

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

St. Francis SBDC: Building Stronger Small Businesses

The Saint Francis University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has been helping businesses in Blair County start, grow, and prosper since 1979. As one of 15 Small Business Development Centers in Pennsylvania, the SFU SBDC provides free, confidential consulting services to entrepreneurs and small business owners at every stage of business development.

The center offers expertise in business planning, financial analysis, marketing, strategic planning, cash flow development, and business continuity. Whether an entrepreneur is launching a new venture or expanding an existing business, the SFU SBDC provides personalized guidance tailored to each client's unique needs.



Bring the kids; farm fresh fun for everyone!

Help the Chamber celebrate the hard work and dedication our farm families bring to our region by spending an evening Down on the Farm. This popular event will be held October 1, from 5 - 7 p.m., at Corle Homestead Farm, 283 Corle Homestead Road, Martinsburg. This is a great family-friendly event with hayrides, kids activities, a great meal and an opportunity to experience life on the farm. Wide open spaces, fresh air, and unforgettable family memories are waiting for you. Cost to attend is \$15 per person. Children 10 and under are admitted free of charge. To make your reservations, [click HERE](#).

SSBCI Support Through the PA SBDC Network

The SSBCI Accounting Program, offered through the Pennsylvania SBDC network, provides free and confidential accounting support to small businesses pursuing financing opportunities such as loans, grants, or equity investment. The program helps business owners organize financial records, improve bookkeeping practices, and prepare lender-ready financial statements through hands-on guidance and training in tools such as QuickBooks, Xero, and Excel. Businesses interested in assistance can call (814) 472-3200 to learn more.

Understanding the unemployment compensation process

PA CareerLink® Blair County is hosting an Office of Unemployment Compensation Separation Issues Seminar on September 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Altoona Area Public Library – 2nd Floor Classroom. The seminar is available virtually or in person.

The seminar will help employers better understand how the UC Service

Center investigates and makes determinations in cases involving employee quits and discharges. The information provided will explain the critical differences between quits and discharges, ensuring your business handles claims accurately and avoids costly mistakes.

The session is free. Registration is required. Make your reservation [here](#).

CELEBRATING

100 YEARS

and more!

ANNIVERSARY

OF CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

— 109 YEARS —
M & T Bank
Penstan Supply/Division of Hajoca Corp.

— 105 YEARS —
Lamar Advertising, Inc.

— 100 YEARS —
Young, Oakes, Brown & Company, P.C.

Thank you for your membership!

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY

Deadline to submit application is September 17. Register [HERE](#).

An amazing opportunity for students in grades 6 - 12 to start their own business!

Deadline approaching for SBA disaster relief assistance

The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding eligible businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters in Pennsylvania of the Sept. 21 deadline to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans to offset physical damage caused by severe storms and flooding occurring July 5 – 6.

The declaration covers the Pennsylvania counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, and Huntingdon.

Businesses and private nonprofits are eligible to apply for business physical disaster loans and may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

Homeowners and renters are eligible

to apply for home and personal property loans borrowing up to \$100,000 to replace or repair personal property. Homeowners may apply for up to \$500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants can call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Sept. 21. The deadline to return economic injury applications is April 21, 2027. However, after the deadline has passed, there is a 60-day grace period in which SBA will accept applications.

Don't miss this event. Register now!

Join the Chamber on Oct. 1 for Breakfast Club to learn more about major cross-modal investments in Blair County's transportation system that are significantly increasing our region's economic competitiveness. Our panel will highlight those investments and how they are impacting our future economic and community development efforts. This is one event you don't want to miss. Breakfast Club begins at 7:45 a.m. at the Blair County Convention Center. Make your reservations [HERE](#).

Deadline this Friday for Public Service Academy

The Chamber's Public Service Academy is the perfect opportunity to learn how to become part of the political process, either as an elected official or as a volunteer.

The Academy is a two-part educational program that will explain the process to run for elected offices. The first three-hour session will be held Sept. 23 and the second session will be held on Sept. 30. Both sessions will be held 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Devoris Center for Business Development Boardroom located at 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona.

The cost to participate is \$25 per person, and includes both sessions. Pizza and beverages will be served at each session beginning at 5:30 p.m. Deadline to register is September 18. To register click [HERE](#).

Welcome new members!

The Chamber would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who share our vision of building a strong business community:

- **Cristi Waltz**
- **Strong Women Forward**
- **Village Caregiving**

Saluting Our Renewals

We would like to thank those members that have continued to invest with the organization by renewing their membership in the month of August.

Celebrating 100-109 Years

Lamar Advertising, Inc.
M & T Bank
Penstan Supply/Division of Hajoca Corp.
Young, Oakes, Brown & Company, P.C.

Celebrating 90-99 Years

Altoona Mirror

Celebrating 80-89 Years

Altoona First Savings Bank
Kranich's, Inc.
Peterman's Flower Shop
Ward Transport and Logistics Corp.

Celebrating 70-79 Years

Culligan Water Conditioning Sales & Service
Fiore Furniture
Reliance Bank
The EADS Group
The Hite Company Division of Mayer Electric

Celebrating 60-69 Years

Blair Candy Company
J. V. Meadows & Sons, Inc.
Lytle's Transfer & Storage Company

Stevens Mortuary, Inc.
Tri-State Industrial Solutions, Inc.
Veeder-Root Company

Celebrating 30-39 Years

Altoona Symphony Orchestra
Cumming Motors, Inc.
East Side Concrete Supply Co., Inc.

Labor Specialties
McCartney's Workplace Solutions

Penn Mont Academy
Your Building Centers, Inc.

Celebrating 20-29 Years

611 MRI Altoona
Benton Insurance Center, Inc.
Blair County Conservation District
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVR)

Country Inn & Suites
EZtouse.com
Investment Savings Bank
Mihalko's General Contracting
Webber Seltzer Wealth Advisors

Celebrating 10-19 Years

Allegheny Pain Management, P.C.
Buccinese Society

Collette Vacations
John J. Castle General Contractor, Inc.
The Everett Railroad Company
The Tax Shelter
The UPS Store #6512

Celebrating 5-9 Years

A B Federal Credit Union
Alto Markets
Caporuscio Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Dave Moses Technology Services, Inc.
Everest Medical Weight Loss
Gary Drenning
Global Power Line Academy, Inc.
KIZ Resources, LLC
Making Waves Hair Salon
The Health Insurance Place

Celebrating 1-4 Years

A.T.C.S., P.L.C.
Allison Herbaugh LLC
Center for Community Action
Courier Payroll Service LLC
Good & Associates Insurance Agency
Kelly's Collections