



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2019

FAYETTE RECEIVES TEACHER IN THE WORKPLACE GRANT

Uniontown, PA – Fayette County students will soon have additional education and job skills to help them succeed in a global economy, thanks to a \$50,000 state grant.

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WIB) received \$50,000 for Fayette County to help implement a Teacher in the Workplace Program. The Fayette Business Education Partnership (the workforce development arm of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce), is the program organizer for the county.

This 2018-2019 Teacher in the Workplace grant is designed to be a hands-on opportunity for county educators. The focus of this round of programming was manufacturing and health care, as those two industries have the greatest workforce need locally.

Janet Ward, WIB Youth Programs Manager, said, “The program aims to create an opportunity for educators to experience and interact with local business and industry. The goal of the project will be to help our educators better understand the intricacies and needs of the business community so that they can build those necessary skills into their course curriculum.”

The partnership between the WIB and the Fayette Business Education Partnership also includes assistance from Catalyst Connection and the Intermediate Unit One.

Fayette Business Education Partnership Coordinator Kathi Hull said, “Our goal was to bring 25 teachers into the program and I’m proud to say that we met that goal. Every school district in Fayette County, as well as the Fayette County Career & Technical Institute and the Connellsville Area Career and Technical Center are represented”.

The program is made up of four components. Day one brought the educators together for an industry overview and guidance of constructing individualized lessons plans appropriate to their course content area that brings career pathway education to the forefront. Days two and three included visits to twenty local manufacturing and health care businesses.

“The support that we received from the business community is amazing; the need for qualified, willing workers is undeniable in this area. Our businesses stepped up quickly wanting to be part of the workforce solution in Fayette,” said Hull.

She continued, “The impact on the business community is great. These local businesses have received increased awareness and visibility of their products and services, developed long-term relationships with Fayette County educators, gained a better understanding of what is being taught in the classroom, provided valuable guidance on future curriculum development and much more. In turn, teachers have created lesson plans specific to their content area while aligned with the PA Career Education and Work

Standards. These interactive lesson plans have been taught in their classrooms and will be uploaded for the use of other educators.”

The program will wrap up next Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at a full day event to be held at Williams – Laurel Mountain Midstream in Connellsville. Day four will bring our educators back together to report out on their work in the classroom and connect with our local workforce development community.

“These educators (who will also receive 22 professional Act 48 credits for their work) are to be celebrated for their commitment to building a stronger and more vital workforce in Fayette County,” said Muriel Nuttall, Executive Director of the Fayette Chamber of Commerce.

Fayette County Commissioner Chairman Vince Vicites said workforce development is a key component of economic development. “Anytime the education sector can work closely with the business sector, the county’s workforce will be better trained for the jobs of the future,” Vicites said.

“If these tax dollars are used as a direct source to immediately connect teachers and counselors to Fayette County businesses with an immediate outcome, then this money is well spent,” Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink said.

The grant was part of \$2 million in Teacher in the Workplace funding awarded through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry to 48 programs statewide.

“A 21st century economy demands a technically skilled, well-prepared workforce and my administration is dedicated to helping our young people get the skills they need to succeed,” Gov. Tom Wolf said. “These funds will provide educators with a more thorough understanding of the skills necessary to thrive in the workplace, make curriculum more employer-relevant, and help ensure that students are career-ready upon graduation.”

The local legislative community, Board of Directors of the Westmoreland Fayette Workforce Investment (Development) Board, and local media representatives are welcome to attend all or part of the Teacher in the Workforce day four program. Advanced notice of an intention to attend is required.

For more information on the Teacher in the Workplace Program, or to give notice of attendance, contact Kathi Hull at 724-437-4571 or khull@fayettechamber.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

###

This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the 2016 Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.

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