

WCIDC partners with Penn State New Kensington on Entrepreneurial Center

The center is part of a state-wide Penn State initiative to stimulate economic development

GREENSBURG, Pa., October 20, 2016 - The Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation's (WCIDC) Board of Directors, Gina Cerilli, Ted Kopas, and Charles W. Anderson, approved today an Agreement of Sale between the WCIDC and Swank Young Developers for the purchase of a building and property in New Kensington that will house Penn State New Kensington's (PSNK) new Entrepreneurial Center.

The Entrepreneurial Center's goal is to merge two different aspects of entrepreneurialism, incubation and co-working membership, in one space. At the center, Penn State students and faculty, community groups, and individuals will be given guidance and training on developing entrepreneurial and business ideas.

"We are lucky to have County Commissioners who see the value in supporting an innovative approach to economic development," said Kevin Snider, chancellor of Penn State New Kensington. "Jason Rigone of the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation has been invaluable to the effort to build an Entrepreneurial Center and the WCIDC's commitment to this project over the next several years is a statement of their desire to invest in northern Westmoreland County. This is clearly an example of the exciting things that can happen when the county, city, PSNK, foundations, and private enterprise work together to make a difference."

Along with being the property owner and landlord, the WCIDC will assist PSNK in development services and project investment. The center's location in downtown New Kensington plays an important role as well.

"It is not just the entrepreneurial 'outputs' that we see as valuable. There is also immense value in the economic development potential that a project like this can spur in the downtown area," said Cerilli, chairman of the WCIDC. "I am happy the county can be part of a project like this because the Penn State New Kensington Entrepreneurial Center may become the model for similar centers throughout Westmoreland County."

Work on the center will begin this winter with a completion date set for summer 2017. "We plan on creating an inviting co-working space that will give individuals and groups a place to develop their business ideas. The center will be a unique addition to new Kensington's Fifth Avenue," said Jason Rigone, executive director of the WCIDC.

About Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation:

Founded in 1983 by the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, WCIDC implements a comprehensive economic development strategy to promote growth in terms of job creation, economic output and a stable tax base for Westmoreland County. Through the

development of a county-wide industrial park system, a responsive Business Calling Program and involvement in public/private partnerships, WCIDC strives to foster business growth, resulting in job opportunities for the citizens of Westmoreland County.

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