



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COLORFUL MURALS TURN HEADS IN CONNELLSVILLE**

**Uniontown, PA** – Fayette County’s beautiful foliage won’t be the only thing making Connellsville more colorful this fall.

The city’s own Appalachian Creativity Center recently completed three murals for the Connellsville Career and Technical Center. The murals have enhanced their environments, inspired other community art projects and earned the Creativity Center the title of September “Place” in the Fayette County Public Relations Initiative’s “Faces & Places” series.

Owned by Ann Nicholson and Shirley Rosenberger, the Creativity Center was founded in 2016 as an incubator for creativity in Connellsville and surrounding communities.

Rosenberger spearheaded the mural project, creating the designs which adhered to specific themes: “The Road to Success,” “Stars and Stripes,” and “Education is the Key to Unlock the Golden Doors of Freedom.”

“All the murals have motivational quotes to inspire students to be the best they can be, and the world will be full of possibilities,” Rosenberger said.

The school initially reached out to the Creativity Center seeking a mural for its new soft-skills center, in the hopes of eliminating the institutional classroom look. Once finished, the design was much more detailed and eye-catching than originally imagined.

Rosenberger and Nicholson worked with fellow artists Michele Mowery, Jill Lambie and Chrissy Polosky to complete the first mural in 2017. The pair was joined by Carol Hull and Samantha Nicholson when completing the second mural. The third, Rosenberger completed on her own.

“The murals at the Career Center are more for the students than the public,” Nicholson said. “However, the murals that have recently gone up throughout the community have added a sense of pride to our city.”

“Everyone is talking about them,” Rosenberger said. “They make people stop and take notice. Many watch in amazement.”

The murals are just one of the dozens of community service projects Appalachian Creativity Center completes each year. Additionally, the center itself is an art gallery for local artists to showcase their work.

“We want to help artists sell their art, but we also want people that come to our gallery to be in awe of the creative forces within our community,” Nicholson said. “We also want to offer affordable classes to individuals - especially the ones that believe they do not have a creative bone in their body.”

More than 100 artists are represented in the gallery; their mediums ranging from acrylic and oils on canvas and thrown pottery, to jewelry and papercrafts. The center also serves as a hub for community outreach; a place for local artists to connect to local projects.

Nicholson said the center’s many classes include painting, ceramics, wood crafts, stained glass, Amish knot rugs and more. Field trips, demonstrations, adult/youth camps, and speaking engagements are also offered.

“We are actively involved in the majority of our local festivals, by either working the event or supporting them through donations,” she said, adding the center also works with several nonprofit organizations.

Rosenberger and Nicholson are often able to collaborate with their other business, Project Talent Theatre Workshops, on many projects, including a stilt-walking program, escape room, haunted attractions and theatre productions.

Additionally, the pair hosts their own television show, “Our Creative Community with Ann & Shirley,” on Armstrong Cable Network. The show has allowed them to expand the Appalachian Creativity Center’s reach well beyond Connellsville.

As the center’s impact keeps growing and inspiring people everywhere, projects like the three murals will continue popping up in every corner of Fayette County and beyond.

“We have people coming from neighboring communities wishing their communities would add public art displays,” Rosenberger said. “Art adds beauty to our already beautiful community.”

For more information on Appalachian Creativity Center, visit [www.appalachiancreativitycenter.com](http://www.appalachiancreativitycenter.com).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org).

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For more information, contact Kristi Rooker Kassimer, Public Relations Specialist, at 412-691-0262, [kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:kkassimer@fayettecountypa.info) or Kaylie Moore, Journalist, at 724-317-6924, [kmoore@fayettecountypa.info](mailto:kmoore@fayettecountypa.info).