



NORTHERN TIER NEWS

**Serving the Pennsylvania Northern Tier Region of Bradford,
Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties**

PRACTICAL. PROTECTED. POSSIBLE.

Generative AI is everywhere – but what does it actually look like on a manufacturing floor? In this session, Ronn Cort shares his real-world journey of applying GenAI across operations, from the office to the plant. You'll hear what worked, what didn't, and what's immediately possible for any manufacturer, regardless of size or digital maturity. No buzzwords, no theory – just tested, practical steps to bring AI into your business safely, securely, and with a clear return. Walk away with ideas you can act on next week.

With over 25 years of leadership in specialty manufacturing, Ron has led large-scale transformations that improve performance, empower teams and bring innovation to the plant floor. Ronn is known for turning complex challenges into clear actionable strategies – most recently applying generative AI to drive results safely and practically in the real-world manufacturing environment.



*Thursday, January 22, 2026
at 8:30 AM
28 VanKuren Drive
Towanda, PA 18848*

REGISTER FOR ATTENDANCE [HERE](#)
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/kstywsj>

Contact: Melissa Fleming, Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission - Workforce Director, fleming@northerntier.org

northerntier.org/manufacturing-partnerships/



Save the Date

3/19/2026

Inclement weather date 3/27/2026

Bradford Sullivan Career Day

Please RSVP your intent to participate to Jody McCarty (mccarty@northerntier.org) or Renae Chamberlain (chamberlain@northerntier.org) by Thursday, March 5, 2026.

All presenters will need their PA Criminal History Clearance and their PA Child Abuse Clearance. If you have presented at this event in the past, your clearances are already on record and you do not have to submit them again (unless they are more than 5 years old). If you have not, you can apply for your clearances for free. For assistance contact Jody or Renae.

Employers from all industries are welcome!

Grant Spotlight: Recent Awards Strengthening Our Communities

With assistance from the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, communities across the region recently secured **\$1,362,130.00** in grant funding to support tourism, public safety, infrastructure, recreation, and essential human services.

Key awards include **BCTPA Room Tax grants** supporting heritage tourism through the Sayre Historical Society and America250PA Bradford County's 2026 Semiquincentennial celebration; **CFA Local Share Account Statewide funding** for projects such as municipal vehicles, equipment, generators, infrastructure modernization, and recreational improvements in Forest Lake Township, Lake Winola Fire Company, Liberty Township, Meshoppen Township, Middletown Township, Montrose Borough, Morris Township, Richmond Township Municipal Authority, and Springville Township; **DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation funding** for Ervin Kaminski Park improvements in Gibson Township; and **DCED Neighborhood Assistance Program awards** supporting the Rialto Theatre's community programming and the expansion of Susquehanna County Interfaith's human services hub.

Together, these investments reflect a strong commitment to community vitality, economic development, and quality-of-life improvements throughout the region.

Twin Tiers ARISE Program (TTAP)



For the last 2 years, six partners in the Twin Tiers have worked to improve youth-workforce integration through a [\\$4.5 million dollar grant](#) awarded by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Continued employer input is absolutely vital to this effort.

We need your input!

Please complete this [brief survey](#) to share your insights about entry level employment in the Twin Tiers. If you can't use a google form, please [visit the TTAP website to view a PDF of the questions](#), and send your reply by email. Thank you for participating!

Salt Springs Bridge

Great news for Susquehanna County! The county has been awarded a \$2 million DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund grant through PennDOT to support the replacement of the bridge at Salt Springs State Park. This vital bridge serves as the park's main entrance and is essential to ensuring safe, reliable access for the thousands of visitors who enjoy the park year-round.

The award reflects PennDOT's competitive selection process, which evaluates projects based on safety improvements, regional economic impact, technical and financial feasibility, job creation, energy efficiency, and long-term operational sustainability. This significant investment will help preserve and enhance one of the county's most treasured natural destinations for years to come.

Northern Tier Career Connect



We're excited to share our first successful connection through Northern Tier Career Connect! Cowanesque Valley High School has partnered with Westlake Royal Building Products to create a work-based learning opportunity for high school students. This January, a representative from Westlake Royal Building Products will speak with high school seniors about what employers look for when hiring, including essential workplace skills and effective interviewing practices. While the discussion will highlight careers in manufacturing, the skills shared will be valuable across industries and applicable to the workplace as a whole.

Interested in getting involved? Northern Tier Career Connect is an online platform that helps employers connect directly with local schools and

students to build awareness of career pathways and develop a future workforce. By participating, businesses can increase their visibility, share industry needs, and help prepare students with the skills employers value most. Businesses can register on Northern Tier Career Connect by visiting www.ntcareerconnect.com.

Employers are also invited to complete a brief survey to share the types of career awareness, exploration, and work-based learning opportunities they can offer students in grades K–12: <https://forms.gle/2Vz3nCdRiK3KuojBA>. Your involvement helps strengthen the local talent pipeline while supporting the long-term workforce needs of our region.

BST Employer Newsletter



The Northern Tier Business Services Team distributes a monthly employer newsletter. Click on the link below to read information on local PA CareerLink® events and other employer specific topics.

[January 2026 Employer Newsletter](#)

2026 Calendar of Events



AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

Bradford County
911 Center



WSCM CEREMONY

Towanda
High School



FULL COMMISSION MEETING

More Information
Coming Soon



ENTREPRENEUR SEMINAR

Bradford County
911 Center



BUSINESS SUMMIT

Bradford County
911 Center



NTRPDC ANNUAL MEETING

More Information
Coming soon

*Tentative Dates

Empowering People. Developing Businesses. Strengthening Communities.

The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) is the Local Development District (LDD) serving the Pennsylvania counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming. We provide business financing, international trade counseling, government contract assistance, grant writing, transportation planning and workforce development services.

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