

THE FORUM for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

August 2021

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 when possible. Outreach meetings occur at least once every week. Meetings this past month have included NDX (Albensi Dental Laboratories), Vangura Surfacing Products, Harliss Specialties Corporation, Compositidie Inc., CCF Industries and FlexScreen. Outreach meetings for September 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 (aanderson@egcw.org) and we will happily set up an outreach meeting.

EGC ANNUAL EVENT

The Economic Growth Connection is hosting its Annual Event this year on September 28th at 5:30 pm at Bella Terra Vineyards. You can find the Annual Event details, along with an invitation and a sponsorship form [here](#). Please support the Annual Event by sponsoring the event or buy purchasing a ticket. You can find their website for updates regarding the Annual Event and what EGC does for the business community [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there!



Economic Growth Connection

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The Forum for Workforce Development would like to take a moment to thank Chad Amond and the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce. Chad Amond, President & CEO, has always been an advocate of the Forum and our mission. The Economic Growth Connection will be honoring Chad as one of the true champions of economic development in Westmoreland County at the Annual Event later this month. A huge thank you to Chad and the Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce!



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](#).



Stephen Gerba

Automation Engineer
DMI Companies

PARTNERUP PROGRAM

The Forum for Workforce Development has met with Brianna McMeekin, Development Program Manager for the **PartnerUp** program. The PartnerUp program is a business-led collaborative that builds partnerships between high school students and educators in underserved communities to employers with career opportunities.



Through an employer-designed 11th & 12th grade curriculum, customized experiences and access to employer resources, PartnerUp empowers students to enter, and thrive in, a job market immediately after high school education. For Educators, PartnerUp gives you access to employer perspectives and expertise that enhance the real-world application of your classroom lessons and levels the playing field for your students considering careers immediately after graduation. For Employers, you have talent needs, and extraordinary talent is right in your own back yard. PartnerUp provides immediate access to thousands of students in your community and the opportunity to shape your future workforce.

Is your business interested in participating in this program? Contact Anthony Princeton (aprinceton@egcw.org) for more details & how to get involved.

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** and **FlexScreen** are on board as participating businesses for Career Snapshots. These companies are elated to be on board and are ready to show off their companies, facilities, and what they offer to the future workforce - our students.



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!

