WFWIB
Workforce Investment Board
Westmoreland & Fayette Counties

Press Release

Monday, November 9, 2026



Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board Awarded $150,000 to Expand Career Opportunities for Students

Westmoreland and Fayette Counties, PA | **November 9, 2026** – The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded $150,000 through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry's Business Education Partnership (BEP) Program for 2026. The funding will support the Westmoreland-Fayette Business Education Partnership (WF-BEP) in expanding career exploration, hands-on learning, and workforce readiness opportunities for middle and high school students throughout Westmoreland and Fayette counties.

The grant will support initiatives focused on three key areas: career exposure, career experience, and career readiness. These efforts will introduce students to high-demand occupations, provide opportunities to gain practical experience in workplace settings, and help develop essential employability skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and professionalism. Through collaboration with local businesses, educational institutions, and community partners, the WF-BEP will also help students, families, and educators better understand available career pathways, education and training requirements, and opportunities leading to family-sustaining wages.

"*This funding provides an important opportunity to expand how we connect students with career pathways and local employers,*" said Janet Ward, Executive Director of the WFWIB. "*By bringing businesses and educators together, we can provide students with valuable experiences that help them explore their interests, develop workplace skills, and better prepare for their futures.*"

Program activities may include industry tours, career camps, career fairs, job shadowing, work-based learning experiences, career simulations, and employability skills training. The initiative will also support opportunities for educators to engage with businesses and gain firsthand knowledge of workplace expectations and evolving workforce needs.

Through this investment, the WF-BEP will help connect classroom learning with real-world career opportunities while supporting workforce development priorities in 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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