

December 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**. 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!

## THANK YOU!

The Forum would like to take a moment to thank all of our members, including our school districts, superintendents, business partners, and post-secondary institutions. 2021 was a strong year for the Forum with Career Snapshots, Virtual Career Mentoring, grant funding from the First Energy Foundation and Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board, Career Journeys, our first in-person meeting at General Carbide, and much more. The Forum, along with your support, is set up to have a prosperous and pivotal year in 2022. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year!



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: GENERAL CARBIDE

The Forum would like to take a moment to thank Mona Pappafava-Ray, Randy Roadman, and everyone at **General Carbide** for opening the doors for us and our school districts. Our first in-person meeting was held in November was an absolute success and provided an opportunity for our educators to connect with General Carbide and their gracious staff. We're excited about the partnerships that are on the horizon after this event and look forward to assisting General Carbide educate our students - the future workforce. Thank you again to 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](#).



**Bhanu Narne**

Business Integration Manager  
Kennametal

## 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.

## 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.

We're happy to announce that DMI Companies' Career Snapshot is finished and ready to be shared with everyone! A huge thank you to Katie Hager and her team at DMI Companies for their dedication and hard work for this opportunity. This Career Snapshot is the standard for all of the Forum's Career Snapshots, and we look forward to sharing this opportunity with other companies and our Forum members. You can view [DMI's Career Snapshot here](#).

Thanks to funding from the **FirstEnergy Foundation**, the Forum is also working with Stellar Precision, 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, Agile Additive, Smail Auto, K Castings, FirstEnergy and General Carbide. We have a meeting scheduled with S&T Bank in early December to discuss the Forum and this opportunity.

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!

