

Press Release

Tuesday, November 12, 2024



Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Secures \$150,000 Grant for Business Education Partnership Program for Ongoing Support

Westmoreland and Fayette Counties, PA – November 12, 2024 – The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is proud to announce that it has been awarded \$150,000 under the Business Education Partnership Program (BEP) for 2024. This funding was made possible by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, which will continue to support initiatives aimed at enhancing workforce development and creating partnerships between businesses and educational institutions within the Westmoreland and Fayette Counties.

The grant will enable WFWIB to support programs designed to bridge the skills gap in local communities, ensuring that businesses have access to a well-trained workforce. This funding will also support collaborative efforts that align educational outcomes with the needs of employers, particularly through K-12 initiatives. These K-12 efforts, backed by employers and local economic development partners, aim to integrate career awareness and essential skills development into school curricula. By strengthening these partnerships, the programming can help students gain early exposure to high-demand occupations in sectors such as healthcare and manufacturing, and grows a stronger connection between education and local industry needs.

"We are thrilled to receive this funding from the PA Department of Labor & Industry," said Janet Ward, Executive Director of WFWIB. "This continued support will help sustain and expand essential programs that address the challenges faced by our local workforce and businesses. At WFWIB, we are dedicated to strengthening partnerships and providing the resources necessary to create lasting, sustainable career pathways for our community members."



Additionally, key program activities consist of industry tours, career camps, career fairs, virtual reality experiences, dual enrollment opportunities, leadership and entrepreneurship training, essential skills development, and job shadowing.

With this funding, WF-BEP activities commenced in the fall of 2024 and will continue through the summer of 2026.

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/.

Presented By:

Janet Ward | Executive Director

