

NETWORKS

DIGITAL NEWS

LEADERSHIP BLAIR COUNTY ALUMNI

WeCare Blair County... Helping with the journey

By Nancy McClelland, LBC Class of 2008

Leadership Blair County (LBC) is a program sponsored by the Blair County Chamber wherein participants are educated about the concept of servant leadership and encouraged to continue with that servant leadership after graduating from the program.

In keeping with its mission statement, the Alumni of Leadership Blair County Adult are committed to community service through servant leadership, as is evidenced by an initiative which began in 2014 - WeCare Blair County...Helping with the journey.

"One way we do this is by paying annual dues, which is not for personal benefit but provides a way to award grants to non-profit programs. Non-profits with current LBC alumni actively involved receive priority as grant recipients", according to Alumni Committee members who review the Grant applications.

At graduation of the 2025 LBC class, LBC Alumni presented three grants. This year the recipients are AMBUCS for \$2,000, Angel Feet-Billy Sneakers program for \$1,000, and the LBC Youth Program for \$900.00.

LBC Alumni are encouraged by the fact that after meeting several of the LBC Youth graduates recently, Blair County has a lot to look forward to.

Why do Leadership Blair County Alumni continue their Servant Leadership? Because 'WE CARE'!!



Billing Questions? We have an email for that

Did you know there is an email available to Chamber members for all questions related to billing, payments, and other financial matters? If you have any questions concerning an invoice you receive, or if you need a refund, or you simply have a question related to your finances with the Chamber you can email accounting at billing@blairchamber.com.



[ber.com](mailto:billing@blairchamber.com). We hope by providing this dedicated email address it will streamline the process making it easier for you to get a response quickly.



Chamber Board Approves New Members

The Board of Directors of the Blair County Chamber has officially approved the following new members at its recent meeting:

• **Crowned Boutique** • **Stefan Long**

Do you know of a business or individual that could benefit from the many advantages that Chamber membership offers? Contact Jessie Covert at the Chamber at jcovert@blairchamber.com.



TAKING A BREAK

**There will be no HD500
or Breakfast Club in July.**

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**Watch your inbox for
information about an
exciting Breakfast Club
on August 14.
You don't want to miss it!**

ABCD Corp.

Your economic development partner

Altoona Blair County Development Corporation (ABCD Corp.) works closely with businesses to identify economic development financing for real estate acquisition and expansion and equipment or working capital projects. ABCD Corp. works as a catalyst for business expansion in Blair County and through regional partnerships. Since its founding in 1946, it has facilitated over 2,000 projects reflecting more than \$2 billion in total project costs and the creation/retention of thousands of jobs.

NAP – Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Program

All non-residential zones within specified municipalities are part of the approved zone including: City of Altoona, Hollidaysburg Borough, Logan Township, Roaring Spring, Tyrone, and Williamsburg Borough. Eligible applicants are private, for-profit companies with projects located within the defined Enterprise Zone. The Maximum tax credit award is equal to 25% of qualified investment, up to \$500,000 per project.

First Frontier Blair County Micro-Loan Program

Created in December of 2018 to meet the needs of small businesses and entrepreneurs that are vital to our local, regional and global economies.

Blair County Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) Loan

This program provides a pool of below market funds available to existing and new micro-businesses (less than 10 employees) in Blair County communities.

Tyrone Borough Micro-Loan & Grant Program

Created in 2020 to meet the needs of small for-profit and non-profit businesses located within the Borough of Tyrone.

First Frontier 504 Program

This program is a powerful financing tool designed to help small businesses grow while supporting local economic development.

Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) Loans

These loans provide fixed, low-interest



financing for land and building acquisition, machinery and equipment, working capital and energy-efficient projects.

USDA Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) Loans

Designed to provide fixed, low-interest financing for land and building acquisition, machinery and equipment and working capital.

Blair County has a number of tax abatement geographic zones to help foster economic development. The two programs that take advantage of real estate and other tax abatement programs are the **Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ)** and **Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA)**

The Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) or Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone (KOEZ) program can significantly reduce the cost of doing business through exemptions, deductions, abatements and credits of state and local taxes.

The Local Economic Revitalization Assistance (LERTA) Program, authorized by PA Act 76 of 1977, is a great way to encourage revitalization and new construction properties that qualify for LERTA are exempt from real estate property tax through a graduated scale over the duration of the 5 years of the LERTA.

For more information regarding any of these funding programs, contact Tom Seasoltz at toms@abcdcorp.org, Renae Lynn at renael@abcdcorp.org, and Marcus Edwards at marcuse@abcdcorp.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to [McCartney's Workplace Solutions](#) on being named a Steelcase Premier Partner, a top honor given to select dealers who go above and beyond in customer service, community involvement, and business excellence. This award puts McCartney's among a small group of dealers across North America who meet high standards in areas like customer satisfaction, showroom quality, community impact, and business growth.



Seven days and counting

Only one week remains to submit applications for the Leadership Blair County Adult class of 2026. The deadline is June 30th. Applications can be found at blairchamber.com. For more information, contact Megan Rossman at mrossman@blairchamber.com.

Bulk mailing? Save money through your Chamber membership

Put your Chamber membership to work for your business by using the Chamber's bulk mail permit to significantly reduce the cost of postage for qualified mailings. It could potentially save you hundreds of dollars. Just one more way your Chamber membership saves you big! Contact Jessie at jcovert@blairchamber.com to find out how you can start saving today.