



January 2009

# NTRPDC update

**ntl**  
northern tier  
regional  
planning &  
development  
commission

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

## Eleven Women Learn about Entrepreneurship



*Pictured are six of the eleven participants completing the Women Win*

Women Win, is a series of three one-day workshops designed to give women the skills and support they need to start and run a viable business. Eleven women successfully completed their certification in November .

NTRPDC partnered with the University of Scranton Small Business Development Center and Penn College North Campus to help participants learn about entrepreneurship, start up basics, business plan structure and development, and finance options and applications. They also conducted individual self assessments, used computers to explore research tools, and set

personal goals. Experienced local women entrepreneurs participated by sharing their stories and lessons with the participants during a panel discussion in the last session. Each participant received a certificate upon completion.

Women Win! was developed in 2007 by SBDC Business Consultant Donna Simpson. The first session was held in Lackawanna County and also served eleven women.

Thanks to financial support from Northwest Savings Bank, First Citizens Bank, Citizens and Northern Bank, First Energy/Penelec, Blue Ridge Communications, Frontier Communications, and the Tioga County Development Corporation, we were able to offer this workshop for free to all eleven participants.

## Upcoming Events

### **Get Connected! Workshops**

See page 4 for details

### **Upcoming County Outreach Meetings:**

February 6—Sullivan County

February 26—Susquehanna County

March 6—Tioga County

March 27—Wyoming County

### **PA Trade Representatives Meeting**

April 27—See page 3 for details

### **Upcoming LTAP Training**

February 25—Posting and Bonding, Silver Lake Twp Building

March 18—Unpaved and Gravel Roads, Mansfield Fire Hall

March 19—Bridge

Management, Tunkhannock Twp Building

(Contact Brian Baker-baker@northerntier.org for more information and times)

Call 1-888-868-8800 or e-mail [bartholomew@northerntier.org](mailto:bartholomew@northerntier.org) for more information and to register for all events.

## Penn State offering free webinars on natural gas issues

In order to address the opportunities and challenges of exploring for natural gas in the Marcellus shale, Penn State is offering a seven-part series of free on line seminars through May. A variety of topics will be covered. For more information visit [www.naturalgas.extension.psu.edu](http://www.naturalgas.extension.psu.edu) and click on "webinars" on the menu bar.

## Workforce Development

### Health Career Week Celebrated in November



*L-R: James Biery, Deb Mathers, and Sherry Felten*

Health Careers Week is an annual event created to generate interest among youth in pursuing one of Pennsylvania's exciting health care careers that offer rewarding benefits such as competitive pay and opportunity for advancement.

Awareness events were held throughout the region to connect health care professionals with high school students. It gave students the opportunity to learn about and be inspired to pursue health care occupations that they wouldn't normally consider.

In addition to events, students in grades 9-12 who are contributing to the healthcare field through paid or part-time work were invited to participate in a statewide essay contest. James Biery from Sayre High

School wrote about his experience an emergency medical services volunteer and won the region wide contest and took third place overall in the statewide contest where he was honored in Harrisburg.

"Health Services is one of the largest industries in the country, states Sherry Felten, Workforce Program Manager. Twelve out of thirty occupations projected to grow the fastest are concentrated in health services. Most of these occupations require less than four years of education. Through 2014 when high school students hit the job market, there will be nearly 7,000 new openings in Pennsylvania every year in five of the most in-demand health care occupations."

## Loan Program

### Two loans totaling \$125,000 closed in November and December

- \$50,000 Intermediary Relending Program loan to **Troy Vet Clinic, Inc.** in Troy to help with their expansion.
- \$75,000 First Industries Fund Agricultural loan to **Leroydale Farms** in Leroy Township to help with their farm expansion.

These loan funds will help create or retain a total of 15 full time jobs and 4 part time jobs and will help leverage \$225,000 in private investment.



"Health Services is one of the largest industries in the country."

## Success Story

### Small Business Training Grant Program helps Professional Photographer

Through this program, businesses can receive up to \$1,500 to offset fifty percent of the cost a business would pay for continuing education and certifications.

Caleb Williams, a Certified Professional Photographer located in Wellsboro, used his grant to help cover the cost of attending a class at the North East Institute of Professional Photography. As a result, he recently received a "Court of Honor" award at the Northeast Pennsylvania Professional Photographer's Association.

He credits the class and NTRPDC for helping him win the award and for helping him learn how to pose his subjects, convey emotion, and manipulate digital capture into black and white. "Thanks to the Small Business Training Gant made available through NTRPDC, my business looks like it will be viable in the long run," said Williams.

The grant covers the cost of registration, tuition fees, lodging, airfare, and transportation. Since the inception of the program, 349 grants have been awarded totaling \$251,000.

For more information, please contact Laurie Lentz by e-mailing [lentz@northerntier.org](mailto:lentz@northerntier.org).



“Thanks to the Small Business Training Grant made available through NTRPDC, my business looks like it will be viable in the long run .”

## Informational Tidbits

### New staff, information, and save the date

**Matthew Williams** has been hired as the Regional Planner. He will be administering the GIS and Energy Programs. Contact Matthew by e-mailing [Williams@northerntier.org](mailto:Williams@northerntier.org) or calling 888.868.8800.

Don't forget to check [www.northerntier.org](http://www.northerntier.org) for the latest information and updates about the Marcellus Shale Gas exploration.

**Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>** Pennsylvania trade representatives from China, Russia, Vietnam, Canada, and United Arab Emirates will meet with area businesses. Focus will be manufactured housing, green building, lumber, constructions materials, construction design, engineering and design, and architecture; however they are willing to meet with any industry sector. Contact Cynthia Krise [krise@northerntier.org](mailto:krise@northerntier.org) for more information.

**Bradford County**

NTRPDC Conference Room, 312 Main Street  
Towanda

January 26, 2009 9:00am—12:00pm

January 27, 2009 6:00pm—9:00pm

Register by January 21

**Sullivan County**

Ag-Resource Center, 9219 Route 487 STE A  
Dushore

February 3, 2009 9:00am—12:00pm

February 4, 2009 6:00pm—9:00pm

Register by January 28

**Susquehanna County**

Susquehanna County Office Building, Montrose

February 18, 2009 9:00am—12:00pm

February 19, 2009 6:00pm—9:00pm

Register by February 11

**Tioga County**

Penn College, North Campus, Wellsboro

February 10, 2009 9:00am—12:00pm

February 11, 2009 6:00pm—9pm

Register by February 4

**Wyoming County**

Wyoming County Emergency Operations  
Center Building, US 6, Tunkhannock

February 24, 2009 6:00pm—9:00pm

February 27, 2009 9:00am—12:00pm

Register by February 18

## Get Connected!

Learn how high speed internet can help businesses and communities

A workshop sponsored by the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission and the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program is being held to help business and community leaders understand high speed internet connection and how it can help them.

Presented by Donna Yale, Sr. Technical Specialist with the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program, this three hour seminar is designed to provide you with quick and dirty information regarding Broadband and High-speed Internet including getting connected and incorporating access to this technology into your work. It will also provide non-technical knowledge to implement and incorporate improved internet access into business and community operations.

For more details and to register, visit our website at [www.northerntier.org](http://www.northerntier.org) or contact Brian Baker by e-mailing [baker@northerntier.org](mailto:baker@northerntier.org) or calling 888.868.8800.



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