

THE FORUM for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

May 2022

PARTNERUP

The Forum 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 perceptiveness 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.

The Forum is aiming to launch a 5 to 7 session pilot program of PartnerUp during the 2022-2023 academic year. Due to cohort sizes, this will be a collaborative program between Forum school districts.

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

DIGITAL FOUNDRY GRAND OPENING

On June 1st, The Digital Foundry will be opening its doors for the first time. The Forum is currently in talks with the Digital Foundry staff to open up programming to the students of Forum affiliated school districts, as well as students across the region. We are looking forward to seeing how the Digital Foundry will impact our current and future workforce, industry and education for Westmoreland County and beyond!

To Register for the Digital Foundry Open House on 6/24, [click here!](#)



GENERAL CARBIDE & THE FORUM

The Forum is proud to announce that through its partnership with General Carbide, will be offering 3 in-person student activity and tour days at the company's facilities located in Hempfield Township. While the exact details and itinerary of these exploration days are still being worked out, they will feature elements of career exploration, hands on activity and future ready skills training. The event will take place on the following dates:

- 9/21/2022
- 9/18/2023
- 4/5/2023

More information about the day, as well as date registration is forth-coming.

WELCOME WENDILYN HURLEY

In May, Wendilyn Hurley joined the Forum staff as the Outreach and Projects Coordinator. In her new role, Wendi is responsible for building and maintaining the relationships that are so vital to executing the Forum's mission and vision. Beyond outreach, Wendi will be playing a key role in management of Virtual Reality Career Snapshots, which fits her background perfectly.

Wendi has held roles in both nonprofit and private sector industries, from auto financing to textiles to public utilities and more. Most of her experience is in project management, marketing and communications. She has a bachelor's in communications with a minor in graphic communication technology from California University of Pennsylvania and also an associate's degree in liberal arts and related certificates from Westmoreland County Community College. Welcome **Wendi!**



PARTNERSHIP WITH GACC

In a meeting on May 23, 2022, with representatives from the German American Chamber of Commerce and Greensburg Salem School District we learned about a dual apprenticeship program that aims to increase the hire-ability of students uncertain of their post high school plans.

The program using curriculum vetted by the Pittsburgh chapter of the German American Chamber of Commerce, follows strategies that have proven effective globally and affords students opportunities, in several occupation areas via a pre-apprenticeship program taught during school hours and can lead to an apprenticeship with a partnering business post-graduation.

The Forum has signed on as a partner in this program, aiming to increase business partners available to students in the current program, as well as increase the scale of the program to other Forum affiliated school districts moving forward. This program will be open to employer not affiliated with GACC as well.



CAREER SNAPSHOTS & TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

Last year, the Forum for Workforce Development got a significant start to one of our virtual opportunities, Career Snapshots. Thanks to funding from the **FirstEnergy Foundation** and the **Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board**, the Forum completed 4 of these experiences last year, while also starting experiences with a handful of others and outreaching to many more. Completed experiences include the Advanced Technology Center, Tenaska Power Generating Facility, Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center, and DMI Companies. These experiences are now being held on the Career Hub.

- [Advanced Technology Center \(ATC\)](#)
- [Tenaska Power Generating Facility](#)
- [Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center](#)
- [DMI Companies](#)
- [New Century Careers](#)

In order to expedite the creation process of these tours, the Forum is seeking your students help! With the Help of the [Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board](#), The Forum is offering a **paid internship** opportunity to students with an interest in a career of marketing, video production or any form of Journalism. Any student interested in applying should reach out to [Anthony Princeton](#)

For anyone wanting to learn how to navigate and utilize Career Snapshots, the Forum has created a tool to easily learn how to walk through these experiences and how they can be utilized in the classroom. You can find the [Career Snapshot tool here](#) and on the Career Hub in the near future.

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 [Anthony Princeton](#) 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!

