The Deane Center for the Performing Arts to Host TCDC's 5th Annual “Meet Our Member” Mixer

The Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC) will hold our 5th Annual Meet Our Member Mixer on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 from 5-7 PM. The Mixer will be held at the Deane Center for the Performing Arts, 104 Main Street, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania. This event is FREE for all TCDC Members. Refreshments will be served.

"The Deane Center is pleased to host TCDC’s 5th Annual Meet Our Member” Mixer. We have gotten busier and busier here and hope to be viewed as a valued part of economic development in the county, not only by the arts we are able to offer but also as a space that can be used for conferences. This is an opportunity for our partners who haven't toured the building to see our exceptional facility, perfect for receptions, meetings and other events” said Lisa Meade, Executive Director of The Deane Center.

The Deane Center for the Performing Arts offers “one-stop shopping” for the community’s arts needs, a place where area musicians, artists, dancers, actors, and anyone interested in the fine and performing arts can gather to rehearse or perform. The new state-of-the-art facility will bring their many productions to a new level of excellence. If you are not already a member and would like to attend, please consider joining TCDC!

The Deane Center for the Performing Arts located at 104 Main Street, Wellsboro, PA. For more information visit their website at www.deanecenter.com

The attire for the event is corporate casual. Any Member interested in attending should contact Carolyn E. Conte, Administrative Assistant, at the TCDC Office 570.723.8232 or eMail at tcdc2@ptd.net, by September 7, 2012. RSVP’s are required.
The Tioga County Development Corporation’s (TCDC) 19th Annual Meeting, held on Monday, July 30, 2012, was sponsored by six gold corporate sponsors; Frontier Communications; Land Services Group, Cunningham Surveyor’s; Northwest Savings Bank; PenTeleData; Seabrook House West and Talisman Energy USA.

This year the event began with a Reception from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM at Mansfield University’s Main Manser Dining Hall, Mansfield, Pennsylvania. The Buffett Dinner and Program were held from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Music was performed by local artist & songwriter Joe Callahan during the reception and dinner.

The Corporation planned its Program to recognize our Members and give brief presentations on TCDC Programs including: Loan Recipients; Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program School Recipients; and the Community and Youth Leadership Programs of Leadership Tioga County. Attendees also heard a brief presentation on the newly evolved Mansfield University Marcellus Shale Institute.

Highlighting the evening, the Tioga County Development Corporation recognized a leader from Tioga County with the presentation of the prestigious Rod C. Kelchner Award for Excellence in Community Service & Leadership. This year’s recipient was Ronald J. Butler, President/CEO of Laurel Health System. Longtime Board Members Bill Williams was awarded the David W. Rundell Director’s Award for Excellence and Exceptional Service as a Director of the Tioga County Development Corporation. Bill was recognized for his countless hours of volunteer work as a TCDC Director and to his community.

TCDC also featured other success stories. Highlighted during the evening was two awards given out to loan recipients, The Murus Company, located in Rutland Township and Dr. Lisa Sherman dba Tioga Veterinary Service. Cowanesque Valley High School was presented an award as the Education Improvement Tax Credit Program Award recipient and our Leadership Tioga County Program was also recognized.

The evening concluded with TCDC’s famous Door Prize extravaganza, over $4,200.00 worth of goods and services were donated by TCDC Members. Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting and joined us for our Celebration.
Snapshots From Our 19th Annual Meeting

Above: Dr. Allan Golden, TCDC Director & President of Mansfield University served as Master of Ceremony

Below: YLP Class of 2012 Graduates catch up with Nancy Stamilio, First Citizens Community Bank & YLP Co-Chair

Left: TCDC Directors Karl Kroek, Bill Williams and Bill Roosa

Above Photo: Guests enjoy conversation during the social networking reception of TCDC’s 19th Annual Meeting

Nearly 155 TCDC Members and Supporters attended Our Celebration!

Below: Participants enjoyed entertainment performed by Joe Callahan, local musician and song writer.
Awards & Recognitions from Our 19th Annual Meeting

Below: TCDC First Vice Chair Karen Russell, Keystone North Inc. (left) presents Doug Pfleegor of The Murus Company one of our Loan Recipient Success Story awards.

TCDC Directors Andy Rohrer (left) and Bill Roosa (right) announce the winners of our door prize packages.

Above: TCDC Director Bill Williams accepts the David W. Rundell Award from Robert J. Blair, TCDC President/CEO

Left: Ron Butler, President/CEO Laurel Health System accepts the Rod C. Kelchner Leadership Award from TCDC Director Bill Williams.

Above: TCDC First Vice Chair Karen Russell, Keystone North Inc. (left) presents Marty Heyler, CVHS (middle) & Diana Barnes, NTSD Superintendent (right) our EITC Success Story award.

Above: Lindsey Sikorski & Dr. Dennis Wydra give a brief presentation on Mansfield University’s new Marcellus Shale Institute.

Above: TCDC looks forward to several more years of service to Tioga County!
Ward Manufacturing LLC contributes $25,000 to EITC Program

On August 21, 2012 Ward Manufacturing LLC made a contribution of $25,000 to help support the educational needs of our students through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). The check was presented to the Tioga County Foundation, the charitable arm of the Tioga County Development Corporation.

Ward Manufacturing LLC, headquartered in Blossburg, PA, is a major supplier of iron pipe fittings as well as a multi-million dollar supplier of custom castings and corrugated gas tubing. Through this program and others, Ward Manufacturing LLC continues its work to strengthen the economic heart and soul of Tioga County. Ward Manufacturing LLC has been a long-time contributor to the EITC program. The Tioga County Foundation has been designated as an educational improvement organization under the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC), businesses may now make contributions to support the public school districts in our local area.

“Ward is proud to help the youth of Tioga County advance themselves through educational experiences, we look forward to seeing this program grow” said Pete Guidi, President/CEO Ward Manufacturing LLC.

The funds are used to support local innovative educational programs for the schools in Tioga County. The Tioga County Foundation is currently using these tax credit funds to support local career development and school to work efforts within our three (3) public districts.

For more information on how your company can participate in the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) in Tioga County, please contact Christie Blackwell, Leadership Development Coordinator at the Tioga County Development Corporation, (570)723-8232, 114 Main Street Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Northwest Savings Bank contributes $5,000 to EITC Program

On August 28, 2012 the Wellsboro Branch of Northwest Savings Bank made a cash contribution of $5,000 to help support the educational needs of our students through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC). The check was presented to the Tioga County Foundation, the charitable arm of the Tioga County Development Corporation.

Blake Maxson, Manager of the Wellsboro Branch of Northwest Savings Bank said, “the EITC program is a great way for us at Northwest Savings Bank to give back to the area and to the most important aspect of it, the education of the future leaders of Tioga County. We feel privileged to be able to participate with the great folks at the Tioga County Foundation.”

Northwest Savings Bank has served Pennsylvanians since 1896. A full service bank, Northwest Savings stresses personal, friendly services to its customers and support for the community they share. Northwest offers its customers a full range of personal and commercial banking products, investment and trust management services. Through this program, Northwest Savings Bank is helping create a solid economic foundation for Tioga County.

The funds are used to support local innovative educational programs for the schools in Tioga County. The Tioga County Foundation is currently using these tax credit funds to support local career development and school to work efforts within the three (3) public districts. The Program allows for-profit businesses in our County to qualify for state tax credits. The Company makes a donation of the approved Tax Credit amount to the Tioga County Foundation. Funds received go toward Career Development & School To Work Initiatives in our public schools.

If your company has tax obligations to the Commonwealth please consider keeping some taxes local and support EITC.
On July 13, 2012 Sandra J. Outman, dba FlameOut, closed on a $25,000 Tioga County Micro Loan Fund loan with the Tioga County Development Corporation. The $25,000 loan will be used to purchase new and used machinery & equipment to start a fire extinguisher sales & service business. FlameOut is a sole proprietorship business registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State. It will offer fire extinguisher services and sales to businesses and residents in the greater Northern Tier of Pennsylvania and Southern Tier of New York State. Sandra Outman has been involved in the fire extinguisher business for nearly 6 years.

In October 2010, the TCDC Board unveiled a new small business loan program, The Tioga County Micro Loan Program. Loans up to $25,000 may be approved for for-profit business in Tioga County. If your for profit business is considering financing, please contact us for low interest, fixed rate financing.

For more information, applications or assistance on the Tioga County Micro Loan Program or other financial assistance, contact Robert J. Blair, TCDC President/CEO, at (570) 723-8232 or eMail to tcdc1@ptd.net.
On July 11, 2012 the **Tioga County Development Corporation** became the owner of seven parcels of land formerly owned by E. H. Hall, Inc. A Sheriff’s Sale was conducted that day based on Foreclosure proceeding by **TCDC** and NTRPDC. Three of the parcels are being sold to adjacent private land owners and will return to the tax roles. Three parcels will be deeded to the Borough of Westfield (the Little League field and two water supply parcels). The final parcel will be deeded to ElectriCord Manufacturing Company (EMC) based on a prevision arrangement between EMC and the Tannery. The properties sales have been in process for several months after surveys and deed corrections were completed. **TCDC**’s solicitor, Owlett & Lewis handled the transactions. Survey work was completed by Land Surveyors Group.

As a result of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania opening up the Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) this summer, efforts were begun to consider a KOZ for the Westfield Business Park. Meetings are being held with the four taxing bodies . . . County of Tioga, Northern Tioga School District, Westfield Borough and Westfield Township. All four have agreed to the KOZ and are in the process of taking formal action via ordinances or resolutions. We anticipate all four acting on the zone by October. An application is then submitted to the Department of Economic & Community Development (DCED) for approval. All new zones must be designated by October 1, 2013 and go into effect on January 1, 2014. The tax relief lasts for ten years.

Begun in 1999, the KOZ Program allows for designated areas of the Commonwealth to provide tax free zones for local and state taxes to eligible businesses locating in a zone. The KOZ Program is an effective marketing and development tool. There are currently 46,000 acres in Pennsylvania with KOZ designation. **TCDC** and NTRPDC are jointly working on the designation.

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**TCDC & Tioga County Host Pike County: Tax Abatement**

On May 30, 2012 representatives from Pike County came to Tioga County to hear more about the Tioga County Tax Preferential Abatement Program.

Pike County Commissioners Matt Osterberg and Karl Wagner and Pike County IDC Director, Pat Sullivan met with Tioga County Commissioners Erick Coolidge and **TCDC** staff, Robert J. Blair and Christie Blackwell to learn more about our Tax Abatement Program. Pike County is considering developing a similar plan. Pike County looked to Tioga County as a good example of the LERTA Tax Abatement Program.

The Tioga County Tax Abatement Plan was adopted in 2005 and amended in 2007. For Profit businesses who construct additional square footage of buildings or make major renovations to an existing building increasing the assessed value are eligible in portions of Tioga County for the 5 year tax abatement program. Presently there are nine municipalities (Blossburg Borough, Knoxville Borough, Lawrence Township, Mansfield Borough, Richmond Township, Tioga Borough, Wellsboro Borough, Westfield Borough and Westfield Township); one school district (NTSD) and the County of Tioga participate in the program.

Businesses or municipalities interested in the program and the benefits may visit website at **tcdc-pa.com** or contact Robert J. Blair, President/CEO at tcdc1@ptd.net or 570.723.8232.
Youth Leadership Program Kicks off Class of 2013

On Wednesday, August 15, 2012, the Tioga County Development Corporation Leadership Tioga County Youth Leadership Program kicked off our fourteenth year with the annual Summer Event held at Nessmuk Lake in Wellsboro. The Youth Leadership Program Class of 2013, along with family and friends, received an overview of the Youth Leadership Program and had an opportunity to meet other students participating in the program.

The YLP Class of 2013 consists of 34 students from the Northern Tioga School District, Southern Tioga School District, Wellsboro Area School District, New Covenant Academy, Wesley Academy & Homeschool students. The Orientation & Team Building Session will be held on September 6, 2012 at the W. M. Tokishi Training Center, Wellsboro, PA (NYPUM Building).

The purpose of Leadership Tioga County is to recruit, train, encourage & develop caring individuals to participate in community leadership activities & responsibilities throughout Tioga County.
As summer moves into fall once again we celebrated with our Annual Meeting on July 30, 2012 at Mansfield University and will hold our 5th Annual Meet Our Member Mixer at the Deane Center for the Performing Arts on September 12, 2012. We are really pleased the Deane Center will host our Mixer. We have worked with the Center for several years in pursuing public funding sources. The Deane Center has a low interest loan with us. More and more activities are occurring at 104 Main Street. The Mixer will be an opportunity for our Members to tour the Center.

We are well on our way with this year’s Education Improvement Tax Credit Program. Ward Manufacturing, Northwest Savings Bank and Frontier have contributed so far this year. On September 10, 2012 we will receive an EITC check from Waste Management. The EITC Program is a great opportunity for local businesses to contribute a portion of their state tax obligations to serve the needs of our three public school districts for career development and school to work initiatives. If your company has a tax obligation, please consider the EITC Program through the Tioga County Foundation.

Our efforts continue with the development of the Westfield Business Park. Some of the parcels of land formerly owned by the tannery are being put back into productive use and we are pursuing the designation of a Keystone Opportunity Zone with the State. We can not say enough about the cooperation we are getting from the Cowanesque Valley residents, businesses and elected officials.

As we begin our second year in the Northern Tier Prep Process we continue to strengthen the partnership process of delivering economic development services to our businesses.

My final thoughts go out to our Members and our Corporate Sponsors. THANK YOU! We can not do what we do without your support and commitment to TCDC. From a $25 Individual Membership to a County Contribution of $25,000; to a Legislative Breakfast or Annual Meeting Corporate Sponsorship; to a door prize donation; from a Leadership Tioga County Session Sponsorship; and to an EITC Contribution each and every dollar supports our mission to make Tioga County . . . a place to call home.