

Program Committee of the Tri-Chamber Foundation

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Tri-Chamber Foundation Program Committee

Meeting Notes

19 September 2007

CareerLink at Bloomsburg

Chairperson: Luanne Bittenbender (luanne.bittenbender@ccfnb.com)

Vice Chairperson: Bill Forsythe (wforsyth@centralcolumbia.k12.pa.us)

In Attendance: Luanne Bittenbender, Columbia County Farmers National Bank; Mary Ann Christ, David J. Thompson Mailing Corp.; Ed Edwards, Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce; Bill Forsythe, Central Columbia School District; Tracy Gillespie, Tri-Chamber Foundation Co-Facilitator; Dean Girton, Girton Manufacturing; Stephanie Kessler, Tri-Chamber Foundation Co-Facilitator; Lorraine Kreischer, Press Enterprise; Greg Michael, Berwick Area School District; Brian Seely, Millville Area School District; Amy Shortlidge, Berwick Area Chamber of Commerce; and Chris Young, Columbia County Commissioner.

Agenda Items: Welcome; Approval of July 2007 Meeting Notes; TIP Program Update; Strategic Plan Update; Staff Report; New Business/Comments/Questions.

I. Welcome

Chairperson Bittenbender called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

II. Approval of July 2007 Meeting Notes

No members voiced any opposition to the July 2007 minutes that were presented.

III. TIP Program Update

Mr. Young reported that a meeting was held on August 13 and that it was decided the TIP program would definitely become a reality. He said that Luzerne County Community College (LCCC) is currently developing curriculum for the program and that LCCC will match individuals in the program with mentors to help teach them about financial aid and other matters. The target of this program is individuals with little or no working skills, such as single mothers. Potential job opportunities would be in the area of medical clerical, law office clerical, and hospitality. It would take approximately one semester for TIP program students to go through the program, but they could go onto get an Associate Degree or a Bachelors Degree.

Mr. Girton said potential high school dropouts should be targeted for this program, as well, and that assessments need to be done, such as WorkKeys. He suggested the Tri-Chamber Foundation could play an important role in helping to identify individuals who would most benefit from participating in the TIP program.

IV. Strategic Plan Update

Mrs. Gillespie and Ms. Kessler reported that the strategic plan draft was complete and that as a result of the strategic planning process, the Tri-Chamber Foundation decided

to change the name of the organization from the “Columbia-Montour Area Business & Education Partnership of the Tri-Chamber Foundation” to simply the “Tri-Chamber Foundation.” The new web site is www.trichamberfoundation.com . The Steering Committee’s new name is now the Program Committee of the Tri-Chamber Foundation, and another committee, the Marketing/Communications Committee, is to be formed as well.

V. Staff Report

Mrs. Gillespie and Ms. Kessler reported that the School Counts Subcommittee was just finishing up with attending new student orientations and student lunches to promote the School Counts program for this year. At the end of this year, two \$100 scholarships per participating school (as applicable) will be randomly awarded to seniors who received a School Counts certificate for their junior year. This will be done via a random drawing of all the students who earned certificates for their junior year.

Preparations for Student in the Workplace Week 2007 are well underway. Schools participating in this year’s program, which is taking place the week of November 5-9, are: Benton Area Junior High School, Berwick Area Middle School, Bloomsburg Area Middle School, Greenwood Friends School, and Millville Area Middle/High School. Central Columbia Middle School’s eighth-grade students are not participating in this year’s program, as they will be beginning their own in Spring 2008 and will be aiming to place 100% of their eighth-grade students.

After the report on this year’s Student in the Workplace Week program (which started in 1997), members discussed changing the future format of this eighth-grade career exploration program. Mr. Forsythe suggested area eighth-graders could be bused to one central location and could choose from two different half-day presentations on various careers. Mr. Edwards added this could be done in a conference format.

VI. New Business/Comments/Questions

There was nothing else to come before the committee at this time.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Bittenbender at 9:37 a.m.