

For Immediate Release – February 2024
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Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Receives PA Dept. of Labor & Industry “Industry Partnership” Funding.

To continue supporting and strengthening Westmoreland and Fayette Counties’ Healthcare and Manufacturing industries, the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) has received additional funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry to continue its two Industry Partnerships.

The local Healthcare and Manufacturing industries were selected as industries of focus due to the number of high priority occupations each industry offers. High Priority Occupations, or HPOs, are in-demand occupations that provide stable employment, growth opportunities, and family-sustaining wages.

Since 2022, the WFWIB’s Healthcare Industry Partnership and Manufacturing Industry Partnership have convened employers from the respective industries to discuss industry challenges such as recruitment, training, upskilling, and regional perceptions. Through cross-sector partnerships that include employers, community partners, local service providers, and educational intuitions, the WFWIB has facilitated initiatives that develop relevant solutions and coordinate available resources. Today, the WFWIB convenes more than 20 healthcare and 30 manufacturing representatives from local organizations to participate in industry meetings, best practices workshops, and guest speaker events.

To further support organizations in building their workforce, each of the WFWIB’s Industry Partnerships coordinates opportunities for youth and young adults. Career awareness activities, such as field trips, facility tours, work experiences, and internships, are supported by the WFWIB’s Industry Partnerships to connect the future workforce to the Westmoreland-Fayette area’s job opportunities.

Training additionally plays a role in the Industry Partnerships’ success. Healthcare and Manufacturing organizations are encouraged to use training funds through their Industry Partnership or work with the WFWIB to connect with their local PA CareerLink® center. Through these opportunities,



organizations can train and upskill current staff and support staff in receiving industry-recognized certifications.

“I’ve been incredibly grateful for Roechling’s involvement with the Manufacturing Industry Partnership through the WFWIB over the past two years,” shared Rochling Industrial Human Resources Manager Brianne Summy. “Specifically, our organization has benefitted from being able to provide our employees with additional training as well as networking with other industry professionals to develop best practices in areas such as apprenticeship opportunities, recruitment and retention strategies, and community engagement. I’m looking forward to continuing my work with the Industry Partnership and am excited for the opportunities ahead.”

Through its new grant, the WFWIB intends to continue established Industry Partnership activities, expand training opportunities, and emphasize collaboration across and within sectors through June 2025. Collaboration will take place through the inclusion of more diverse partnerships, networking opportunities, and connecting involved industry representatives to other workforce development efforts in the local area.

The WFWIB’s Healthcare and Manufacturing Industry Partnerships will convene in April, May, and June. Partnership convenings utilize a hybrid format to ensure partners and interested attendees can attend regardless of location. Those interested in learning more are encouraged to contact Industry Partnership Specialist Vicki Meier at vmeier@westfaywib.org or visit the WFWIB’s Industry Partnership webpages for [Healthcare](#) and [Manufacturing](#).

Read the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry’s official press release [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. 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/.

