

Community Education Councils of Pennsylvania

in Partnership with the Department of Education

CECs – An Economic Engine . . .

- **CECs generate about \$4 million in tuition**, a 2-1 return on our operational funding, in addition to all the other benefits CECs provide.
- **CECs have generated millions** in funding from business and industry, local government, charitable foundations and other sources to supplement the State operational funding.
- **Skilled workers make local businesses more competitive**
- **CECs work** with non-traditional students, dislocated workers, and incumbent workers.

Community Education Councils Value to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania . . .

- CECs provide educational services to more than 1 million residents in a geographical region encompassing 31% of the state's land mass. That's larger than any of the following states – Maryland, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island – and is considerably larger than Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island combined.
- CECs collaborate with WIBs, CareerLinks and Rapid Response Teams.

Colleges & Universities Need a Local Partner

- The CECs facilitation and coordination make it cost effective for colleges and universities to deliver programs in rural communities.
- CECs assist with workforce development to meet employer's needs.

Over 1 million rural Pennsylvanians will be denied access to higher education opportunities if the CECs are cut from the PA Budget

- For decades, PA residents have paid State taxes that have been funneled to support a community college system that provides them no benefits. The CECs are the only return residents receive on their taxes and duplication of existing services is avoided.
- The Governor's proposal to eliminate the CECs \$2.186 million allocation while increasing community college funding by \$5 million will transfer even more wealth and opportunity from rural residents to those who already have community college services.

The Center for Rural PA Research Shows ...

- Unemployment rates in rural Pennsylvania have surpassed urban rates since at least the 1970s.
- Policy considerations from recent research "stress the importance of an educated workforce ... to possibly reduce both underemployment and unemployment."

Broadband-based (Distance) Education Will Not Replace CECs

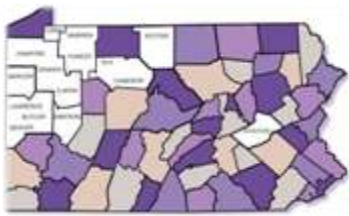
- CECs deal with some of the poorest regions of the state, where ...
 - broadband has not fully penetrated,
 - people cannot afford access,
 - dominated by families without a history of post-secondary education who would not be candidates for Internet-based learning even if they had access.
- Many of the programs offered are not conducive to distance learning opportunities, such as welding and nursing.

Secretary of Education Dr. Zahorchak Recognizes Access Barriers to Higher Education in Rural Areas

December 11, 2008, PDE Newsroom – "Pennsylvania workers need access to postsecondary education and training so they can better compete in the high-skills economy, Secretary Zahorchak noted, but many Pennsylvanians live in places without access to a community college or other quality, affordable institutions where they can receive an associate degree or industry certificate."

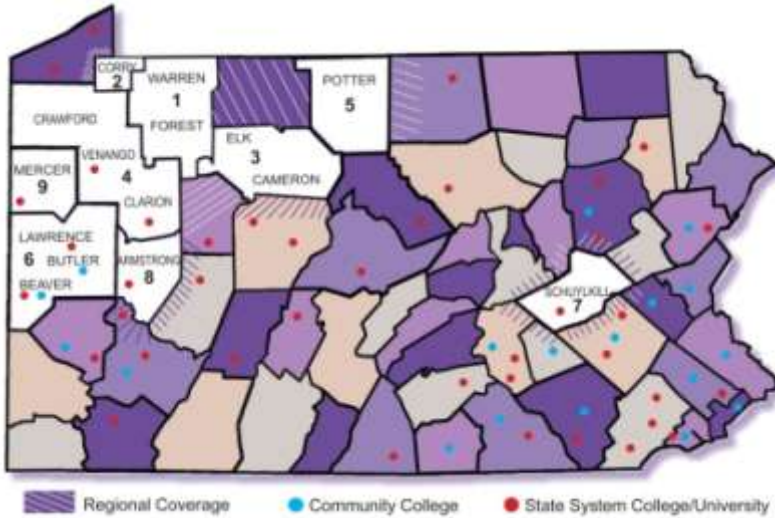
Funding Instability Drives Away Educational Opportunities

- Being restored to and included in the state budget is vital to our operations. Instability and uncertainty drive away educational providers, students and funding opportunities.



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4. Keystone Community Education Council

Established 1992

- Facilitated training with National Hardwood Lumber Inspection – located in Memphis, TN – one of the two providers of a Lumber Grading Certificate in the world
 - Average annual wage \$30,000
 - 100 % were employed in field following training
 - 1st time this comprehensive course was offered in northwest Pennsylvania
- Coordinates a Federal Department of Education grant in partnership with the Community College of Allegheny County bringing programs to rural areas – total enrollment 115 students

5. Potter County Education Council

Established 1994

Graduated 2 LPN Program cohorts (16 students each)

- 40% were incumbent workers (Nurses Aides)
- 60% were dislocated workers
- 100% Board passing rate and employment
- 6 students exploring continuing to RN program

6. Lawrence County Learning Center

Established 1998

- 10 Students enrolled in LaRoche College B.A. Radiography Degree
- 40 Students enrolled in three Clarion University cohorts for Master of Education Degree
- 28 Students enrolled in Career Transitions Program, 7 students will continue on to Butler Community College in the fall
- Tomasina Small, 87 years old, earned her GED!

7. Schuylkill Community Education Council

Established 1998

8. Armstrong Educational Trust

Established 2000

- Prepared 123 dislocated workers in basic computer skills for jobseekers
- 144 practical nursing students, 20% were dislocated workers, with 100% employment upon graduation
- 31 teachers pursuing a Gannon University Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction
- Facilitated industry cluster consortia in manufacturing, health care, and technology leading to more than \$500,000 in incumbent worker training to strengthen and grow local employers

9. Mercer Community Education Council

Established 2000

- Coordinated a Certified Nursing Assistant Program for local Nursing Homes
 - 77 Students trained
 - 100% employed following training
 - Average wage for CNA: \$11-\$12/hour

A Few CEC Success Stories

1. Warren/Forest Higher Education Council

Established 1984

- First CEC celebrating 25th Anniversary -2009
- Has built a ladder of education from GED to Master Level Programs
- Gannon University: over 75-MBA's, 80-MEds; and 30-Principal Certification
- 3 LPN cohorts – 58 graduates with 100% placement – 37 students to begin 4th cohort, August 2009
- GED Testing Center
- Piloting a High School Diploma Program
- Adult Vocational Education Program
- School to Work Program

2. Corry Higher Education Council

Established 1991

- 31 unique individuals enrolled in A.S. Business Administration
- 60 individuals enrolled in GED prep program; 28 took GED Exam; 18 passed
- 155 enrollments in non-credit computer training
- Provided free basic computer to 22 employees of Erie Plastics, when business closed

3. CEC of Elk and Cameron Counties

Established 1991

- 3 Associates Degrees
- 30 credit courses offered each semester
- 7 educational partners
- CEC sponsors 3 leadership programs, 2 youth and 1 adult
- New Choices / New Options
- **Starting in fall 2009:**
- Lock Haven University LPN To RN Program
- Temple University MSW