

Regional Center for Workforce Excellence
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NWPA Regional Workforce Development Network

www.nwpawib.org

**Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board
& Regional Center For Workforce Excellence**

Northwest Pennsylvania's Regional Workforce Development Network

Regional Director Team

Regional organizations that come together to better organize, align, and direct resources toward industries to develop local workforce and local competitive advantages across a multi-WIB region (14 counties).

Counties: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren

Members: Northwest, North Central and West Central WIBs, the NW IRC, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northwestern PA, the North Central & Northwest Planning & Development Commissions, the Northwest Office Governor's Action Team, the Central Labor Councils from West Central and Central WIBs, and private sector members

Employers

Industry Partnerships

Industry partnerships are multi-employer collaborative efforts that bring together business executives, workforce professionals, economic developers, labor leaders, and educational providers around the common purpose of improving the competitiveness of a cluster of companies/organizations that share similar products or services, critical human resource needs and/or retention/recruitment challenges.

Industry Partnerships in NWP:

Healthcare, Metals & Metal Fabrication, Electronics Manufacturing Services, Great Lakes Building Trades, Plastics Manufacturing, Food Processing, Transportation Education & Economic Network, Lumber & Wood, Oil & Gas, Agriculture, Hospitality & Tourism, and Bio Medical.

Members: Private Sector Companies representing Industry, NW PA WIB/RCWE, NW PA CareerLinks, NW IRC, Economic Development Agencies, BREP Interviewers, Trade Organizations, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northwestern PA, eBizIT PA, PENNTap, Colleges/Universities, School Districts/Vo-Techs, Higher Ed Councils, WedNet & CJT Providers, Labor (when applicable), Chambers of Commerce, Career/Technology Centers, CAOs

Local Management Committee

All Department of Public Welfare programs funded through a local workforce investment area are managed by a Local Management Committee. Agencies such as Community Action, Head Start, and Child Care Information Services are included in an advisory capacity to provide information regarding the needs of clients and to broker the services that are provided by their organizations.

Members: RCWE, County Assistance Office Directors, Education Representative, Economic Development Representative, PA CareerLink Site Administrators

Workforce Resources

Northwest Regional Workforce Development Team

The RWDT is a collaborating body of partnering agencies dedicated to serving employer needs in Northwest Pennsylvania. The goal of the RWDT is to create a pipeline for resources that will help to ensure employers' competitiveness and workforce retention. Specific employer needs are identified through the various outreach efforts of respective county-level teams and then prioritized for submission to the RWDT.

Members: NW WIB, NW IRC, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of NWP, NW Planning & Development Commission, NW Office Governor's Action Team, PENNTap, PMI, eBizIT PA, Clarion University, CCEDC, NW CareerLink Offices, EPA of Crawford County, Edinboro University- Meadville, PA CareerLink Business Service Units, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, Center for Corporate & Continuing Education/PSU, FCIDC, Oil Region Alliance, Warren County Chamber of Business & Industry.

County Level Workforce Development Teams

County-Level Teams are collaborating bodies of partnering agencies dedicated to serving the specific employer needs in the county in which they are located. CL WDTs meet monthly to review the needs that were expressed by employers to the service agencies with which they choose to work. Recommendations are then made to those organizations in the county who can provide those employers with services or resources to meet their immediate needs. At the county-level, if needs are identified that cannot be met; they are then prioritized for submission to the RWDT.

Members: RCWE, PA CareerLink BSU/ WIA Title I Contractor Staff/ BWDP Staff/ OVR Staff, NW IRC, Economic Development, BREP Interviewer, Colleges/Universities, School Districts/Vo-Techs, Higher Ed Councils, WedNet & CJT Providers, Labor (when applicable), Chambers of Commerce, Career/Technology Centers, CAO, and County Commissioner's Office

CareerLink Business Service Units

Business Service Unit staff are funded jointly by workforce development, local government and economic development interests. The BSU representatives convene weekly meetings with CareerLink outreach staff and monthly County-Level Team meetings with unique resource partners to address immediate needs.

Members: Clarion/Forest, Crawford, Erie, Venango, and Warren County Business Service Representatives, BWDP staff, WIA Title I Contractor staff, Clarion County Economic Development Corp., Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County, Erie CareerLink, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, Oil Region Alliance, Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry.

Education

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education is at the forefront of national and state workforce development efforts. In our region, representatives from education, business and industry have formed a 12 county NWP STEM Network that is laying the foundation for technological literacy. RCWE has been designated the fiscal agent, and teams have been formed to develop and execute a work plan that includes organizing a STEM Forum, and promoting partner participation in the regional STEM Compact.

STEM is an economic and human development program to produce a scientifically and technically talented workforce. Partners are committed to promoting collaboration among education, business and government to ensure technological competency, to strengthening regional educational programs, and sharing research, data and information among partners.

Members: Colleges/Universities, K-12 Schools, Intermediate Units, Technology Council, Higher-Ed Councils, WIBs, Employers, Economic Dev. Agencies

NW Youth Network

The Youth Network was established to coordinate career development opportunities and access to services for youth and young adults. Network partners meet regularly at a county and regional level to learn about other programs, discuss issues and share resources. The Network includes over 100 partners across the six-county Northwest WIB Region. The Network is guided by the NWP WIA Youth Council.

Members: PA CareerLink, WIA Youth Employment Services, schools, employers, Higher-Education, and community and faith based organizations

Youth in Transition Taskforce

The Transition Taskforce focuses on the needs of young adults who have dropped out of high school and/or are aging out of the foster care system. By mapping of resources, the Taskforce will be able to identify gaps and through the regional network look for ways to fill those gaps with the ultimate goal of reconnecting young people with education and employment.

Members: Juvenile Justice, CYS, Community Organizations, Schools, PA CareerLink, RCWE, etc.

Regional Career Education Partnership

The RCEP is a body of partnering agencies dedicated to encouraging policies and activities that strengthen and expand K-12 career education efforts across the six county region. The purpose of the group is to improve connections between education, employers, students, and parents by identifying and developing tools, activities and best practices that promote career education in order to prepare youth for post-secondary success and employment.

Members: Project 720 Schools, Reform Focused Schools, School-to-Work, Career & Technical Schools, CareerLink, Economic Development, Employers, Intermediate Units, Youth Council, Training Providers, Tech Prep, Higher Ed Councils

Economic Development

Northwest Regional Rapid Design Team

The Northwest Regional Rapid Design Team is in the process of being formed to provide analytical and resource support for the Business Expansion and Retention Program with the goal of identifying companies that might be facing barriers to success, developing an action plan with economic and workforce development to assist them and avert potential layoffs or closings.

Members: NW PA WIB, local economic development agencies, Business Retention and Expansion Program, NW IRC, Steel Valley Authority, Bureau of Workforce Development Programs—Rapid Response Coordination Services.

Lead Team

Erie's Lead Economic Development Team provides a customer-centered approach to investment. As the entry point into Erie's economic development system, the team provides potential and current investors with a coordinated connection to an exclusive source of counsel, advice and direction regarding available programs to address their specific business needs.

Members: Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, Economic Development Corporation of Erie, Erie County and Corry Redevelopment Authorities, City of Erie, Erie County Government, RCWE, Governor's Action Team, Gannon University SBDC, Center for E-business, NW IRC, RCWE, NW Commission Ben Franklin Partners

CL Rapid Response Units

CareerLink Rapid Response Units are first responders when a company is facing a layoff. A team of qualified staff provide on-site assistance to the affected employees regarding unemployment compensation, re-employment opportunities, training and access to other workforce services.

Keystone Innovation Zone

The KIZ is prominent across Northwest PA. KIZs work to foster innovation and create entrepreneurial opportunities. They do this by gathering and aligning the combined resources of educational institutions, private businesses, business support organizations, commercial lending institutions, venture capital networks (including angel investors), and foundations) Geographic Coverage: Erie, Clarion, Crawford, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties .

Members: Area Colleges and Universities, Economic Development Entities, RCWE, Technology Council and Private Sector Employers

Northwest Regional Commercialization and Innovation Collaborative

The Northwest CIC facilitates coordinated economic development and university-based support to entrepreneurs and business owners in Northwest PA. This initiative expands the concept of the state's Keystone Innovation Zone program to include all counties in Northwest PA as well as mature manufacturing businesses

Members: NW WIB, Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority, Technology Council of Northwest PA, Gannon Small Business Development Center, eBizIT PA, NW IRC.

Direct Service Team

DST's are a combined effort between CareerLink, County Assistance Offices, and service providers to meet twice a month to establish communication lines regarding client progress in various employment programs.

DSTs are jointly responsible for assisting the client through activities which will lead to employment and job retention. The individual team members are responsible for brokering the services available through their respective agencies.

Members: PA CareerLinks, County Assistance Offices, Literacy Providers, Employment & Training Program Contractors

Employer Consortia

Employer consortiums represent groups of employers with similar training challenges who come together to develop curriculum and broker training costs to deliver just in time training in order to remain competitive.

Examples of consortiums include: The Welding Project, Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, Metals Machining Skills, Screw Machine Process and Supervisory Skills for Healthcare.