

2019-2020 Business Education Partnerships Grant Awardees

The Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry awarded 19 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, students, and parents 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.

Applicant	Amount
Berks County Workforce Development Board	\$110,955.00
Bucks County Workforce Development Board	\$118,200.00
Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board	\$121,080.00
Chester County Workforce Development Board	\$150,000.00
Delaware County Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board	\$158,915.00
Lancaster County Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
Luzerne-Schuylkill Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
North Central Workforce Development Board	\$191,498.00
Northern Tier Workforce Development Board	\$131,006.00
Northwest Workforce Development Board	\$120,000.00
Philadelphia Workforce Development Board	\$137,951.64
Pocono Counties Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
South Central Workforce Development Board	\$200,000.00
Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board	\$77,387.00
Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
Three Rivers Workforce Development Board	\$161,958.00
Tri-County Workforce Development Board	\$100,000.00
West Central Workforce Development Board	\$150,000.00
Total	\$2,428,950.64

Grantee: Berks County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Career Ready Berks: Connecting Our Students as the Next Generation of Workforce Talent

Amount Awarded: \$110,955.00

Location: Berks County

Project Summary: This demonstration project proposes to employ an innovative, multi-faceted approach to the continuing coordination and expansion of a framework of programs, inaugurated by the Career Ready Berks Pathways Alliance, designed to educate and enhance Berks County Middle/High School Teacher and Student awareness of exposure to diverse, but realistic education and career opportunities that will create, grow, and retain the next generation of workforce talent here in the Greater Berks County Region.

Grantee: Bucks County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Career Exploration and Employability Skills

Amount Awarded: \$118,200.00

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 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: Building Connections for Tomorrow

Amount Awarded: \$121,080.00

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

Project Summary:

This project will help prepare students to be future ready in Central PA by building opportunities to connect local businesses with parents, guardians, students and school districts to promote job opportunities and career pathways and identify the foundational skills students need to be employable. This will be accomplished through interactive and engaging events such as Parent "Pathways" Nights, a 12-month youth mentoring program, and the build-up of visual content to the industry cluster pages on pathtocareers.org to be more appealing to a younger audience.

Grantee: Chester County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Chester County BEP

Amount Awarded: \$150,000.00

Location: Chester County

Project Summary: This Project provides hands-on career exploratory learning beyond the classroom for at least 1,200 elementary, middle and high school students, as well as 300 parents and educators. Goals of the project are to provide authentic learning for career awareness, expand the Career Ready Chesco website, and expand after school and Summer career academies to multiple year offerings within a high-priority industry, which will allow students to matriculate each year to a new level.

Grantee: Delaware County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Two Generation Career Exploration and Education Program

Amount Awarded: \$100,000.00

Location: Delaware County

Project Summary: The Delaware County Workforce Development Board proposes to continue 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 connect both students and their parents to pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs with Delaware County employers and disrupt the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Grantee: Lackawanna County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: BEP 3.0 Excite, Explore, Excel (EEE)

Amount Awarded: \$158,915.00

Location: Lackawanna County

Project Summary: The design of the BEP 3.0-EEE Project is to reach approximately 4,000 elementary, intermediate, and high school students and educators with emphasis on the provision of career information, materials, instruction, interest inventories, and many other avenues that provide age-appropriate, hands-on career-related activities. The goal is to enable the acquisition of knowledge that promotes both short- and long-term career planning and decision-making capabilities.

Grantee: Lancaster County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Career Ready Lancaster

Amount Awarded: \$100,000.00

Location: Lancaster County

Project Summary: The objective of this Business-Education Partnership Grant opportunity is to provide relevant experiences for students and businesses in Lancaster County. Every high school senior in Lancaster County will graduate from high school with an achievable career and post-secondary plan that will maximize their talents and afford them with a family-sustaining quality of life.

Grantee: Luzerne-Schuylkill Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Invest In Your Future II

Amount Awarded: \$100,000.00

Location: Luzerne, Schuylkill Counties

Project Summary: The Invest in Your Future II Project combines job skills training through Workplace Boot Camp, paid internships, mentoring initiatives, and community wide career awareness events. The project will provide students with real-world experience and boost employability upon graduation.

Grantee: North Central Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Workforce Solutions – Business and Education Connect

Amount Awarded: \$191,498.00

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

Project Summary: Objectives of this continuation project are to ensure that elementary, middle and high school students, parents, and guardians as well as school districts in the six-county region are aware of the career opportunities in our region and in the Commonwealth, to ensure an understanding of the education and skill needs of these jobs, and to increase outreach to additional community partners, students and the WIOA Youth Provider. This will in turn ensure that a pipeline of workers is being created for local employers and addressing the skills gap.

Grantee: Northern Tier Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: NT Business Education Partnership – Career Coaches

Amount Awarded: \$131,006.00

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

Project Summary: This project will continue the extremely successful NT BEP for a sixth year. It will expand services to include increased connections to work-based learning opportunities, more connections to STEM activities, and increased parental involvement.

Grantee: Northwest Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Student in the Workplace

Amount Awarded: \$120,000.00

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

Project Summary: The Students in the Workplace demonstration project will offer experimental opportunities to students to interact with employers and employees in high-demand occupations in their community. Emphasis will be placed on low-income middle and high school students, and their families that meet WIOA eligibility requirements.

Grantee: Philadelphia County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Influencing STEM Choices in Middle School for Intentional Transitions to CTE Programs

Amount Awarded: \$137,951.64

Location: Philadelphia County

Project Summary: Philadelphia Works (PW) with their partners The Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN), STEAM Works Studio and the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), as well as engaged employer partners in Transportation & Logistics, Healthcare, and Business Services, will provide career exposure to 200 rising 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students. This demonstration project will engage students and build their families' interest in middle-skill, high-skill and professional careers in high-priority industries.

Grantee: Pocono Counties Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Pocono Counties Business Education Partnership Program

Amount Awarded: \$100,000.00

Location: Monroe, Pike, Wayne Counties

Project Summary: This emerging business-education partnership is a continuation project. It is a collaborative effort among educators, business, community groups, and workforce and economic development organizations to develop a county-wide mentoring and internship program that will empower high school students from challenged backgrounds to achieve college and career success through skills training and meaningful work experiences.

Grantee: South Central Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Career & Workforce Readiness

Amount Awarded: \$200,000.00

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

Project Summary: This project will be a continuation and expansion of the existing plan. The goal is to provide a regional platform/opportunity to share experiences, leverage partnerships for economies of scale and equity, to avoid duplication of efforts and share best practices, and develop new career planning programs and activities. Efforts will be focused on expanding outreach to all stakeholders; students, parents, educators, employers and community-based organizations.

Grantee: Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: STEM Ecosystem EnVISION: An Explosion of Collaboration is on the Horizon in the Southern Alleghenies

Amount Awarded: \$77,387.00

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

Project Summary: The objectives of this project are to motivate students in grades 6 through 12 to pursue STEM and technology careers, provide educators opportunities to gain knowledge and insights from employers, including understanding their current needs versus the skills gaps in order to drive the development of curriculum enhancements, extend opportunities to employers, parents, and schools to develop our future workforce through innovative and interactive activities, and build partnerships that cultivate an ecosystem that promotes training and encourages resource-sharing.

Grantee: Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Business Education Partnership

Amount Awarded: \$100,000.00

Location: Beaver, Greene, Washington Counties

Project Summary:

This project will continue the development and coordination of a continuum of programs and partnerships that connect area youth to careers that offer sustaining wages and growth potential. The Southwest Corner Business Education Partnership will result in local youth, parents, guardians, educators, and school administrators acquiring the resources, knowledge, and skills necessary for informed career choices, which is especially vital regarding the education and training required to pursue careers in high-demand, high-growth industries.

Grantee: Three Rivers Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Partner4Work Business-Education Project

Amount Awarded: \$161,958.00

Location: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County

Project Summary: This project will build upon existing business-education partnerships to provide 20 student participants aged 16-21 with part-time, limited-term, paid employment opportunities within designated City of Pittsburgh work areas. This group will receive at least 24 hours of relevant training curriculum and at least 144 hours of work experience working among city employees and reporting to city supervisors, offering a unique opportunity for real-life work exposure.

Grantee: Tri-County Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Business Education Partnership

Amount Awarded: \$100,000.00

Location: Armstrong, Butler, Indiana Counties

Project Summary: The partnership will connect schools, employers, parents, and students to career-related experiences and opportunities through employer tours, summer camps, workplace shadowing, career mentoring etc. 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 can support its mission and to attain sustainability; and provide career awareness to youth linked to regional high demand occupations.

Grantee: West Central Workforce Development Board

Grant Title: Business Education Partnership – Career Connections

Amount Awarded: \$150,000.00

Location: Lawrence, Mercer Counties

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. The 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 to meet the requirements of the PA Department of Education's (PDE) Chapter 339; students and parents to make informed career planning decisions; employers in the local area to attract qualified applicants for vacancies in their companies.