



Press Release

Friday, May 15, 2026

Lisa J. Honored with the Governor's Achievement Award at the PWDA Conference

Hershey, PA – May 7, 2026 – The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is thrilled to announce that Lisa J. has been awarded the Governor's Achievement Award for Individual Jobseekers during the Governor's Individual Award Luncheon at the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association (PWDA) Driving the Future Forward - 42nd Annual Conference in Hershey, PA.

The Governor's Achievement Award, presented jointly by the PWDA and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional determination and successfully utilized workforce development resources to achieve educational and employment success.

Lisa began her journey with PA CareerLink® Westmoreland County in Youngwood in October 2023 after being accepted into the Nursing Program at Westmoreland County Community College. Through funding provided by the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board and the guidance of PA CareerLink® staff, Lisa was able to pursue her training and stay focused on her long-term career goals. Lisa was nominated for this award by Mary Barbour, Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc., Title I Employment Specialist.

Lisa began classes in January 2024 and worked diligently to complete the program. In December 2025, she graduated with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing. Her hard work and perseverance led to an opportunity with Independence Health, where she now serves as a nurse. Lisa expressed appreciation for the encouragement and support she received throughout her educational journey. She shared that the opportunity to complete her training helped turn a long-standing goal into a career, allowing her to build a stronger future for herself and her family.

"The journey to earning my nursing degree at Westmoreland County Community College began with equal parts determination and hope," Lisa said. "When I was given the opportunity to have my schooling paid for through PA CareerLink®, it felt like a door opened at exactly the moment I needed it most. That support turned a dream into a real, achievable path."



“Through hard work, perseverance, and the belief that a better future was possible I successfully completed my nursing degree,” she added. “Now, as a nurse, I am prepared to give back to the community that helped lift me up.”

Lisa’s success demonstrates that when determination is met with the right support, dreams can become reality.

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

