



## **Progress Update**

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**Progress Council forty-sixth annual dinner keynote speaker, Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky, noted need for a P3 to advance Expressway // Former State Senator Stout and World Kitchen receive awards at annual dinner // Mid Mon Intermunicipal Cooperative proposed at the April 26 Smart Government Initiative meeting // Catalyst Connection visits MVCTC to discuss business seminars**

### **PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**Progress Council forty-sixth annual dinner Keynote speaker, Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky, noted need for a P3 to advance Expressway**

In remarks at the April 15 Progress Council annual dinner, Allegheny Conference CEO Dennis Yablonsky noted the need to include a public private partnership, or P'3, in financing plans for the Expressway. The Progress Council has been pursuing a P'3 strategy for the Expressway for several years. (See attachment for a photo montage of the dinner).

### **Former State Senator Stout and World Kitchen receive awards at annual dinner**

J. Barry Stout became the first two-time recipient of the Allison Maxwell Award for Community Leadership. In emotional remarks, the former state senator thanked the Progress Council for their support and recognized the value of unified efforts for advancement of highway projects. World Kitchen received the Frank Irey Jr. Progress Award for growth at their Charleroi based plant.

### **Mid Mon Intermunicipal Cooperative proposed at the April 26 Smart Government Initiative meeting**

Mid Mon Valley elected officials gave the Progress Council the go-head to begin to solicit members for a proposed Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative. The goal of the Cooperative is to continue the work of the Smart Government Initiative upon the end of the grant for the multi-year study of regionally based cooperative strategies in mid 2011.

### **April 26 Smart Government meeting includes municipal primer on Marcellus Shale**

Attorney Keith Bassi provided an overview of key issues to consider when developing a local Marcellus Shale ordinance to local elected officials at the April 26 Smart Government meeting held at Mon Valley Career and Technology Center.

### **Catalyst Connection visits MVCTC to discuss business seminars**

Representatives of the Catalyst Connection, a Pittsburgh-based, state-funded program to assist area manufactures, visited the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center to discuss plans for offering business seminars at the school. Catalyst Connection would use the Mid Mon Valley Tech Access room, jointly developed by MVCTC and the Progress Council, for their seminars.

### **Progress Council forty-sixth annual dinner Keynote speaker Allegheny Conference on Community Development CEO Dennis Yablonsky notes need for a P3 to advance Expressway**

In remarks at the April 14 Progress Council annual dinner, Allegheny Conference CEO Dennis Yablonsky noted the need to include a public private partnership, or P3's, in financing plans for the Expressway. The Progress Council has been pursuing a P'3 strategy for the Expressway for several years. (See attachment for a photo montage of the dinner).

Yablonsky's presentation at the annual dinner focused on five things that area leaders need to address for southwestern Pennsylvania to be competitive in the next five years including; energy, improvement of the business climate, attention to the region's core cities, improving the diversity and improving our infrastructure.

The Allegheny Conference CEO cited these needs while recognizing the challenges we still face despite the remarkable transition of the region.

The Progress Council expressed its deep appreciation to Dennis Yablonsky for speaking at the forty-sixth annual event.

### **Former State Senator Stout and World Kitchen receive awards at annual dinner**

J. Barry Stout became the first two-time recipient of the Allison Maxwell Award for Community Leadership. In emotional remarks, the former state senator thanked the Progress Council for their support and recognized the value of unified effort for advancement of highway projects.

The Progress Council recognized that progress on the Mon Valley Fayette Expressway can be directly attributed to the leadership of Senator Stout. The senator played key roles in the passage of transportation legislation in 1992 and 1997 that included funding for both the Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway projects. The I-70 to PA Route 51 section of Toll Road 43 is named in his honor.

Doug Chamberlin, plant manager at World Kitchen, was presented the Frank Irej Jr Progress award for capital investment and employment gains at the Charleroi Plant.

Bob Irej, Frank Irej Jr.'s son, presented the award and remarked that today the World Kitchen Charleroi plant is the largest manufacturer in the Mid Mon Valley with 350 employees -- an increase of 30 this past year alone.

World Kitchen completed an \$8 million capital improvement project in 2010 with \$2 millions dollar in additional investments planned in this year. Bob also noted that they are the leading manufacturer of Pyrex products in the world.

### **Mid Mon Intermunicipal Cooperative proposed at the April 26 Smart Government Initiative meeting**

Mid Mon Valley elected officials gave the go-head to the Progress Council to begin to solicit members for a proposed Mid Mon Valley Intergovernmental Cooperative. The goal of The Cooperative (as it will be known) is to continue the work of the Smart Government Initiative upon the end of the grant for the multi-year study of regionally based cooperative strategies.

Kirk noted that letters will be sent to Mid Mon Valley governments in the near future proposing that they join as members and work together to address issues of mutual concern. "We believe that this is an important step in addressing the need to develop more regionally-based strategies in the deliverance of municipal services in the Mid Mon Valley," Kirk said. The Progress Council will serve as the administrator of The Cooperative.

### **April 26 Smart Government meeting includes municipal primer on Marcellus Shale**



Attorney Keith Bassi provided a overview of key issues to consider when developing a local Marcellus Shale ordinance to local elected officials at the April 26 Smart Government meeting.

In his remarks, Bassi stated that while many issues are regulated at the state level there are areas that can be regulated at the local level. These fall into noise considerations, setbacks, and zoning issues.

He emphasized that comprehensive plans need to be current to avoid losses in any potential court action. He also stated that inclusion of gas companies in updating of comprehensive plans could aid in the process.

Attorney Keith Bassi will be providing a "white paper" on the issue to provide guidance to local elected official on this important issue.

### **Catalyst Connection visits MVCTC to discuss business seminars**



Representatives of the Catalyst Connection, a Pittsburgh-based, state-funded program to assist area manufactures, visited the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center to discuss plans for offering business seminars at the school. Catalyst Connection would use the Mid Mon Valley Tech Access room jointly developed by MVCTC and the Progress Council for the seminars.

The April 11 meeting of staff of the Catalyst Connection, Mon Valley Progress Council and Mon Valley Career and Technology Center staff included a review of the capabilities of the Tech Access Room as an asset as a location for business seminars. In addition to having furnishings that can be configured for a wide range of meetings, the room is an Internet hot-spot and has an internet-based videoconferencing system.

#### **The Mon Valley Progress Council**

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