

MVPC **PROGRESS UPDATE**

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Progress is ...

The March 27 annual “Celebration of Progress” includes awards, music and a keynote presentation by KDKA Money and Political reporter Jon Delano // Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr. receives Allison Maxwell Award and Monroeville Areas Chamber of Commerce receives Irey Progress Award for Expressway leadership at the annual event // Expressway corridor cooperative economic development effort underway // Smart Government Initiative moves ahead with second meeting of local officials and Pitt student visits to local governments // **Progress Council newsletter moving to email – see insert**

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

The March 27 annual event includes awards, music and KDKA’s Jon Delano - An annual event with jazz-themed food and music greeted attendees at the Progress Council annual event. Keynote speaker, Jon Delano shared insights into the Obama Administration and answered questions.

Dr Angelo Armenti, Jr. and Monroeville Chamber receive awards- California University president Angelo Armenti received the Allison Maxwell Leadership Award for development of California University and Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce receives the Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award for leadership on the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway

Expressway corridor cooperative economic development effort underway – Area economic development groups met on March 26 to discuss potential cooperative economic development strategies for the 57-mile Expressway corridor. The meeting was in follow-up to a January 16 roundtable meeting on Expressway corridor development ideas.

Smart Government Initiative moves ahead with second meeting of local officials and Pitt student visits - Students from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at Pitt visited local governments to gain insights into the challenges of local governments. Local elected officials met on April 16 to continue discussions on the Smart Government Initiative.

The March 27 annual event includes awards, music and KDKA's Jon Delano

An annual event with jazz-themed food and music greeted attendees at the Progress Council's March 27 annual event. In an informal presentation, Jon Delano shared insights into the Obama Administration and answered questions from the audience.

Attendees seem pleased by the new format that included ample networking time and food stations featuring food from key jazz cities including Pittsburgh, New York, Chicago and New Orleans. Master of ceremonies and Progress Council vice president Bob Burke did an excellent job of keeping the program on track.

The program included presentation of key Progress Council awards for individual and project leadership. Please see articles below on the Allison Maxwell Award for Community Leadership and the Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award.

Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr. and Monroeville Chamber receive awards

California University president Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr. received the Allison Maxwell Leadership Award for development of California University and Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce received the Frank Irey Jr. Join in Progress Award for leadership on the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway at the Progress Council's March 27 Annual "Celebration of Progress."

The Allison Maxwell Award is presented in recognition of community leadership in the Mid Mon Valley. President Armenti became the twelfth recipient the Maxwell Award that was established in 1976. He received the award in recognition of his leadership in the development of California University of Pennsylvania. The award presentation included a video presentation on the University and acceptance remarks by Mrs. Angela Burrows, Vice President for University Relations & University spokeswoman who attended the event on President Armenti's behalf.

The annual Frank Irey, Jr. Join in Progress Award was presented to the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of their leadership in advancing the Expressway project. Chad Amond, President of the Chamber, accepted the awarded. The Monroeville Chamber was an inaugural member of the Expressway Partnership Initiative that seeks to focus attention on the need to advance the northern section of the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway. In his acceptance remarks Amond referred to the leadership of the Progress Council and recognized the important role that the late Frank Irey, Jr. played in advancing the Expressway project.

Expressway corridor cooperative economic development effort underway

Area economic development groups met on March 26 to discuss potential cooperative economic development strategies for the 57-mile Expressway corridor that includes Fayette, Washington counties and the southern tip of Allegheny County. The meeting was in follow-up to a January 16 roundtable meeting on Expressway corridor development ideas. A Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article by now retired PPG news reporter Joe Grata prompted the January 16 meeting. Joe has offered to participate in the economic development planning initiative for the corridor.

Thus far the Expressway corridor-planning group includes: Mike Krajovic, Fay-Penn Economic Development Council; Susan Morgan, Redevelopment Authority of Washington County; Deborah Keefer, Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce; Lou Ann Pawlick, Middle Monongahela Industrial Development Association; Joe Kirk, Mon Valley Progress Council; and Joe Grata, retired. Efforts continue to reach out to other economic development groups in the Expressway corridor.

The goal of the group is to explore a broad range of cooperative economic development opportunities in the corridor focusing on sustainable development and alternative energy strategies.

Smart Government Initiative moves ahead

In one of the first steps of the second phase of the Progress Council's Smart Government Initiative, students from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Innovation Clinic visited local governments on April 9 to gain insights into the challenges of local governments. In addition, local elected officials met on April 16 to continue discussions on the Smart Government Initiative.

These actions represent the beginning of the second phase of this Progress Council-led, multi-year project to work with local governments on an effort to develop and implement more regionally based approaches in the delivery of municipal services.

Through the April 9 tour, the Pitt graduate students had a real opportunity to learn first hand the fiscal and service delivery challenges faced by local governments in the Mid Mon Valley. Meetings were held with local officials in the Monongahela, Donora, Monessen, and Charleroi. The meetings provided keen insight into the day-to-day challenges faced by local government. Students also gained an understanding of current multi-community strategies in the delivery of municipal services currently underway in the Mid Mon Valley and the interest of local communities in exploring addition ways local governments could work together.

At an April 16 meeting, local elected officials began to form a steering committee, received a presentation on the scope of the project, and initiated discussion on local ideas that could promote stronger regional cooperation. State Representative Peter J. Daley, a strong supporter of the initiative, was at the meeting and was pleased by both the attendance and discussion.

Pitt students, working under the direction of GSPIA faculty member George Dougherty, will present initial research at the next meeting planned for mid-June.

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