

## Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Hosts Second Annual Internship Summit

July 2023 – For the second time, the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) has coordinated and hosted a professional development day for local interns. On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, the Experience Works! PLUS Internship Summit welcomed Experience Works! PLUS interns and worksite supervisors, SWPA BotsIQ summer interns, and local workforce development partners to participate in networking, panels, workshops, and more.

Kicking off in 2018, the WFWIB’s Experience Works! PLUS internship program connects local students to internship opportunities in the area that align with their career interests. The program’s core model is to provide wages to students fulfilling these opportunities as they are unpaid or would not exist without the support of the program. This model allows interns to gain valuable career experience and provides a no-cost opportunity for local businesses to build their current and future workforce. Experience Works! PLUS helps students connect what they are learning in the classroom to actual work and connect the dots on the value of continuing their education. Furthermore, the program creates awareness of quality careers available to young adults to support them with remaining in the local area rather than moving out of state.

Beyond the internship experience itself, the WFWIB’s Experience Works! PLUS program provides career readiness and professional development activities to all participating interns. Interns will receive information on and actively participate in portfolio development, financial literacy, interview preparation, workplace etiquette education, and more. The Experience Works! PLUS Internship Summit dives deeper into many of these topics during its day-long event but also allows for the interns to meet face-to-face and network with their peer and local business representatives.

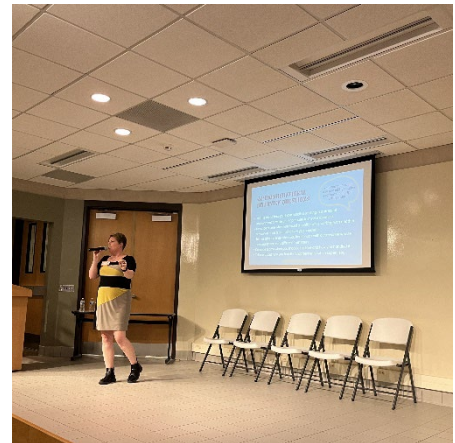
The event commenced with free professional headshots for all attending interns, breakfast, and open networking. Following Opening Remarks, the Internship Summit’s sessions started with a presentation by Workforce180 & Metrix Learning Co-President Mike Fazio and an employer panel featuring local representatives



from Manufacturing, Media, Business/Finance, and Psychology/Counseling. Fazio's presentation illustrated the differences in work ethics and values among different generations. Attendees were tasked with thinking about how they plan to effectively work and collaborate with those that have different mindsets, processes, and perspectives. Employer panelists shared best practices and methods for finding the right career fit, provided ways to stand out as new hires, and answered questions from the attending interns directly.



The afternoon featured a financial literacy workshop provided by PNC Bank to answer interns' questions regarding credit scores, budgeting, and student loans. A panel of previous workforce development program participants were welcomed to share their experience from being a participant to fulltime employee. To end the day, WFWIB Workforce Development Director Shawna Little provided a crash course in career preparation, touching on interviewing, salary negotiation, and more.



"I greatly enjoyed watching the interns meet and interact with one another and engage in the various sessions throughout the day," shared WFWIB Programs Assistant Caitlyn Slezak. "As program participants, they have no idea who else is in the program, so giving them the opportunity to connect and relate to one another is so important. The upbeat energy carried with them the entire event."

Overall, the successful Internship Summit welcomed 63 attendees, 33 of which were interns. The WFWIB would like to extend a very appreciative thank you to all its attendees, speakers, panelists, moderators, and staff that made this event possible.

The Experience Works! PLUS internship program is accepting applications from interested students and businesses on a rolling basis and encourages those interested to apply. For program information and how to apply, please visit the Experience Works! PLUS webpage [here](#).

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### About the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is a non-profit entity consisting of appointees from the business, education, and labor sectors of Westmoreland-Fayette counties. The board

is empowered to lead workforce development activities in Fayette and Westmoreland counties. The WFWIB is funded by the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), which provides funding to federal workforce programs and local Workforce Development Boards. The WFWIB oversees the three PA CareerLink® centers that are located in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties: PA CareerLink® Westmoreland County at Youngwood, PA CareerLink® Fayette County, and PA CareerLink® Alle-Kiski. For more information about the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board, please visit [www.WestFayWIB.org](http://www.WestFayWIB.org). The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For federal funding information, visit [www.westfaywib.org/resources/](http://www.westfaywib.org/resources/).