

Press Release

Thursday, October 30, 2025



Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Receives Grant to Support Career Readiness Programs

Youngwood, PA — The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) has received a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to expand its Teacher in the Workplace (TIW) and Experience Works! PLUS (EWP) programs. These initiatives are designed to strengthen youth career readiness, foster educator-industry collaboration, and build a stronger, more skilled regional workforce.

Through Teacher in the Workplace (TIW), local K-12 educators gain firsthand exposure to high-demand industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, business, information technology, and the trades. Participants tour businesses, engage with industry professionals, and explore how workplace expectations and skill needs can be better reflected in classroom instruction. In collaboration with local Career and Technology Centers (CTCs) and industry partners, educators integrate real-world experiences into lesson planning to better align instruction with regional workforce trends and support career readiness.

The Experience Works! PLUS (EWP) program offers high school seniors and postsecondary students paid internships that align with their career goals. Participants gain valuable hands-on experience, develop essential workplace skills, and receive guidance from WFWIB staff throughout the process. Employers benefit from a structured internship model supported by a Guide to Hosting an Intern, which helps ensure meaningful learning experiences for both students and businesses. Together, these initiatives advance WFWIB's mission to lead workforce development efforts that connect individuals with relevant skills and employers with qualified talent. By building strong connections among education, business, and community partners, WFWIB helps keep local talent in the region and supports local employers, strengthening the economy and providing young people with clear pathways to success.

"We are deeply grateful for the Richard King Mellon Foundation's continued investment in our workforce," said Janet Ward, Executive Director of the WFWIB. "Their support allows us to help educators and students experience firsthand how education and career preparation work together to shape the future of our local area."



About the Richard King Mellon Foundation

Founded in 1947, the Richard King Mellon Foundation is the largest foundation in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and one of the [50 largest in the world](#). The Foundation's 2024 year-end net assets were \$3.1 billion, and its Trustees in 2024 disbursed more than \$155 million in grants and program-related investments. The Foundation focuses its funding on six primary program areas, delineated in its [2021-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

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/.

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