



Press Release

Friday, May 29, 2026

Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Commemorates 25 Years of Advancing Workforce Development Across Westmoreland and Fayette Counties

May 20, 2026 – The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a luncheon recognizing a quarter century of service to workers, employers, community partners, education and training providers, and the workforce system across Westmoreland and Fayette counties. The anniversary celebration brought together elected officials, county commissioners, state legislators, board members, staff, employers, community partners, sponsors, and friends of workforce development to honor the organization’s history and continued role in advancing workforce development throughout the area.

The program opened with welcome and opening remarks from WFWIB Board Chairperson Dr. Doug Decker, followed by lunch and an event address from WFWIB Executive Director Janet Ward. A highlight of the day was the presentation of four official proclamations recognizing the WFWIB’s 25 years of dedicated service and continued investment in workforce development. Proclamations were presented to Executive Director Janet Ward on behalf of the Senate of Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Westmoreland County, and Fayette County. These recognitions acknowledged the WFWIB’s longstanding work to connect individuals to career opportunities, support employers in meeting workforce needs, and advance a responsive workforce system throughout Westmoreland and Fayette counties.

Elected officials and representatives who attended included Westmoreland County Commissioners Sean Kertes, Doug Chew, and Ted Kopas; Fayette County Commissioners Harry Kaufman and Vince Vicites; Senator Patrick Stefano; the Honorable Eric Davanzo; the Honorable Ryan Warner; and the Honorable Jill Cooper. “These proclamations are not only a recognition of the WFWIB’s history, but also of the many people, organizations, and partnerships that have helped carry this work forward,” said Janet Ward, Executive Director of the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board. “For 25 years, our mission has been rooted in collaboration, aligning resources, supporting employers, and helping individuals and families connect to opportunities that can improve their lives and futures.”

As part of the program, Legacy Sponsor speakers from Apprenticeship HQ and General Carbide Corporation shared remarks highlighting the value of workforce partnerships and the importance of investment in local talent development. The event also included recognition presentations honoring past and present WFWDB board members, outstanding employers, outstanding community partners, and current and former WFWIB staff. These recognitions highlighted the individuals and organizations whose leadership and service have contributed to the board's work over the years. "We are proud of what has been accomplished over the past 25 years, but we also recognize that this work has always been shared work," Ward said. "Our progress has been made possible through partnership, collaboration, and a shared commitment to creating opportunity. Together, we will continue working to ensure that workforce development remains a source of opportunity, stability, and progress for Westmoreland and Fayette counties."

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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