

LAUNCH!

YOUR SUCCESS

Serving the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania

Winning Northern Tier Students Compete in Harrisburg

The Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission (NTRPDC) hosted the awards ceremony for the What's So Cool about Manufacturing?™ (WSCM) video contest on April 19, 2023, at the Keystone Theater in Towanda, PA. Attendees celebrated the work of the student teams, which received a total of more than 60,000 online votes over the three-day voting period earlier in April.

Three videos were selected for awards. The first two winners moved on to the statewide competition on May 15 in Harrisburg. This year's categories and winners included:

- Viewer's Choice – granted to the group with the best outreach and receiving the most votes: Towanda Jr./Sr. High School with Partnering Manufacturer UnityLab from Dushore, PA.
- Northern Tier Influence – granted to the program that made the greatest impact on the Northern Tier Executive and Workforce Board Committees: North-Penn Liberty Jr./Sr. High School with Partnering Manufacturer Wheeland Lumber Co., Inc., from Liberty, PA.



Towanda's team is pictured with UnityLab representatives Mike Rogan and Nicole Lutz. The team won the "Viewer's Choice" award and advanced to the statewide competition in Harrisburg.



The student team from North-Penn Liberty won the "Northern Tier Influence" award and also moved on to the statewide competition in Harrisburg.



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- Best Manufacturing Process – granted to the team that succinctly and wholly represented the manufacturing process, from start to finish: Tunkhannock STEM Academy with Partnering Manufacturer Deer Park Lumber, Inc., from Tunkhannock, PA.

“After a hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited that this

program is back. The manufacturers were thrilled to work with the students, and the students really enjoyed creating the videos,” stated Rachel Selleck, NTRPDC Project Development Manager. “The participating businesses were happy to be able to show the students how ‘cool’ manufacturing really can be.” Rick Masters, owner and president of Masters Concrete Products in Kingsley, PA, said of the program, “As a business, the youth are critical to our future success. Engaging them at a young age is extremely valuable and it’s absolutely worth the investment in time to participate.”

WSCM was originally created by Manufacturers Resource Center (MRC) in Pennsylvania’s Lehigh

Valley. WSCM gives 6th- to 8th-grade students in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties the opportunity to network with local manufacturers, gain new perspectives, record their experiences, and present them in an educational and “cool” way through documentary video production. The contest was created to generate excitement that draws students toward considering manufacturing career paths to create a 21st century workforce.

For more information about the Northern Tier WSCM video contest, please visit <https://www.whatsso-cool.org/contests/northern-tier/> or contact Rachel Selleck at selleck@northerntier.org.

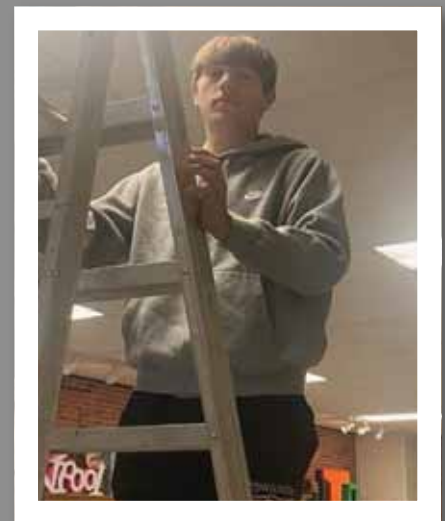
Bradford County Action Success Story

In March 2023, Northern Tier Career Center (NTCC) let Bradford County Action know that they had a senior student from Towanda School District in the Diversified Occupations (DO) program who had not been able to find and maintain a match for employment (a requirement in the DO course and for graduation). The staff at NTCC wondered if Bradford County Action’s youth program might be able to assist the student by facilitating a paid work experience at Towanda High School. Bradford County Action staff coordinated with the NTCC Diversified Occupations Instructor, the Towanda High School Maintenance Department, and the student.

Everyone agreed it seemed like a good match.

Talen started working in the Towanda School District Maintenance Department on March 13, 2023. He helps out with maintenance jobs around the school and also helps maintain the ballfield and prepare it for games. Talen noted that this is one of his favorite tasks because he is also a baseball player and understands how important good field conditions are for winning games!

The supervisor states that Talen does a good job and has continued to improve since he started with them. Talen states, “My experience with Bradford County Action has



been very good and I would recommend the program to others.” Talen will be graduating from Towanda High School in June and plans to join the workforce.

Develop Tioga and ACT Work Ready Community

On April 20, 2023, Develop Tioga and its partners held a Tioga County High School Job Fair at Williamson High School. The event was designed to help students find employment at area businesses for the summer or post-graduation and to announce their ACT Work Ready status. Tioga County is the first PA county to move forward on key steps to becoming a nationally recognized ACT Work Ready Community. Employers, students, and dignitaries were on hand to help celebrate.

Develop Tioga has been working with many partners, including BLAST Intermediate Unit 17, for the past year to bring the ACT Work Ready program to Tioga County. The project is funded by a PAsmart grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The three school districts in Tioga County have been instrumental in helping to develop the program to benefit the students and future workforce of Tioga County.

For more information on the ACT Work Ready Community initiative contact Kristin Hamilton, Executive Director of Develop Tioga, at khamilton@developtioga.org.



Tioga County is the first PA county to move forward on key steps to becoming a nationally recognized ACT Work Ready Community.

School-to-Work Connections:

Northern Tier Career Center Partners with Local Business and Industry to Provide Work-Based Learning



Isaac Vandemark is a student in NTCC's building construction program

Workforce education is booming in Bradford and Sullivan counties. The Northern Tier Career Center (NTCC) offers career and technical programs of study in auto body collision repair, automotive mechanics, building construction, cosmetology, diesel technology, early childhood education, food service production and management, HVAC, information technology, machine tool technology, pre-nursing, and welding. In addition, NTCC provides opportunities for high school students to connect with employers and gain real-world experience in their chosen career pathways through cooperative education and diversified occupations. Both work-based learning programs require students to work in paid positions with training-site industry partners for at least 15 hours per week during the school

year. The cooperative education capstone allows seniors in any of the programs of study offered at NTCC to complete their program by gaining experience on the job. Seniors from the eight participating school districts who are interested in career pathways that are not offered through NTCC programs are able to enroll in Diversified Occupations to gain workforce training and experience in their chosen industries. In 2022-2023, these school-to-work collaborative efforts between NTCC and industry training partners have happened in all eight districts and communities throughout both counties. Fifty-two students participated in cooperative education with businesses in all trades offered in NTCC programs or diversified occupations in industries such as real estate, banking, social services, and maintenance.

Student highlights from this first year of the diversified occupations program:

Brianna Bottiglieri is a senior at Sullivan County High School working at Fish Real Estate as Director of First Impressions through the diversified occupations program. Brianna is nearly finished with her Pennsylvania real estate licensing course and plans to use the knowledge and experience she has gained to continue her career as a licensed real estate agent.

Zoie Lamphere is a senior at Towanda Jr./Sr. High School working at PS Bank as a Universal Banker through the diversified occupations program. Zoie plans to

continue working at PS Bank while she pursues an accounting degree at Mansfield University. The value of school-to-work partnerships for students and industry partners in Bradford and Sullivan counties cannot be overstated. Training employers have noted positive employability skills in participating students, including excellent attendance, positive attitudes, and genuine willingness to learn and



Brianna Bottiglieri working at Fish Real Estate



Zoie Lamphere working at PS Bank

work. NTCC deeply appreciates its business and industry training partners, who are integral to achieving the mission of “educating today for tomorrow’s workforce.” Current partners indicate a desire to continue to participate in these workforce education programs, and NTCC is always seeking to add new partners and expand opportunities for on-the-job training for local high school students.

If your business or industry is interested in becoming a training partner for workforce education, please contact Rebecca Bellows, Workforce Education Coordinator, at rbellows@ntccschool.org or 570-265-8111.



Haven Perry and Tyler Brotzman are students in NTCC's diesel technology program

Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities are growing in Pennsylvania, and the Northern Tier Region is picking up some momentum. Several local employers are participating in registered apprenticeship programs to train high-quality, skilled workers. Registered apprenticeship programs are tailored to meet individual employer needs for specific occupations. Job-seekers are interested in becoming apprentices because they start earning money and training for a specialized occupation on the first day of work. Participating in educational lessons and learning on the job is an exciting investment in a job-seeker's personal growth and marketability.

With the development of more registered apprenticeship programs comes the opportunity for learners to participate in pre-apprenticeship

programs. Pre-apprenticeship programs must be linked to a registered apprenticeship program. During the 2022-2023 school year, NTRPDC worked to provide information to school districts across the region about pre-apprenticeship programs available to our students here in the Northern Tier. Multiple school districts participated in virtual information sessions to learn about the Early Childhood Education Pre-Apprenticeship program through Keystone College as well as the Diversified Vegetable Pre-Apprenticeship Program through Pasa, for those interested in farming careers.

The PA Department of Education has made some changes to graduation requirements, including additional pathways to qualify students for high school graduation. For more information

on the new graduation requirements, please visit [PA Act 158](#). Pre-apprenticeship is one of the additional programs students can complete to help meet graduation requirements. Completing a pre-apprenticeship program also gives students a higher standing for entering the associated registered apprenticeship program post-graduation.

NTRPDC seeks to continue providing apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship information to employers, job-seekers, students, and the general community. For more information on apprenticeship in PA, click [here](#). For the NTRPDC Apprenticeship website click [here](#). If you are interested in learning more about apprenticeship, please contact Jody McCarty at mccarty@northerntier.org.

Business–Education Partnership Spotlight

The Northern Tier Business Education Partnership (NTBEP) is wrapping up its 8th year in participating school districts. NTRPDC's career coaches have been busy working with students on career education projects and activities. Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, career coaches have completed more than 9,000 career education projects with students and have connected more than 150 businesses to the future workforce of the region. Highlights from the year follow.

The NTBEP program provides career coaches to more than 10 school districts within the Northern Tier Region. The goals of the program are to foster career education and exploration activities, connect students to local businesses, and provide assistance with career events. The career coaches work with students from elementary through high school.



Athens Students Present Projects to School Board

Students from Mr. Carlson's 5th grade writing class presented their career projects at the Athens school board meeting on April 18, 2023, and invited board members to attend the career expo in May. NTRPDC BEP Career Coach Lyndsay Coleman (pictured) reported that all the students did a great job!



Towanda Students Learn about Healthcare Careers from Guthrie Employees

Students in 11th grade at Towanda High School were able to learn from eight seasoned Guthrie Towanda employees about available healthcare careers. Representatives from Nursing, EMS, Radiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Respiratory Therapy, as well as the Director of Operations and Towanda School District Career Coach Donna Yale (pictured, left, with Guthrie employees), met with 78 participating students on March 8 and 9, 2023, to discuss Guthrie career options.

Hands-On Learning at UPMC Healthcare Career Fair

On April 19, 2023, Canton High School was one of 17 school districts that participated in the UPMC Healthcare Career Fair at Liberty Arena. Barb Knapp, NTRPDC's Career Coach for Canton High School, helped organize the outing and chaperoned the field trip. Twenty-one students in grades 10-12 signed up for the trip. Students participated in a variety of hands-on activities to learn more about healthcare careers through UPMC.



Bradford/Sullivan Career Day Held in March

NTRPDC's sixth annual Bradford/Sullivan Career Day was held in March 2023. All school districts in Bradford and Sullivan counties were invited. More than 800 students learned from 30 local employers about occupations available to them. Pictured are Canton High School sophomores talking to representatives from the PA Game Commission.



'How it's Done!' Career Day Engages Blossburg Elementary Students

On May 8, 2023, Southern Tioga School District hosted How It's Done! Career Day at Blossburg Elementary with the assistance of their career coach, Pat Chappell. The presenters focused on what their career creates or how they make something happen for 131 5th-grade students. They helped assemble a bicycle, saw a welding demonstration, made their own healthy snacks, watched a search dog find an item in the auditorium,

and prepared a metal casting with "Foundry in a Box" from Ward Manufacturing. These activities enabled the students to gain knowledge of various career opportunities. Presenters included: Higher Ground Welding, Truck-Lite, Laurel Mountain K-9 Search and Rescue, Ward Manufacturing, Penn State Extension, Mayor Skateboard Company, Southern Tioga School District Catering Club, Walmart, and Costy's Energy.

For more information on the BEP program, please contact Jody McCarty, Workforce Program Administrator, by e-mail at mccarty@northerntier.org.

Susquehanna County LAUNCH! Success Story

Hayden from Susquehanna County successfully passed all of his HiSet® Exams to earn his High School Certification, after enrolling in the LAUNCH! program and beginning HiSet® Instruction in November 2021. Hayden is very happy to have finally reached this milestone. Although it took him 15 months to complete all five subtests, Hayden overcame some major academic barriers not only with writing, but most especially with math. Out of the 15 months of preparation, it took him six months to prepare for the Math subtest and at times he wanted to give up. Through determination and the assistance of Trehab's HiSET® program teacher and the support of his LAUNCH! Career Advisor,

not only did Hayden pass the Math exam, he earned a score high enough to be considered at college level readiness. With this newfound sense of accomplishment, Hayden is now looking forward to what is next to come. He is hopeful that having obtained his High School Certification, it will now open many new doors of possibilities and opportunities. Hayden continues to work closely with his LAUNCH! Career Advisor to discuss and explore opportunities available to him, which may include furthering his education. Congratulations to Hayden on this major achievement and a huge step toward his future career path.

Coterra Provides Scholarships for High School Seniors to attend CDL program at SCCTC

Demand is high in Pennsylvania and nationwide for Commercial Driver License (CDL) drivers.

Coterra (formerly known as Cabot Oil and Gas) experiences the need for truck drivers firsthand, as do many of their subcontractors and local business owners.

To help address this need, Coterra partnered with Susquehanna County Career and Technology

Center (SCCTC) to offer scholarships to high school seniors who want to pursue a CDL upon graduation.

Coterra will fund the entire tuition amount (\$6,000) for 20 high school seniors from the Northern Tier to attend the CDL program during Summer 2023, for a total donation of \$120,000.

High school seniors who are interested in training for a CDL after graduating in 2023 may contact Tammi Mowry, SCCTC Financial Aid Director/Adult Education Coordinator, at 570-278-9229, ext. 6671, or tammi.mowry@scctc-school.org to discuss tuition assistance.



Tioga County LAUNCH! Success Story



The Tioga County LAUNCH! Program through Trehab, Inc., was able to link a Cowanesque Valley High School Senior to a meaningful work-based learning experience as an intern in her future career path. Sophia from Westfield was able to start a paid work experience at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro to gain hands-on experience in the art world. Sophia will be attending the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design in the fall. The host supervisor at the

center mentioned in a recent evaluation that "Sophia is improving her work ethic and is becoming more comfortable within her position as well as opening up and networking with some of the local artists she gets to meet via the art shows that she has been working." This is a great example of how work-based learning experiences can strengthen and advance a young adult's career path with valuable hands-on learning.

Northern Tier Workforce Development Board and Youth Committee Tour NTCC

On May 10, 2023, NTRPDC held its quarterly Northern Tier Workforce Development Board (NTWDB) and Youth Committee meeting on campus at the Northern Tier Career Center (NTCC). NTWDB and Youth Committee members were invited to attend a tour of the campus guided by Gary Martell (Center Director and Youth Committee Member) and Jennifer Farley (Administrator of Educational Services and Youth Committee Member). The NTWDB and Youth Committee meetings are normally held separately each quarter, however, because of the tour, everyone was invited to attend a combined workforce meeting at the conclusion of the facility tour.

Participants were divided into two tour groups and were able to observe students in their chosen programs of study. Northern Tier Career Center has 12 robust programs of study. More information can be found at ntccschool.org. Meeting attendees were able to talk to students and instructors during the tour. Members stated that it was nice to make connections with students and instructors when the tour was completed. Students at the career center are sought after by local employers because their training prepares them for immediate employment when they complete their program of study.



Early Childhood Education Tour

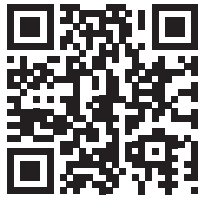


Food Service Production and Management Tour



Building Construction Trades Tour

Northern Tier Workforce Development Board LAUNCH! Your Success Service Providers



PA CareerLink® and Affiliate Sites

www.launchyoursuccessnt.org

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Start your LAUNCH! adventure today—
call or e-mail the service provider for the
county where you live.

Northern Tier Youth Committee

Mission

A system that provides all youth and young adults with the skills and opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency, encourages life-long learning, and ensures the region a skilled workforce.

As a subcommittee of the Northern Tier Workforce Development Board, the Youth Committee is comprised of members with a special interest or expertise in youth policy. The Youth Committee is responsible for:

- Recommending eligible providers of youth/young adult activities to the Workforce Development Board to be awarded grants or contracts on a competitive basis;
- Providing oversight to the eligible providers of young adult services in the Northern Tier;
- Coordinating activities and leveraging resources to effectively serve the young adult residents of the region;
- Developing portions of the local plan related to eligible participants, as determined by the Workforce Development Board;
- Coordinating activities in the Northern Tier; and
- Performing other duties determined to be appropriate by the Workforce Development Board.

The Northern Tier Youth Committee meets quarterly at the PA CareerLink®, 312 Main Street, Suite 1, Towanda.

Membership

Kelly White, Chair
Center Director
Lackawanna College,
Towanda Center

Krista Abresch
Intellectual Disabilities
Quality Manager
Bradford County Human Services

Jennifer Farley
Administrator of Educational
Services
Northern Tier Career Center

John Gazzillo
Executive Director
Susquehanna County Career &
Technology Center

Kristin Hamilton
Executive Director
Develop Tioga

Jackie Johnson
Community Member

Gary Martell
Director
Northern Tier Career Center

Monica McCarty
School Outreach Specialist
BLaST IU 17 – Williamsport

Tammi Mowry
Financial Aid Director
Susquehanna County Career &
Technology Center

Jill Payne
WIOA Manager
Adams & Associates/
Red Rock Job Corps

Randi Morse
District Executive Director
RVR YMCA

Lori Rahn
Juvenile Probation Officer
Bradford County

Breanna Repard
Workforce Development Director
The Trehab Center

Theresa Steele
Parent of Youth Participant

Penne Watkins
Executive Director
Bradford County Action

Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Bonnie Warner, Equal Opportunity Officer

eoofficer@northerntier.org

570-265-9103 or toll-free 888-868-8800 / TDD/TTY PA Relay 711

Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission

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