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

NETWORKS
DIGITAL NEWS

October 19, 2026

An unforgettable start as LBC kicks off the year with retreat



The Blair County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Blair County Class recently spent two days at the scenic Lake Raystown Resort for its annual retreat. With the backdrop of vibrant fall foliage reflecting off the lake, the class immersed themselves in activities designed to strengthen teamwork, communication, and self-awareness.

Guided by facilitators Maureen Dodson and Jeremy Fegert, participants explored DiSC personality styles, the life cycles of a team, and hands-on team-building challenges. The goal? To help class members not only recognize their own communication strengths and blind spots, but also to better understand how to connect with others, both in their professional roles and personal lives.

Between structured sessions, participants enjoyed conversations over meals and laughter during group exercises which further deepened relationships.

By the time the retreat concluded, the group had gained more than just tools and insights, they had built a foundation of trust and understanding that will fuel their work together in the months ahead. The class left Lake Raystown not only inspired but united, ready to make a meaningful impact throughout the year.

LBC Class of 2027

KAYLA AUGUSTINE
Ward Transport & Logistics Corp.

CODY BEACH
NPC Inc.

HAYLEE BEARER
Keller Engineers, Inc.

ANTHONY BEERBOWER
Sheetz Inc.

ALIAH BROMAN
ARC Federal Credit Union

PATRICK BURNS
Alto Markets

HARLEIGH COLE
Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center

ASHLYN DUGAN
Coffee on 3rd

BRIDGETTE GILL
Purrfect Paws and Pals

NATALIE GORSUCH
Bright Beginnings Early Learning Center

CYNTHIA HARMON
Lexington Clubhouse, UPMC, BHA

KIMBERLY HELSEL
Home Nursing Agency Foundation, Part of UPMC

VANESSA HIMES
Family Services Inc.

BROOKE HUGHES
James E. Van Zandt VAMC

SARAH KORDISH
Penn State Altoona

ABIGAIL KURTZ
Intermunicipal Relations Committee

KRIS LAIRD
Inspection Go, Inc.

JERRICA LONG
Borough of Duncansville

ANDREA MOSES
Senate of PA - Senator Judy Ward

RYAN NEELY
Altoona Curve Baseball

SAMANTHA POPE
The Academy Preschool & Early Education Center

CALEB SALYARDS
Stuckey Automotive

JASON SMITH
Ward Trucking

CONNOR STAYER
Blair County Convention Center

ACE AWARD
BLAIR COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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FARM-CITY COMMITTEE

True champions of agriculture

The Chamber's Ag Committee invites you to celebrate our agricultural community at the Farm-City Dinner on Tues., Nov.10, at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park in Martinsburg. One of the highlights of the evening is the presentation of the Agricultural Community Excellence (ACE) Award.

This year that honor belongs to the Stultz Family of Williamsburg.

Rob and Tammy Stultz transitioned from dairy farming to running a successful swine production facility. Generous to a fault, the couple have dedicated their lives to Blair County agriculture and their community. Rob has offered his talents to the local Farm Bureau, the Junior Livestock Committee, and the Morrisons Cove Dairy Show Committee. Tammy balances teaching with years of Dairy Promotion service. The family's commitment to agriculture has thrived through their children. Their son, Hunter, works with local dairies in his role with Select Sires, while daughters, Kara and Rylee, proudly reigned as Blair County Dairy Princesses.

The Farm-City dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. with a Milk Punch Reception, followed by a delicious buffet at 6:30. In addition to the ACE Award presentation, the program will feature keynote speaker Brock Holland of Holland Bros. Meats. Cost is $25 per person. Register today.

Chamber Team heads to statewide conference next week

Next week, the Chamber staff will be heading out to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Chamber Professionals (PACP) annual statewide conference in Camp Hill. As the premier professional association for local chamber of commerce executives and staff across the Commonwealth, PACP is dedicated to enhancing the quality and relevance of chamber management.

It promises to be an incredibly busy and productive schedule. Our team will be diving into a jam-packed lineup of meetings, collaborative roundtables, and educational presentations. This conference provides direct access to the largest network of chamber professionals in Pennsylvania, creating the perfect environment for networking and collaboration. The main goal? To connect with peer chambers across the state, exchange ideas, and bring back proven best practices.

PACP's mission focuses heavily on providing direct professional assistance and quality education to its members. By utilizing these resources, staff will gain fresh insights and tools that allow the Blair County Chamber to enhance operations and ultimately serve our local members better. Stay tuned for updates as your chamber staff puts new strategies to work for our members and business community!



Exchanging ideas and best practices with fellow chamber executives is a primary benefit of attending the annual statewide conference.

Five free hiring services most employers don't know about

Hiring employees can be one of the biggest challenges for a small business, but employers do not have to do it alone. PA CareerLink® Blair County offers several free services to help local businesses recruit and develop talent.

Employers can post job openings on the PA CareerLink® website at no cost and search the system for potential candidates. Business Services staff can also assist with recruitment, provide local labor market information, and connect employers with training resources.

Whether you need to fill one position or are planning for future workforce needs, these services can be a useful resource for your business.

To learn more about free employer services or get help with your hiring needs, contact PA CareerLink® Blair County at (814) 940-6201.





Congratulations

...to Matt & Tiffany Stuckey, the recipients of the Joseph and Suzanne Paterno Community Impact Award, presented on October 1 at the Wyndham Garden Conference Center in State College, by the Juniata Valley Council, Scouting America.



Making new connections in 2027

Looking for a unique way to connect with your audience in 2027? Now is the time to explore hosting an After Hours event! These special opportunities offer a memorable setting to bring people together, build connections, and showcase your organization. Availability is limited, and spots are filling up quickly! Don't miss your chance to secure a date. Contact Jessie Covert at jcovert@blairchamber.com to learn more!

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