westmoreland County problem, we changed our name to truly make ourselves a regional entity. At the Forum meeting (linked on the first page), Forum members were in agreement that this is a regional issue - living in one county, limiting brain drain, and giving our post-secondaries a wider client base. The Forum is currently having conversations with a representative with the Tri-County Workforce Investment Board to expand its programming further into Indiana, Armstrong, and Butler Counties. Conversations are at initial stages, but seem to be promising. We are looking to iron out details on what expansion would look like with the Steering Committee before moving towards any action. We will continue to update our members on any updates. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have by directing them to Anthony Princeton.

## CAREER SNAPSHOT UPDATES

One of the Forum for Workforce Development's virtual opportunities is called Virtual Reality Career Snapshots. The Forum, 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. Northern Westmoreland Career and Technology Center is currently in the works. You can view Central Westmoreland CTC's Career Snapshot [here](#).

Currently, the Forum is working with Stellar Precision, DMI Companies, Ventana USA, and New Century Careers to create Career Snapshots for each individual business. For New Century Careers, we are in the beginning stages of their experience. The Forum hopes that this will be an opportunity to advertise their facility while also showing manufacturers in our region that they can easily be involved with the workforce of tomorrow. This opportunity will help New Century Careers create a viable marketing piece for their website. A huge thank you to Janet Ward and the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board for connecting us with Neil Ashbaugh (President & CEO of New Century Careers) and New Century Careers.

The Forum is always looking for different industries and businesses to participate in Career Snapshots and any of our career exploration opportunities. 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.



## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

