

THE FORUM for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

July 2021

VIRTUAL CAREER MENTORING

The Forum for Workforce Development had our first pilot session of Virtual Career Mentoring earlier this year with Jeannette City School District and Elliott Group. This opportunity was provided by the **Consortium for Public Education**. Last month, the Consortium for Public Education held separate webinars for employers and for educators that were interested in learning more about facilitating or participating in this 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 gives employers visibility among the next generation of workers. For schools, this opportunity can help expand mentoring opportunities and meet the **Pennsylvania Dept. of Education (PDE)** requirements for work-based learning experiences. You can watch the Consortium's [Employer webinar here](#) and their [Educator webinar here](#). We plan and hope to have this experience for each school district built out by the end of the 2021 school year.

Have a business you want to have a career mentoring session with, or you want your business to participate? Let us know!

EGC ANNUAL EVENT

The **Economic Growth Connection** is hosting its Annual Event again on **September 28th at 5:30 pm**. Please look out for a save the date from EGC on their socials, email and/or a physical invitation. You can find their website for all of the updates regarding the Annual Dinner and what EGC does for the business community [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there!



Economic Growth Connection

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: WCIDC

The Forum for Workforce Development would like to take a moment to thank Kim Donnelly and the **Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)**. Kim is the Business Outreach Director for the IDC, and is always promoting the Forum to the numerous businesses she meets within Westmoreland County. We want to take a moment to thank Kim and her tireless efforts to help us bring business and industry to the Forum and the opportunities we offer. Thank you Kim!



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](#).



Leia Shilobod

Founder & Chief Executive Officer
InTech Solutions

PARTNERING BUSINESS OUTREACH

The Forum for Workforce Development, along with the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Economic Growth Connection (EGC), are always outreaching to businesses here in Westmoreland County. Kim Donnelly from the WCIDC, Kyle Martin from EGC, along with Austin Anderson from the Forum have outreached during the pandemic virtually, and have returned to in-person meetings in the past month. Outreach meetings occur at least once every week. Meetings this past month have included Fedco Manufacturing, Vangura Surfacing Products, MRC Global, and Lehigh Specialty Melting. Outreach meetings for August are still being finalized and scheduled.

Our intent is to simply share with the businesses in Westmoreland County information and resources that are available and how our organizations may be able to assist to make sure businesses succeed in every aspect.

Would you or your business like to meet with us? Please contact Austin Anderson and we will happily set up a meeting.

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 Jason Boone and the **Westmoreland IU #7** to create virtual tours for all of the career and technology centers (CTCs) within Westmoreland County. These tours will be used during scheduling time to show students courses available to them at their CTC. The Forum is currently creating a video & presentation for educators showcasing how to utilize and navigate the Career Snapshots and the platform that the Forum is using for these experiences. You can view Central Westmoreland CTC's Career Snapshot [here](#).

Thanks to funding from the **First Energy Foundation**, the Forum is also working with Stellar Precision, DMI Companies, Ventana USA, and New Century Careers (NCC) to create Career Snapshots for each individual business. For NCC, the Forum hopes this will be an opportunity to advertise New Century Careers' facility while also showing manufacturers in our region that they can easily be involved with the workforce of tomorrow. This opportunity will also help New Century Careers create a viable marketing piece for their website. The other experiences are in full swing and are in the process of being captured.

The Forum is excited to announce that **TribLive** is on board as a participating business for Career Snapshots. A thank you to John Allison, Director of Content and Lindsay Bock, Director of Marketing, for taking the time to create a Career Snapshot for our students within the Forum.

As a note, the old platform we used for our first Career Snapshots of the Advanced Technology Center and Tenaska was shut down at the end of June, so we took the time to re-create these tours on the new platform. These opportunities are currently being updated.

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? Do you want your business to participate? Please contact Austin Anderson with questions 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!

