Our Mission
To help businesses expand their markets, generate employment, improve the local economy, and plan for the future development of the Northern Tier region.

Our Vision
To be a leader in developing people, businesses, and communities for a globally competitive region.

Cover photo:
Lake Nessmuk, Wellsboro, PA
Tioga County

photo courtesy of Robert J. Blair
Executive Director
Tioga County Development Corporation
2012 Executive Board

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Mark Hamilton, Tioga County Commissioner

First Vice Chairperson
Daryl Miller, Bradford County Commissioner

Second Vice Chairperson
Thomas Henry, Wyoming County Commissioner

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Alan Hall, Susquehanna County Commissioner

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Darla Bortz, Sullivan County Commissioner

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Mark Smith, Bradford County Commissioner
Bob Getz, Sullivan County Commissioner
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Mike Giangrieco, Susquehanna County Commissioner
MaryAnn Warren, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Erick Coolidge, Tioga County Commissioner
Roger Bunn, Tioga County Commissioner
Judy Mead, Wyoming County Commissioner
Ronald Williams, Wyoming County Commissioner

Tom Freeman, President, Betterment Organization of Mansfield, Inc.
Alex Fried, Public Relations Manager, Procter & Gamble
Craig Harting, CEO, Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Denise Ives, Vice President, Resource Development, Guthrie Healthcare System
Jody Place, Area Manager, Penelec (A First Energy Company)
Rick Soden, Vice President, Pennstar Bank
The Full Commission

**Bradford**
- Rick Biery
- Dan Close
- Bill Farley
- Anthony Gabello
- Denise Ives
- Paul Kreischer
- Mike Lovegreen
- Doug McLinko
- Daryl Miller
- Jody Place
- Sheryl Potocek
- Kevin Rimmey
- Fred Robinson
- Mark Smith
- Ray Stolinas
- Tony Ventello

**Sullivan**
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- Darla Bortz
- Fred Fiester
- Bob Getz
- Craig Harting
- Donald Hottenstein
- Mike Hufnagel
- Wylie Norton
- James Rogers

**Susquehanna**
- William Dovin
- Joe Ferretti
- Mike Giangrieco
- Alan Hall
- Rudy Mattes
- Marie Montenegro
- Robert Neira
- Joseph Plonski
- Rick Soden
- Jack Taylor
- MaryAnn Warren
- Leonard Wheatley

**Tioga**
- Robert Blair
- Roger Bunn
- Carl Chambers
- Erick Coolidge
- Tom Freeman
- Mark Hamilton
- Fred LaVancher
- Jacki Lawrence
- Lindsey Sikorski
- Jim Weaver
- Jeffrey Wilson

**Wyoming**
- Eric Brown
- Pete Butler
- Mike Castellano
- Maureen Dispenza
- Matt Dougherty
- Alex Fried
- Thomas Henry
- Emily Krafjek
- Judy Mead
- Richard Schwoebel
- Paul Weilage
- Ronald Williams

Advisory Committees

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- Sam Anderson
- Robert Blair
- Pete Butler
- Colleen Engler
- Bill Farley
- Craig Harting
- Elena Kilpatrick
- Paul Kreischer
- Mike Narcavage
- Jody Neary
- Brenda Roberts
- Fred Robinson
- Karen Russell
- Loren Stone
- Sandy Voda
- Deb Wivell
- Terri Zimmerman

**Local Loan Review**
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- Carl Chambers
- Matt Dougherty
- Joe Ferretti
- Fred Fiester
- Anthony Gabello
- Maria Montenegro
- Sheryl Potocek
- Kevin Rimmey
- James Rogers
- Richard Schwoebel
- Rick Soden
- Ronald Williams
- Jeffrey Wilson

**Rural Area Transportation**
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- Mike Castellano
- Bob Getz
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- Donald Hottenstein
- Mike Hufnagel
- Fred LaVancher
- Rudy Mattes
- Doug McLinko
- Joseph Plonski
- Ray Stolinas
- Jacki Lawrence
- Jim Weaver
- Paul Weilage
- Leonard Wheatley

**Economic Development**
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- Darla Bortz
- Eric Brown
- Dan Close
- Maureen Dispenza
- William Dovin
- Fred Fiester
- Mike Hufnagel
- Emily Krafjek
- Jackie Lawrence
- Mike Lovegreen
- Robert Neira
- Lindsey Sikorski
- Jack Taylor
- Tony Ventello
Throughout 2012, the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) continued to enhance opportunities for the people of Bradford, Tioga, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties, and promote efficiency within our own organization and our regional partnerships.

Those who have visited our offices in Towanda recently have seen one of our most visible accomplishments—PA CareerLink® moved into the first floor of the NTRPDC building at 312 Main Street, and NTRPDC consolidated its operations onto the second floor. This move reduces overhead costs for both organizations and enables us to more efficiently and effectively collaborate on workforce development initiatives.

In addition to increasing operational efficiency, NTRPDC worked hard to bring greater opportunities to the Northern Tier region—in part by connecting local communities and businesses with state and federal agencies. State and federal officials visited the Northern Tier from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Labor, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. While in the region, they had the opportunity to meet members of the community and see firsthand the projects under way in the Northern Tier.

Once again we thank our committed staff, hard-working Executive Committee, and active Advisory Committees for your continued involvement and devotion to the Northern Tier. We look forward to continuing to promote ever-increasing opportunities for our region.

Kevin Abrams
Executive Director
NTRPDC

Mark Hamilton
Chairperson, NTRPDC Executive Board
Tioga County Commissioner
### Income

Funding source revenues recognized at fiscal year-end, June 30, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th>Federal Total</th>
<th>State Total</th>
<th>Local Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appalachian Regional Commission</td>
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<td>Enterprise Development</td>
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<td>Local Development District</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Commerce</td>
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<td>Economic Development Administration</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Defense</td>
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<td>Procurement Technical Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Highway Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Labor</td>
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<td>Workforce Investment Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania National Emergency Grant</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</td>
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<td>$19,675</td>
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<td>Rural Transportation Program</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development</td>
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<td>Enterprise Development</td>
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<td>Export Development</td>
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<td>Energy</td>
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<td>Local</td>
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<td>County Contributions</td>
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<td>Total Program Funds</td>
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### Loan Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borrower</th>
<th>Jobs Retained</th>
<th>Jobs Created</th>
<th>Loan Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace Motel, Inc.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Children's Depot</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donert Corporation</td>
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<td>Total Tax Service, Inc.</td>
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<td>Dr. Virginia Fennelly, DC</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Taurus Service, Inc.</td>
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<td>Screen It</td>
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<td>RadShark, LLC</td>
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<td>Holdren's Precision Machining</td>
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<td>Discover the World Learning Center</td>
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<td>Tavern at Pine Ridge</td>
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<td>Towanda Metadyne, Inc.</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$892,000</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Photo courtesy of University of Scranton Small Business Development Center*
NTRPDC and PA DEP Host Natural Gas Vehicle Seminar

What would be the costs and benefits of more Northern Tier vehicles running on natural gas? A Natural Gas Vehicle Seminar, held in November 2012, convened industry experts and more than 100 attendees to discuss the possibilities for the Northern Tier.

NTRPDC sponsored the event in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). Participants included local businesses, municipalities, school districts, elected officials, gas industry representatives, and economic development professionals. Ten vendors in industries related to natural gas and energy showcased their services and expertise.

Speakers included Barry Carr (BAF Technologies), James O’Donnell and Dennis O’Donnell (Alternative Fuel Solutions of PA and CNG Diesels), and Tim Hooker (Fyda Energy Solutions), all of whom explained the technology behind natural gas vehicles and the benefits of converting existing vehicles to natural gas. Additionally, Aron Lantz (Larson Design Group), Bob Beatty (O Ring CNG Fuel Systems), and William Freeman (Chesapeake Energy) provided valuable information regarding compressed natural gas (CNG) conversions, the opportunity to use liquefied natural gas (LNG), and the local infrastructure needed to provide filling stations to individual as well as fleet vehicles.

Duane Phillips (Williams Oil & Propane) and representatives from the Endless Mountains Transit Authority (EMTA) discussed local natural gas vehicle projects, specifically the natural gas filling stations recently completed and possible plans for additional filling stations in the Northern Tier region. They discussed the positive impact this could have on individual vehicles as well as fleets in the region.

Geoff Bristow from the PA DEP Northwest Regional Office concluded the seminar with a discussion on PA DEP’s Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program, speaking about the goals of the program, the specifics and requirements of a grant application, and the utilization of grant funds by successful applicants.

“We believe information sharing is extremely important, especially regarding ways in which individuals, municipalities, local businesses, and area school districts can effectively utilize natural gas produced in the Northern Tier,” said Jeff Field, NTRPDC Energy Program Manager and one of the organizers of the event.
Tracking Act 13 of 2012

Pennsylvania’s Act 13 of 2012, which levies impact fees on natural gas operations to help municipalities offset the impacts of the industry, was an important topic of discussion throughout Pennsylvania. NTRPDC assisted local businesses, municipalities, and individuals in better understanding the legislation and its expected effects.

NTRPDC’s bi-monthly newsletter outlined Act 13 Impact Fee revenue, how the funds are allocated, and how much each county in the region can expect to receive. Staff also assisted individuals and municipalities as needed with questions regarding the Impact Fee funds allocated.

The legislation was also a topic of discussion at NTRPDC’s Natural Gas Municipal Summit, which brought together municipal officials from Pennsylvania and New York, representatives from local industries affected by the legislation, and elected officials. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, tasked with administering Impact Fee funds, provided valuable information on Act 13 of 2012, the distribution to local governments, and the allowable uses of allocated Impact Fee funds. Additionally, industry experts from Corning Natural Gas Corporation and Central New York Oil and Gas Company/Inergy Midstream, LLC, participated in a panel discussion and relayed the importance of utilizing domestic natural gas. They discussed their work to effectively store and transport natural gas.

The summit was sponsored by NTRPDC, in partnership with the Progress Authority, the Sullivan County Planning & Development Office, Tioga County Development Corporation, and the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce.

Third B2B Expo Helped Northern Tier Benefit from Gas Industry

NTRPDC, in conjunction with its partners, continued to foster information sharing and help develop business opportunities between the natural gas industry and local enterprises through coordination of the Third Annual Marcellus Shale Business-to-Business Expo, held in June. The event attracted approximately 240 businesses, from the area’s largest gas field developers to smaller energy companies, equipment manufacturers, and others whose products or services are in demand in the natural gas industry.

Speakers included a representative of Mansfield University, who highlighted MU’s newly created Marcellus Institute. A Chesapeake Energy representative discussed the opportunities to use compressed natural gas locally, while Moxie Energy detailed the Liberty Power Plant project.

Expo partners included the Progress Authority, Alparon Community Park in Troy, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and the University of Scranton Small Business Development Center. The fourth Expo is being planned for June 21, 2013.
Flood Clean-Up Jobs Prove Successful

Throughout 2012, NTRPDC continued to coordinate flood clean-up crews funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through a National Emergency Grant. Crews worked to remove trees and other debris washed into streams as a result of the flood waters and hurricane force winds that pummeled the region during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in Fall 2011. During the course of the grant period, nearly 90 individuals worked on more than 300 sites throughout the five counties—36 in Bradford County, 52 in Sullivan County, 98 in Susquehanna County, 49 in Tioga County, and 69 in Wyoming County.

Jobs were filled through PA CareerLink and gave priority to those displaced by the flooding, long-term unemployed individuals, and dislocated workers. Although the jobs concluded with the grant program in December 2012, the workers have expanded their resumes and skills with extensive training in safety and first aid, chainsaw use and maintenance, and OSHA construction practices.

“Thank you to each county for working with NTRPDC to select and prioritize the sites in cooperation with municipalities to reach the entire Northern Tier region in need,” said Frank Thompson, NTRPDC Deputy Director. “Thank you also to Cindy Fay at NTRPDC for managing the program and to staff for assisting with the details to provide the workers with needed equipment on site.”

Workers have expanded their resumes and skills and the region’s streams have been cleared to reduce the potential for future flooding.
Providing PennDOT with detailed information on our thousands of local bridges will highlight funding needs and help properly prioritize repairs and replacements.

NTRPDC Helps Build PennDOT’s Local Bridge Inventory

As the Northern Tier’s Rural Planning Organization (RPO), NTRPDC began working with PennDOT in 2012 to develop an inventory of locally-owned bridges between 8 and 20 feet long. Each regional planning partner in Pennsylvania is undertaking a similar effort, with the ultimate goal of developing a comprehensive database of the state’s smaller local bridges.

“PennDOT has made good progress in recent years in addressing deficient state-owned bridges, but the condition of locally-owned bridges lags behind due to severely limited funding and a lack of comprehensive information,” explains Brian Baker, NTRPDC Regional Planning Program Manager. “This initiative will be invaluable in tracking Pennsylvania’s local bridge improvement needs, quantifying the funding necessary to properly maintain local bridges, and prioritizing projects. It will also promote partnership between state, regional, and local transportation officials and further familiarize our regional PennDOT representatives with the Northern Tier’s transportation needs.”

NTRPDC has been gathering the geographic location, measurements, and photographs of the region’s locally-owned bridges—thousands of structures—and uploading them into the database, known as the Mobile Local Roads and Bridges Collection System (MLRBCS).
More Markets for Northern Tier Products

NTRPDC continues to connect local businesses to international markets through its Export Program. In June, NTRPDC hosted the Hardwood Buyer’s Mission, bringing representatives of nine international companies to the Northern Tier for a week-long introduction to our hardwood products and businesses. The buyers represented India, Mexico, Pakistan, and Taiwan. They toured several facilities in the hardwood industry, including Deer Park Lumber in Tunkhannock and Cummings Lumber, Inc., Barefoot Flooring, and Channel Veneers, all located in Troy.

NTRPDC also administers grants that help Northern Tier companies travel internationally for business development. Tungsten Sources, LLC, located in Bradford County, received a $1,575 Market Access Grant to offset the cost in attending the International Tungsten Industry Association Conference in China in September. During this conference—noted as the most important tungsten conference in the world—Tungsten Sources, LLC, had the opportunity to network with current and potential international clients.

Cummings Lumber and Frontier Industrial Technology both utilized Global Access Program funding. Cummings Lumber received $3,400 toward the cost of attending the Dubai, U.A.E., International Wood Show in April and the Dalian, China, Furniture and Woodworks 2012 Show in June. Frontier Industrial Technology used $3,603.71 in Global Access Program funding to attend the Flex Tech 2012 Alliance Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, in February. This domestic trade show has strong international participation and provided Frontier Industrial Technology the opportunity to showcase its equipment and build relationships with potential international clients.

The NTRPDC Export Program has 16 clients who export to a total of 29 countries and bring more than $17 million to the Northern Tier in export sales. The top countries our region exports to are:

- Canada
- China
- India
- Mexico
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
Municipal Offices Benefit from Free Computer Support

Most Northern Tier municipal employees handle a wide range of responsibilities with no budget for computer training or technical assistance. To help our local governments increase proficiency and efficiency in using their computer hardware and software, NTRPDC continued to provide no-cost technical training and services throughout 2012.

In May and June, NTRPDC sponsored five QuickBooks training sessions, providing valuable computer training to 69 municipal employees. QuickBooks is an accounting program used by many municipal offices. The classes were delivered by Diana Dorman-Patton, a Certified QuickBooks Trainer. The sessions ranged from an introduction to the software to practical instruction on its payroll module to tips and tricks for getting the most from the program. “By developing a better understanding of this accounting system, municipalities have the opportunity to more effectively serve and manage their communities,” says Jeff Field, NTRPDC Information Technology Program Manager.

In addition to the QuickBooks trainings, NTRPDC provided technical assistance to 35 municipalities during 2012. Services included helping to resolve computer system and e-mail issues, installing new computers, and transferring files from old to new computers.

Annual Equipment Shows Bring Municipalities and Vendors Together

NTRPDC once again coordinated two local equipment shows in the Northern Tier in 2012. These shows bring Northern Tier municipalities together with vendors that supply goods and services widely used by municipalities, such as engineering, financial services, and construction equipment. The 15th Annual Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties Equipment Show was held in July, attracting more than 45 vendors and 300 attendees. In September, NTRPDC assisted in planning Tioga and Bradford Counties’ 18th Annual Equipment Show, which brought together 40 vendors and more than 240 attendees.

“It was a pleasure to have Jeff in our office to get our new computer up and running. He was an asset in helping us with our new system and was very knowledgeable. We can’t say enough about your program to assist municipalities.”

Carol Pierce
Secretary/Treasurer
North Towanda Township
Health Care Worker Training Funds Continue to Benefit the Region

In 2012, the NTRPDC Workforce Investment Board utilized funding from the Northeast Regional Health Care Industry Partnership to train more than 210 health care employees throughout the Northern Tier. Training programs included Certified Nurses Aid (CNA) certification, Customer Service for the Health Care Professional, Improving Health Care through Supervisory Development, Spanish for the Health Care Professional, Dysphagia Therapy certification, Empowerment in Health Care, and many others.

"Industry Partnership funding is crucial for better equipping the current and future health care workforce in the Northern Tier. It enables us to bring area employers together to determine training needs and helps provide the necessary training," said Sherry Felten, NTRPDC Workforce Development Program Manager.

In addition to health care worker training, Industry Partnership funding supported the annual Tioga County Health Career Fair. Held in November, the fair attracted more than 130 high school students, introducing them to area health care employers and careers in the speech therapy, respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, and radiology fields. A representative from Laurel Health System discussed employer expectations, and the Associate Dean of Health Sciences at the Pennsylvania College of Technology explained which high school classes would best prepare students for a career in health care.

The Northeast Regional Healthcare Industry Partnership represents the Workforce Investment areas of the Northern Tier, Lackawanna, Luzerne/Schuylkill, and the Poconos. There are 64 health care employers that actively participate in the partnership, including every major health facility in the Northern Tier.
PA CareerLink® Moves into NTRPDC Building

In July 2012, PA CareerLink® officially opened its new office location on the first floor of the NTRPDC building at 312 Main Street in Towanda. PA CareerLink partners and local elected officials, including State Representative Tina Pickett and the county commissioners, celebrated the event with a formal ribbon-cutting in October.

The inclusion of PA CareerLink into NTRPDC’s building helps further streamline the services available to the region’s five counties. Services from economic, workforce, and community development and transportation planning are all now available under one roof.

The Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board provides oversight to the PA CareerLink system in the region, which consists of the partnership of Bradford County Action, the Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership, Veterans Services, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the County Assistance Office.

PA CareerLink assists the public with many employment activities including job searches, resume writing, job matching, interview techniques, and potential training opportunities. Additionally, staff can assist area employers with recruitment, labor market information, job fairs, and other services.

Co-location of NTRPDC and PA CareerLink provides one-stop services for any individual seeking to improve their employment status, as well as employers seeking qualified staff. The move makes our joint efforts more cost-effective and efficient and provides a much better, more cohesive service to the region.

Matching Skills with Jobs

To date, 391 Northern Tier residents have earned Career Readiness Certificates. The certificates, part of the WorkKeys® national assessment system, measure an individual’s foundational skills needed to learn or perform specific jobs, and assist employers in placing the right applicant in the right position.

The Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board adopted the WorkKeys system in 2010, starting with the first Fit 4 Natural Gas students. Prospective employees are tested to match their skills with an occupation in which they are likely to excel. Job-seekers can access training to gain the skill set needed for more advanced positions.
Youth Employment

Area young people gained experience through summer jobs and benefitted from career-focused coaching.

WIB Connects Area Youth with Employment Opportunities

The Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board (WIB) continued its strong commitment to area youth by administering a Summer Employment Program again in 2012. Thirty young people throughout Bradford, Wyoming, and Tioga counties participated in the program. They were placed in jobs with area employers, including Tunkhannock Area High School, Wyoming County Recycling Center, Bradford County Manor, Wyalusing Collision Repair, Wellsboro Small Animal Hospital, and Bucktail Campground.

While learning hands-on job skills and the work of Northern Tier industries, youth also garnered other critical career skills to enable them to be competitive and qualified candidates for future occupations. Included in the critical career skills were creating resumes and cover letters, completing employment applications effectively, and learning job search and interviewing skills. Employers throughout the region delivered educational sessions, such as a career decisions workshop provided by the Victim’s Resource Center and guidance on money management from IR Federal Credit Union.

Funded through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Summer Employment Program continues to be a valuable asset in educating and motivating area youth about the employment opportunities available and how to become qualified candidates for employment.
Assisting Local Businesses with Government Contracts

NTRPDC, through its Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), maintains a strong commitment to connecting local businesses with government contracting opportunities and helping them grow and excel at the state and federal levels. In 2012, NTRPDC’s procurement clients won 311 contracts, totaling $29,525,319.83.

Updates to state and federal procurement practices in 2012 created a changing environment even for businesses familiar with government contracting. The Pennsylvania Department of General Services created a Small Business Procurement Initiative (SBPI) to reserve certain Commonwealth procurements for competition among small businesses. NTRPDC assisted local businesses in understanding the new procedures, self-certifying to be eligible to compete for contracts, and pursuing work with the Commonwealth.

The federal government also updated its procurement tools, implementing a new database known as the System for Award Management (SAM). Phase one of SAM combines several procurement systems, including the Central Contractor Registry (CCR), Federal Agency Registration (FedReg), Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). Previously, these systems had separate functions, which encompassed collecting and disseminating data to assist the government in managing contractors, tracking business certifications required for contract awards, listing those excluded from receiving federal contracts, and maintaining a database of federal agency buyers and sellers of goods and services. Now, this information is available in a single, more efficient system.

NTRPDC has assisted local businesses with migrating their company information to the new system.

Procurement Clients Awarded Contracts in 2012:
- D3 Web Design
- GTP Corporation
- Intelligent Direct, LLC
- Mark Whitehead Electrical Contractor, Inc.
- RSJ Technologies, LLC
- Shumaker Consulting Engineering & Land Surveying, PC
- The Milnes Company, Inc.
- The Murus Company, Inc.
- Unique Building Systems, Inc.

Local Veteran-Owned Business is Succeeding

One Northern Tier company that was successful in winning government contracts in 2012 is Canton-based RSJ Technologies, Inc., a Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise supplying precision machined prototypes and production machined components. Since July 2009 NTRPDC’s Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) has assisted RSJ Technologies with bidding opportunities, procurement histories, technical data packages, and other technical assistance to pursue government contracts.
Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance

PREP is Pennsylvania's term for a state-wide network of partners (Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance) designed to work in concert to deliver vital economic development services across 10 regions of the state. In the Northern Tier region, we have a long history of working collaboratively to help improve the economic vitality of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties. The partnering organizations of the Northern Tier PREP region include NTRPDC, Northeastern Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, the University of Scranton Small Business Development Center (SBDC), as well as countywide economic development organizations including the Progress Authority, the Sullivan County Planning and Development Office, the Tioga County Development Corporation, and the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce.

The Northern Tier Partnership has a strong and successful track record of working together. There are many examples of joint lending projects, workshops, events, infrastructure grant projects, and other linkages that exist. The partners in each of the counties routinely work with NTRPDC on many diverse business development projects. Start-up entrepreneurs are referred to the SBDC for help with developing their plans, ideas, and marketing. The Progress Authority, SBDC, and NTRPDC have partnered together, along with gas industry representatives and other local organizations, to spearhead a very successful Marcellus Shale Business-to-Business annual expo.

The Northern Tier PREP Partners see this as a strengthening of our existing network, and fully expect that the result will be a more effective and streamlined approach to quickly support our job creators—the men and women who step out and start new businesses or those existing companies that are the backbone of our communities.
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