

# THE FORUM for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

October 2021

## 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.

Know a business that would be interested in participating in PartnerUp? Contact [Anthony Princeton](#) for more details & how to get involved.

## CHAIR OF THE FORUM

The Forum is excited to announce our new Chair of the Forum, [Dr. Tuesday Stanley](#), President of Westmoreland College. Dr. Stanley has been a member of the Forum for Workforce Development since our inception and currently serves as a member of our Steering Committee.

We would be remiss not to thank Dr. Shannon Wagner, Superintendent for Burrell School District, for her selfless dedication of time and leadership as Chair of the Forum.

We look forward to the direction and ideas that Dr. Tuesday Stanley will bring to the Forum. Please help us in welcoming Dr. Stanley!



## NOVEMBER 10TH FORUM MEETING

The Forum is planning our November meeting for November 10th from 11am to 2pm. This in-person meeting is being hosted by General Carbide at their new facility. This meeting will consist of a tour of General Carbide's new facility, along with a couple of speakers and lunch provided by General Carbide.



This meeting is open to any Forum members. We ask that any members attending RSVP by November 3rd via email. Details will be sent via email to all attendees. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the meeting, please let us know. We look forward to seeing everyone at General Carbide!

## 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](#).



Lauren Risser

Research Assistant  
UPMC Children's Hospital

## 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**. Earlier this year, 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 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 [Anthony](#) or [Austin](#) know!

## CAREER SNAPSHOTS

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 tools for educators showcasing how to utilize and navigate the Career Snapshots and the platform that the Forum is using for these experiences.

Thanks to funding from the **FirstEnergy Foundation**, the Forum is also working with Stellar Precision, DMI Companies, Ventana USA, New Century Careers (NCC), TribLive, National Dentex Laboratories and FlexScreen to create Career Snapshots for each individual business.



Businesses and organizations we plan to ask and include in this opportunity are Redstone, Aglie Additive, Smail Auto, S&T Bank, K Castings, FirstEnergy and General Carbide.

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!

