BLAIR COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FIRST FRONTIER - BLAIR COUNTY, PA

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NETWORKS
DIGITAL NEWS

Young entrepreneurs get a firsthand look at local industry

By Tami Chadick, YEA! Blair County Program Manager



Our Young entrepreneurs are discovering some of the best lessons in business outside of the classroom.

The students participating in the Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) recently toured the White Sauce Plant, part of the Del-Grosso's organization for a firsthand look at local industry and the operations behind a successful business.

Guided by Brenda Wilt and Ashley, the students had an opportunity to learn more about the facility and gain insight into the processes involved in business operations. The visit offered a real-world perspective on the many moving parts required to bring products to market and keep a business running smoothly.

For aspiring entrepreneurs, experiences like these help connect classroom lessons with practical realities of running a business. From production and quality control to teamwork and daily operations, students can see how different elements come together.

Field trips also allow YEA! participants to explore the variety of skills and career opportunities available in the business world while encouraging them to think creatively about their own goals.

A special thank you to Brenda and Ashley for guiding the tour and sharing this learning opportunity with the students. Todd Hill also generously provided lunch from Marianna Hoagies, adding to an enjoyable educational day.

Through opportunities like this, YEA students gain valuable exposure to local businesses, learn from industry professionals, and build a stronger understanding of what it takes to turn ideas into successful ventures.

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October All-Stars

Since sponsorships are such an integral part of the Chamber's ability to offer great events we recognize sponsors each month as "All-Stars." The All-Stars for October are:

Altoona-Blair County Airport
Blair County Conservation District
Blair School of Martial Arts
Contour Airlines
Horizon Farm Credit
Lung Disease Center of Central Pennsylvania
Penn Stress
Presbyterian Village at Hollidaysburg
Reliance Bank
Thrivent
Webber Advisors

Congratulations

...to the Blair County Conservation District in celebration of its 60th anniversary of providing conservation-based programs and services to the residents of Blair County. Congratulations also to District Manager Donna Fisher on an incredible 40 years of leadership!

...to Dr. Barbara Zaborowski, dean of library services and special projects at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College on being named a 2026 Window Keeper by PA Humanities. The Window Keeper: Civic Honors is a statewide initiative recognizing Pennsylvanians who strengthen their com-

Understanding new hire reporting

As a Pennsylvania business owner, staying compliant with state employment laws keeps your operations smooth and protects you from unnecessary penalties. One critical, yet often overlooked, administrative requirement is the Commonwealth's new hire reporting process, which mandates that every incoming, rehired, or returning employee be logged within a strict window.

Join PA CareerLink® and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry for a virtual Employer Resource Network webinar on Pennsylvania New Hire Reporting. There are two sessions to chose from. Session one will be held this Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. The second session will be held Nov. 6, from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

The sessions will provide key information for employers about new hire reporting. Special guest presenter Dennis Marsh, Program Manager with the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, will lead the presentation.



Employers can use this opportunity to learn more about reporting requirements and access information relevant to their business operations.

The webinars will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams, allowing employers to participate remotely. Registration is required. To register for Session One, click here. To register for Session Two, click here. There is no cost to attend either session.

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 October.

Celebrating 50-59 Years
Mount Aloysius College

Celebrating 40-49 Years
McLaughlin Oil & Propane Co.

Celebrating 30-39 Years
Allegheny Supply and Maintenance Co., Inc.
Altoona Area School District
Homewood Living Martinsburg
Suzanne Egan, Inc.
The Summit Tennis & Athletic Club

Celebrating 20-29 Years
Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy
Barton's Plumbing & Heating
CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
CONTACT Altoona
CPA Associates
J & P Auto Mart
Lightner Electronics, Inc.
Ritchey's Dairy, Inc.

Celebrating 10-19 Years
Bestway Pizza
Blue Knob Auto Sales, Inc.
Central States Manufacturing
Coach4Retirees, Inc.
George A. Schultz & Son, Inc. (Schultz Company)
Mattern House, Inc.
Myers-Somers Funeral Home
Operation Our Town, Inc.
Postal Express & Cashland

Celebrating 5-9 Years
Amerway, Inc.
Greaser Consulting

Celebrating 1-4 Years
Cornerstone Caregiving
Logan Township
New York Life
SpeedPro Central PA
Steinbacher, Goodall & Yurchak



Farm-City dinner is next Tuesday. Register today!

Every year, the Chamber brings our community together for a special evening dedicated to celebrating Blair County's vital agricultural roots. This year's Farm-City Dinner on November 10 at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park is your opportunity to honor our region's number-one industry and connect with those who have dedicated their lives to promoting it.

Following a buffet dinner and a keynote presentation by Brock Holland of Holland Bros. Meats, will be the presentation of the Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award to The Stultz Family of Williamsburg.

The evening will kick-off at 6:00 p.m. with a Milk Punch reception, followed by the dinner buffet and program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Admission is $25 per person. Registration will be closing soon so be sure to make your reservations now.

Submit your special offers



The Chamber is proud to support our small businesses, especially during the busy holiday shopping season! Be sure to be part of the Stroll Before You Scroll Small Business Catalog. Participation is FREE! This is a wonderful opportunity to promote your business and share your special holiday offers with potential customers. Reserve your space today by emailing Jessie at jcovert@blairchamber.com. Let's make this holiday season a success for Blair County's small businesses.