



NTRPDC update



SERVING BRADFORD, SULLIVAN, SUSQUEHANNA, TIOGA, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

Is Your Company Making a Difference?



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has announced the second Governor's Impact Awards competition. The awards recognize Pennsylvania companies for positively impacting the local community, the state, or the global

market. Companies can nominate themselves or be nominated by the Northern Tier PREP (Partners for Regional Economic Performance) in one or more categories:

- Jobs First
- Community Impact
- Small Business Impact
- Entrepreneur Impact
- Export Impact

Up to five Northern Tier companies can be nominated in each category. The Commonwealth's panel of judges will choose a finalist for the Northern Tier in each category and all nominees will enjoy a

Governor's Luncheon where the winners will be announced.

"This is a great opportunity to recognize and honor Northern Tier companies who have dedicated their time and energy to making the Northern Tier region a better and brighter place to live, work, and do business," says Kim Barnes, NTRPDC Deputy Director. For more details on the Impact Awards or to nominate a company, please contact Kim Barnes at 570-265-1542 or barnes@northerntier.org, or visit <http://www.newpa.com/business/impact-awards>.

Westfield Tannery Site a Keystone Opportunity Zone

The Westfield Business Park (Westfield, Tioga County), formerly Westfield Tannery, has been designated a Keystone Opportunity Zone by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This designation provides tax exemption for 10 years. The ultimate goal is to complete the necessary environmental clean-up and redevelop the 17.5-acre site to bring jobs back to Westfield.

NTRPDC and TCDC partnered with the taxing bodies for Westfield: Northern Tioga School District, Tioga County, Westfield Borough, and Westfield Township. These partners saw the significant opportunities the redevelopment of this site offers for the Westfield area and agreed to make the site tax exempt to encourage redevelopment. After the three taxing bodies agreed to this initiative, NTRPDC worked with TCDC to

apply to DCED for the status.

The former Westfield Tannery closed its doors in 2005; approximately 200 jobs were lost. Since that time, the site has not been useable. TCDC has taken ownership of the site to oversee its cleanup and encourage reinvestment by the private sector.

For more information contact Rachel Hauser, NTRPDC Economic Development Program Manager, at 570-265-1529.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.
March 21, 2014
kulick@northerntier.org

Economic Development Advisory Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.
April 9, 2014
hauser@northerntier.org

Local Management Committee

NTRPDC Conference Room
11:00 a.m.
January 28, 2014
fay@northerntier.org

RTAC

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:00 a.m.
February 10, 2014
baker@northerntier.org

Workforce Investment Board

NTRPDC Conference Room
10:30 a.m.
February 19, 2014
warner@northerntier.org

Youth Council

NTRPDC Conference Room
9:30 a.m.
February 19, 2014
felton@northerntier.org



Technology Training Available

NTRPDC will be offering an Online Business Technical Training (OBTT) Program for companies seeking to sustain and enhance their operations. Businesses, unemployed individuals, and students, as well as local governments, may participate in this program.

For more information please contact Jeff Field, NTRPDC Information Technology Program Manager, at 570-265-1541 or field@northerntier.org.



Dr. Scott Geist, Director of Surgical Technology at Pennsylvania College of Technology's School of Health Sciences, talks to students at the Tioga County Health Career Fair.

NE Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership

Partnership funding continues to support training of health care workers.

Since the start of our program year on October 1, 2013, several trainings subsidized with Healthcare Worker Training grant funds have been held in the region.

In November, six staff from Memorial Hospital and Darway Eldercare completed the CNA certification program at Memorial Hospital in Towanda. Upon successful completion of the program the participants received wage increases and certification as Nurse Aides.

Also in November, 12 nurses from Geisinger Healthcare and Hazleton General Hospital participated in a two-day CNOR review in the operating nursing specialty. After passing the exam, nurses received a wage increase or bonus, depending on employer policy.

The Northeast Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership represents the Workforce Investment areas of the Northern Tier, Lackawanna, Luzerne/Schuylkill, and the

Poconos. Sixty-four health care employers actively participate in the partnership, including every major health care facility in the Northern Tier. To date, worker training grant funding has been used to help upgrade the skills of more than 3,000 employees in the region. Additionally, thousands of high school students have been educated about health careers through activities funded through the Healthcare Industry Partnership.

Local Students Explore Health Careers

More than 130 students attend Tioga County Health Career Fair.

Most high school students have seen a doctor or nurse at work, but it wasn't until the Tioga County Health Career Fair that many learned of other exciting health care careers, such as speech therapy, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, and radiology.

These and more than three dozen other careers were highlighted at the event held at Pennsylvania College of Technology's North Campus in November. More than 130 high school students attended the fair.

Before participants circulated among the tables of health care professionals, Ferlin Patrick, HR representative from Laurel Health System, spoke to the students about

employer expectations. Nathan Smyth, Associate Dean of Health Sciences at Penn College, talked about which high school classes would prepare students for training in a health career.

"This was an incredibly successful event, with great support from local employers and other community partners," says Sherry Felten, NTRPDC Workforce Program Manager. "Health care professionals play such an important role in our society, and it's important that our young people learn about these careers that offer rewarding benefits such as competitive pay and opportunity for advancement."

The annual event was

sponsored by the Northeast Healthcare Industry Partnership, Tioga County Development Corporation, Laurel Health System, North Central AHEC, PA CareerLink®, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Northern Tier Industry and Education Consortium, Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board, Citizens and Northern Bank, NTRPDC, and the CMS Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (CFDA #93.768).

For more information on this event contact Sherry Felten, Workforce Program Manager at NTRPDC at 888-868-8800, or Christie Blackwell, Leadership Development Coordinator at TCDC, at 570-723-8232.

Unemployment Compensation Seminar Held

Hosted by PA Careerlink and NE Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership.

PA CareerLink® and the Northeast Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership recently hosted an Unemployment Compensation seminar sponsored by NTRPDC.

Two sessions were presented by Nancy Smithbauer of the PA Department of Labor and Industry, Unemployment Compensation Service Center. She covered two unemployment compensation topics: "What's New in

UC" and "Quits & Discharges." Employers were provided with an overview of the latest UC law changes and the process the UC service center follows when investigating and issuing determinations relating to quits and discharges. Attendees also had an opportunity to ask questions pertaining to their particular situations.

Sessions were held in Wysox and Tunkhannock and

drew nearly 90 employer representatives. "These sessions are very valuable to our local employers. Unemployment compensation is a complex topic for employers and we plan to bring additional sessions to the area," says Melissa Fleming, PA CareerLink Site Administrator.

For more information regarding unemployment compensation, visit www.uc.pa.gov.



Nancy Smithbauer from the PA Department of Labor and Industry, Unemployment Compensation Service Center, explains unemployment compensation procedures to seminar participants.

Free Assistance Migrating to SAM

NTRPDC assists businesses with federal government procurement system.

If your company was registered in the federal government's Center Contractor Registry (CCR) and you would like assistance migrating your account to the new System for Award Management (SAM), please contact Laurie Lentz, NTRPDC Procurement Program Manager, at 570-265-1538 or lentz@northerntier.org.

Additionally, if you need assistance with renewing your existing SAM account or if

you'd like more information on government contracting opportunities, please contact Laurie.

NTRPDC provides these services at no cost to Northern Tier businesses. It is not necessary to pay a private company for this service (some charge \$599 or more).

Business owners can also update their registration on their own. Visit the SAM website at www.sam.gov to view their demonstration videos

and review the FAQs.

The System for Award Management (SAM) is the official U.S. Government system that consolidated the capabilities of CCR/FedReg, ORCA, and EPLS. There is NO fee to register for this site.

Laurie Lentz will gladly assist anyone with questions or who is interested in creating or updating their SAM account.



Full-Time NTRPDC Loan Officer Position Available

The NTRPDC Loan Officer is responsible for overall management of NTRPDC's loan portfolio, including loan packaging and deal structuring, loan program marketing, and providing leadership and direction for all aspects of the loan program.

Required Qualifications: Four-year college degree in finance/accounting or a related field. Experience in credit administration or commercial lending is preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. **Salary:** Starting salary range \$45,000-\$55,000, depending on qualifications, plus excellent benefit package.

Please forward cover letter and resume by COB February 7, 2014, to info@northerntier.org, ATTN: Kevin D. Abrams, Executive Director. The position will remain open until the right candidate is selected. EOE

Bringing Business to Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Awarded 'Make It in America' Funding.

A Pennsylvania economic and workforce development initiative was one of only 10 projects nationwide selected for funding as part of the federal government's Make It in America Challenge.

The main goal of this initiative is to bring business and jobs back to the United States. NTRPDC and partnering organizations will work together to familiarize themselves with foreign markets as well as the state's industry clusters and needs to determine necessary workforce training, how to better market Pennsylvania, and how to

best communicate with target employers. "Our focus is on increasing communication with potential international investors and more effectively showcasing the Northern Tier region's strengths, thereby increasing foreign direct investment and job creation throughout the region," says Kim Barnes, NTRPDC Deputy Director. This could include participating in foreign trade shows to build relationships with companies and trips to meet with foreign investors.

In conjunction with this initiative, the Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board

will be working with other partners to develop training opportunities for high-skilled incumbent and new employees. This skills training will focus mainly in the manufacturing sector and will include science, technology, engineering, and math skills. These educational and skills upgrades will involve employees in occupations such as engineering and mechatronics.

For more information, please contact Kim Barnes, NTRPDC Deputy Director, at 570-265-1542.



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Winter Webinar Series

The NTRPDC export program is offering an Export Compliance webinar series. Develop or enhance your knowledge about export control reform by attending the next session.

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Export Control Under International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)

This webinar will be valuable for anyone responsible for export compliance (Logistics, Shipping, Purchasing, International Supervisors and Managers, Engineering, Research and Development), and anyone who wants to learn more about export reform.

Presenter: Bob Imbriani, Team Worldwide

Cost: Free for companies in the NTRPDC five-county area (Bradford, Tioga, Sullivan, Susquehanna, or Wyoming counties). The fee for companies in other locations is \$40.

To Register: Call Cynthia Traore at 570-265-1534 or e-mail at Traore@northerntier.org.