

## 2018-2019 Business Education Partnerships Grant Awardees

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry awarded 22 entities Business Education Partnership (BEP) Grants to support the Commonwealth’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan. The grants support Governor Wolf’s vision of “jobs that pay, schools that teach, and government that works” by encouraging creativity and innovation in achieving one or more of the following goals for workforce development depicted in the WIOA Combined State Plan.

- These programs increase awareness of in-demand technical careers for students, parents, guardians, teachers, and school faculty.
- The Partnerships connect schools (teachers and faculty), employers, and students with the goal of providing career-related experiences and exposure through soft skills development, internships, workplace shadowing, career mentoring and career tours to increase opportunities for all youth to participate in work based learning and similar experiences.

Grants were awarded utilizing 100% federal funding from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act state set aside funds. A list of grantees and brief summaries of their projects follow.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Berks County Workforce Development Board	\$130,000.00
Bucks County Workforce Development Board	\$109,830.60
Central County Workforce Development Board	\$104,200.00
Chester County Workforce Development Board	\$150,000.00
Delaware County Workforce Development Board	\$91,611.00
Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board	\$151,497.00
Lancaster County Workforce Development Board	\$90,000.00
Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Board	\$136,144.00
Luzerne-Schuylkill Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
Montgomery County Workforce Development Board	\$87,975.00
North Central Workforce Development Board	\$164,555.90
Northern Tier Workforce Development Board	\$131,595.00
Northwest Workforce Development Board	\$157,160.00
Philadelphia Workforce Development Board	\$120,000.00
Pocono Counties Workforce Development Board	\$90,900.00
South Central Workforce Development Board	\$135,000.00
Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board	\$108,813.00
Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
Three Rivers Workforce Development Board	\$115,641.00
Tri-County Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
West Central Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Development Board	\$127,050.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,601,372.50</b>

**Grantee:** Berks County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Career Ready Berks Alliance

**Amount Awarded:** \$130,000.00

**Location:** Berks County

**Project Summary:** This demonstration project proposes to employ an innovative, multi-faceted approach to the co-ordination and expansion of a framework of programs, inaugurated by the Career Ready Berks Pathways Alliance. The project is designed to educate and enhance Berks County middle/high school teacher and student exposure to diverse, but realistic, education and career opportunities that will create, grow, and retain the next generation of workforce talent in the greater Berks County region.

**Grantee:** Bucks County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Career Exploration, Education, and Preparation

**Amount Awarded:** \$109,830.60

**Location:** Bucks County

**Project Summary:** The Bucks County Workforce Development Board presents the Career Exploration, Education, and Preparation project which will serve Bucks County school-aged youth and Bucks County businesses. The project objectives are to increase career awareness and opportunities for students and educators of career paths in manufacturing, healthcare, and other in-demand industries in Bucks County.

**Grantee:** Central Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Connecting the Dots from Classroom to Careers in Central PA

**Amount Awarded:** \$ \$104,200.00

**Location:** Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union Counties

**Project Summary:** This project proposes to help connect the dots from the classroom to careers in Central PA by multiple means. This connection will occur through business tours for students and teachers, exposing them to the career pathways offered by local companies and hosting parent "Pathways Awareness Nights" exposing parents to the career and post-secondary training opportunities available to them and their children in the region. In addition, the Central Workforce Development Board plans to create a multimedia content that promotes local career pathways that can be hosted on the region's Path To Careers website launching in November 2018 and to invest in soft skills training that can be integrated into K-12 curriculum or accessible to students online.

**Grantee:** Chester County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Chester County BEP

**Amount Awarded:** \$150,000.00

**Location:** Chester County

**Project Summary:** This Project will be driven by the Chester County BEP Advisory Group to connect employers, educators, students, and parents to innovative activities, workshops, and programs created to provide career awareness. We will also connect participants to inspiring readiness activities designed to increase cognizance of in-demand technical career pathways to 1,200 Chester County students.

**Grantee:** Delaware County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Two Generation Career Exploration and Education Program

**Amount Awarded:** \$91,611.00

**Location:** Chester County

**Project Summary:** The Delaware County Workforce Development Board proposes the Two-Generation Career Exploration and Education Program to serve adults and high school students residing in Delaware County who are interested in exploring career pathways in manufacturing or health care. The goal is to provide activities for both students and their parents to help them be better prepared to enter the workforce and gain employment in a High Priority Industry.

**Grantee:** Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Enhancing Partner Pathways (EPP)

**Amount Awarded:** \$151,497.00

**Location:** Lackawanna County

**Project Summary:** The Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board (WDB) will reinforce linkages with the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County (CTCLC) as well as the business community through engagement of "champion" employers representing the four high-priority occupational sectors (health care, logistics & transportation, business/IT, and manufacturing) for provision of varied projects addressing career awareness and discovery, STEM and computer education, and pre-apprenticeship opportunities. The Lackawanna County WDB will also canvass the community through a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitation of proposals designed to target not only students but also the educator population in an attempt to encourage conversation, communication, collaboration, and coordination of service provisions and outcomes as they relate to both intermediate as well as high school student populations.

**Grantee:** Lancaster County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Expanding Business-Education Partnership Activities and STEM Career Awareness in Lancaster County

**Amount Awarded:** \$90,000.00

**Location:** Lancaster County

**Project Summary:** The objective of this BEP grant opportunity is to provide relevant experiences for students and businesses in Lancaster County. By increasing exposure to the variety of local training and business opportunities to parents, educators, and students, Lancaster County will be ensured of a well-informed, incoming workforce. Through quality, work-based experiences, mentoring initiatives, career camps, internships, and community-wide career awareness events, we anticipate our business and educational communities to strengthen their current relationships with each other and with the PA CareerLink Lancaster County. These new connections will allow us to provide career and technical education opportunities to the parents and students in Lancaster County. These efforts will help raise awareness of and make connections to the many initiatives taking place in Lancaster County.

**Grantee:** Lehigh Valley Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Career Linking Class

**Amount Awarded:** \$136,144.00

**Location:** Lehigh, Northampton Counties

**Project Summary:** A Career Linking Class (CLC) will be implemented in a high school senior class in the Lehigh Valley to address the top business challenge of increasing employability skills to improve career readiness. An employability skills curriculum with 21 modules will be implemented within the CLC to focus on three areas of study, applied knowledge, effective relationships, and workplace skills.

**Grantee:** Luzerne-Schuylkill Counties Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Invest In Your Future

**Amount Awarded:** \$100,000.00

**Location:** Luzerne, Schuylkill Counties

**Project Summary:** The Invest in Your Future program is a demonstration project for internships and employability skills training through our Workplace Boot Camp. This will result in job placement and/or educational advancement for young adults in the Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Area. Students will gain real life work experience in addition to their classroom instruction during the school day.

**Grantee:** Montgomery County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Business Education Partnership of Montgomery County

**Amount Awarded:** \$87,975.00

**Location:** Montgomery County

**Project Summary:** The objective of the partnership is to provide networking opportunities, information, activities, and training which are relative to the implementation of Career Education Work Standards for participating schools and their students by involving the business community, parents, post-secondary institutions, and other participating agencies. Montco Works is committed to developing career awareness in each school district so that students and their parents can make appropriate life choices through an increased understanding of career pathways. In addition, the partnership seeks to provide the structure, organization, and resources to ensure that these goals are met. Projects and activities to be implemented through the partnership include the ManuFest & More Career Expo; Healthcare, BioMed and Social Service Career Fair/Expo; Labor Market Needs Forums; Industry Tours; and K-5 resource development.

**Grantee:** North Central Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Workforce Solutions-Business and Education Connect

**Amount Awarded:** \$164,555.90

**Location:** Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter Counties

**Project Summary:** Objectives of this project is to ensure that youth, parents, guardians, and school districts in the six-county region are aware of the career opportunities in our region and the Commonwealth. Additionally, this project will provide the targeted population with information on the education and skill needs of these career opportunities while increasing our outreach to additional community partners, students, and our WIOA Youth Provider. This project will ensure that a pipeline of workers is created for the region's employers.

**Grantee:** Northern Tier Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Career Coaches

**Amount Awarded:** \$131,595.00

**Location:** Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming Counties

**Project Summary:** This grant funding will enable students to make informed career choices and educational pathways to succeed through a combination of career-focused education and interaction with employers while leveraging WIOA, Youth Committee, PA CareerLink, and other funding wherever possible.

**Grantee:** Northwest Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Students in the Workplace: Northwest PA High Priority Occupation Work Readiness Through Business-Education Partnerships

**Amount Awarded:** \$157,160.00

**Location:** Erie, Crawford, Warren, Forest, Venango, Clarion Counties

**Project Summary:** The students in the workplace demonstration project will be offered opportunities to approximately 400 students to interact with manufacturing and healthcare employers and employees in their community. Emphasis will be placed on middle and high school students and their families who are low-income and meet WIOA eligibility requirements.

**Grantee:** Philadelphia County Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Creating Intentional Choice into STEM Careers through Career Exposure Influencing Transition from Middle to High School

**Amount Awarded:** \$120,000.00

**Location:** Philadelphia

**Project Summary:** Philadelphia Works (PW) with their partners, The Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) and the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), are proposing this demonstration project for 150 seventh graders in two schools (Southwark School and Mary McLeod Bethune) to expose students to career technical education programming and career pathways in three key industries.

**Grantee:** Poconos Counties Workforce Development Board

**Grant Title:** Pocono Business Education Partnership

**Amount Awarded:** \$90,900.00

**Location:** Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Carbon

**Project Summary:** This grant will allow the Poconos Counties WDB to coordinate business-education partnerships within the four rural areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania (Pocono Counties) to strengthen cooperation and coordination of business, education, industry, and labor. This coordination will align workforce needs with secondary and post-secondary education to implement appropriate career pathway plans and practices.

**Grantee:** South Central

**Grant Title:** SCPa Works BEP Comprehensive Solutions Model

**Amount Awarded:** \$135,000.00

**Location:** Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, York, Perry

**Project Summary:** SCPa Works will be conducting this demonstration project to develop a Comprehensive Solutions Model (CSM) to include a platform designed to allow businesses the ability to upload career exploration and development experiences including work-based learning, career fair availability, and classroom speaking which can be accessed by regional school districts located in SCPa Works. In addition, the CSM will create a comprehensive "What to Expect" E-book geared to business and industry to demonstrate how businesses can assist students, hold professional development sessions for businesses and industries to provide face-to-face meetings to better understand CCR efforts, and provide the ability to ask questions that may be specific to their organization and/or industry. Additionally, SCPa Works plans to develop and conduct up to three Regional Elementary and Middle School Career Efforts (REMCE) targeting 4th to 6th (potentially 7th) grades.

**Grantee:** Southern Alleghenies

**Grant Title:** Explore! Career and Technology Programs

**Amount Awarded:** \$108,813.00

**Location:** Blair, Bedford, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset

**Project Summary:** One of the objectives of this project is to expose 200-300 students in grades 6-8 to occupations involving trades such as collision repair, HVAC, computer networking, welding, electrical technician, and CDL. In addition, we will provide hands-on-learning experiences for 200-300 students in occupational areas that include trade programs within the regional career and technology centers and provide an opportunity for regional partnerships with local career and technology centers to reach and educate students in grades 6-8. Lastly, we will create and facilitate a pre-apprenticeship experience for 60-90 students which includes occupational skills training, nationally-recognized certifications, career education workshops, and a paid work-experience component.

**Grantee:** Southwest Corner

**Grant Title:** Business Education Partnership

**Amount Awarded:** \$100,000.00

**Location:** Beaver, Greene, Washington

**Project Summary:** The objectives of the grant are to support the Commonwealth's efforts to define and implement strategies that will increase the quality and scope of career preparation activities available to Pennsylvania's youth and to strengthen partnerships with all area high schools and Career and Technology Centers represented in the Local Workforce Development Area. The Business Education Partnership will link youth, educators, partners, employers, and community partners together to develop a streamlined and informative network of information and services in addition to establishing replicable strategies that will align with local industry needs and our local school districts' K-12 counseling plans.

**Grantee:** Three Rivers

**Grant Title:** Build On: Careers in the Building and Construction Industry

**Amount Awarded:** \$115,641.00

**Location:** Allegheny

**Project Summary:** This demonstration project will be completed in three phases. The first phase of the Build On: Careers in the Building and Construction Industry Conference will bring together 14 building and construction unions, local colleges, and businesses with career paths related to construction and industry to provide students with hands-on exposure to careers in the building and construction industry. Phase two is called the Summer in Trades which is a summer internship that will target students from up to five districts in attendance at the Build On conference. The program will give students an internship experience that will bring together students with area partners to give hands-on experience with the work that happens in the building and construction industry. The third phase is called Building for the Future Program, a program that will provide students with an introduction to area trades and first look at what steps are required to apply to and be hired in a trade apprenticeship program.

**Grantee:** Tri County

**Grant Title:** Tri County Business Education Partnership

**Amount Awarded:** \$100,000.00

**Location:** Armstrong, Butler, Indiana

**Project Summary:** The partnership will connect schools, employers, parents, and students to provide career-related experiences and opportunities through employer tours, summer camps, workplace shadowing, and career mentoring. Objectives include the following: identify gaps between education and employers in preparing the emerging workforce for regional career and employment opportunities; support capacity building to ensure the business educational partnership has the ability to support its mission and to attain sustainability; and provide career awareness to youth linked to regional high-demand occupations.

**Grantee:** West Central

**Grant Title:** Business Education Partnership

**Amount Awarded:** \$100,000.00

**Location:** Mercer, Lawrence

**Project Summary:** West Central Workforce Development Board (WCWDB) will act as intermediary to convene strategic planning sessions with educators and employers in the two-county area. The main objective is to develop a comprehensive approach promoting awareness of high-priority career pathways and occupations in the local area. A comprehensive approach will assist: educators to become familiar with high priority occupations in the area and the education requirements needed to secure those jobs; school districts meet the requirements of the PA Department of Education's (PDE) Chapter 339; students and parents make informed career planning decisions; and employers in the local area attract qualified applicants for vacancies in their companies.

**Grantee:** Westmoreland/Fayette

**Grant Title:** Business Education Partnership Grant

**Amount Awarded:** \$127,050.00

**Location:** Fayette, Westmoreland

**Project Summary** Westmoreland/Fayette plan to develop a demonstration project utilizing technology and hands-on interactive STEM and computer education workshops that prepares students for career and post-secondary education through classroom and work-based learning opportunities. The project will assist employers in implementing work and learn models in their organizations. This project will support K-12 career exploration activities for students, teachers, and parents. The project will serve 600 K-12 students in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties.