

# **MVPC PROGRESS UPDATE**

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November/December 2009

## **Progress is ...**

A Smart Government Initiative panel discussion on regional policing held with the Tri-County Boroughs Association was well received by local officials --- and funding announced for the Phase II of the initiative // A regional cluster analysis to be under taken through the Regional Enterprise Zone Program will focus on increasing local business-to-business sales // Pre-registration sought for planned workforce readiness course sponsored through the Work Readiness Initiative // The Progress Council promotes full count census initiative.

### **PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**A Smart Government Initiative panel discussion on regional policing held with the Tri-County Boroughs Association** - A November 19 joint meeting with the Tri-County Boroughs Association on regional policing was well received by local officials. Panel members included regional policing options ranging from local efforts to a program in the Farrell, PA area. State Representative Peter J. Daley also announced that he was successful in securing a \$200,000 grant which will support completion of phase II of the project.

**A regional cluster analysis will focus on increasing local business-to-business sales** – A Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone Program project will focus on identifying current and potential local markets in the Mid Mon Valley and identification of prospective business-to-business sales opportunities. A January meeting of the Enterprise Zone Steering Committee will include focus on the cluster analysis project including the consultant selection process.

**Pre-registrations sought for planned workforce readiness course sponsored through the Work Readiness Initiative** – Pre-registrations are being sought for a five-week, thirty-hour course to promote job readiness. The course is targeted to begin in early 2010. A registration form is included in this newsletter. The joint effort with the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center is intended to improve skills in math, technical reading and work ethic.

**The Progress Council promotes full-count census initiative** – The Progress Council has joined with the US Census Bureau to promote a full count in the decennial census. A full count is crucial to ensure that the Mid Mon Valley receives its fair share of federal funding for everything from human services to funding for road improvements. Please see the enclosed flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information.

**The Progress Council approves annual objectives, a slate of officers and new members of the board of directors at the January 8 Annual Business Meeting** – The Progress Council annual business meeting focused on standard items including setting a course of actions in 2010, approval of the annual budget and appointment of new board members.

### **Smart Government Initiative panel discussion on regional policing held with the Tri-County Boroughs Association**

A November 19 joint meeting with the Tri-County Boroughs Association was well received by local officials. More than eighty representatives of local area governments and all three Washington County Commissioners attended the dinner meeting and discussion.

A panel with representatives from regional policing programs, ranging from local programs to programs in Farrell, PA, spoke about the successes they have found through working together. Panel members often cited improvements in the effectiveness and professionalism of police forces. It was clear that communities involved in the regional police forces were able to overcome obstacles including parochialism to develop their regional programs.

The idea for the panel discussion came from meetings of local officials involved in the Smart Government Initiative. Based on the positive discussion, the next meeting of the Smart Government Initiative will include discussions to develop one or more models for regional police forces that could serve the Mid Mon Valley.

Regional policing programs represented on the November 19 panel discussion included: Southwest Regional Police Department based in Belle Vernon; a local regional force comprised of Roscoe, Elco, Stockdale and Allenport (RESA); Northern Regional Police Department in northern Allegheny County, and Southwest Mercer County Regional Police Force based in Farrell. Bill Gamble, Police Testing/Police Personnel Management Consultant was also on the panel. He provided an overview of the issues involved in forming regional police forces. Bill served as the coordinator of the Department of Community and Economic Development regional policing efforts. He is widely recognized as a leader in the field of regional policing.

### **... and funding secured to support Phase II of the Smart Government Initiative**

State Representative Peter J. Daley also announced that he was successful in securing a \$200,000 grant which will support completion of Phase II of the project. Phase II will include the development of optional model ways for more regionally based delivery of municipal services and working with local officials on the implementation of the selected option.

The two-year project is being undertaken with the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Innovation Clinic and the consultant firm of PA Futures.

### **Regional cluster analysis will focus on increasing local business-to-business sales**

One of the goals of the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone is to support and assist businesses located in enterprise zone target areas of the nine Mid Mon Valley communities included in the local enterprise zone program. A cluster analysis project is one strategy to meet this goal.

The cluster analysis will focus on identifying current and potential markets in the Mid Mon Valley and identification of prospective business-to-business sales opportunities. A January meeting of the Enterprise Zone Steering Committee will include discussion of the cluster analysis project and the consultant selection process. "This will be an exciting project that will focus on ways to serve local firms," said Enterprise Zone Coordinator Joe Kirk.

A consultant is expected to be on board in early 2010. The consultant will be reaching out to local firms to discuss ways to increase local buying of goods and services.

Participating communities in the regional enterprise zone include: Brownsville, Belle Vernon, California, Charleroi, Donora, Monongahela, Monessen, North Charleroi, and Speers.

### **Pre-registrations sought for planned workforce readiness course sponsored**

Pre-registrations are being sought for a five-week, thirty-hour course to promote job readiness. The course is targeted to begin in early 2010. A pre-registration form is included in this newsletter.

The joint effort of the Progress Council Work Readiness Initiative and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center is intended to improve skills in math, technical reading and work ethic.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative course will be a five-week, thirty-hour program focusing on three core areas:

- Technical math
- Technical reading
- Work ethic and business awareness

It is essential to have a pre-registration commitment of at least seven (7) students to commence with the program. Registration will be \$100 per student. The goal is to have a program underway in spring 2010.

“This course is in direct response to issues identified by area firms regarding math, technical reading skills and issues regarding work ethic that have developed in recent years,” said Progress Council president John Easoz. “The joint effort with the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center will provide a cost-effective program to address these issues,” he added.

## **Progress Council approves annual objectives, a slate of officers and new members of the board of directors at January 8 annual business meeting**

The Progress Council’s annual business meeting focused on standard items including setting a course of actions in 2010, approval of the annual budget and appointment of new board members.

### **Strategic Actions, 2010**

#### **Issue area one - Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway**

##### *Strategic actions*

- Continue staff coordination support for the Expressway Partnership Initiative
- Seek to maintain focus on the completion of the PA Route 51 to I-376 Expressway
- Continue to provide support and guidance on the PA Turnpike Commission Public/Private Partnership Plan
- *Seek to include language on the 20% and local 80% in pending federal transportation legislation*

#### **Issue area two - Regional Initiatives**

##### *Strategic actions*

##### *Smart Government*

- Work with GSPIA at Pitt and consultant services for Phase II of the project
- Final actions to secure funding to support Phase II efforts
- Undertake Phase II steps toward implementation of a more regionally-based system for delivery of local governmental services

##### *Economic development*

- *Administer the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone Program including securing tax credits for business expansion projects*
- *Explore linkage of MMVREZ to a potential Mid Mon Valley regional DCED Main Street and Elm Street Program*

##### *Technical education*

- Market the Mon Valley Tech Access site as a business conference facility
- *Work in partnership with the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center and a business advisory task force to implement a work readiness education program*

## **Issue area three - Business support**

### ***Strategic actions***

- Respond to local businesses in a timely fashion to requests for technical and financing information
- Market the IDAP program and seek to secure one applicant for financing
- Manage the Donora industrial building and provide timely assistance to the firm occupying the building
- Continue to pursue options regarding transfer of the access road at Rostraver Airpark to another entity

## ***Issue area four - Administrative efficiency and sustainability***

### ***Strategic actions***

- Engage the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors in a sponsorship campaign
- Continue to explore unique funding sources consistent with the mission and objectives

*(New areas for 2010)*

## **Executive Committee and Board members**

### **Executive Committee**

John Easoz	President
Bob Burke	Vice President
Louis Quarto	Secretary/Treasurer
Lou Panza	At Large
William Lee	At Large
<i>Valerie Kissell</i>	<i>At Large</i>
<i>Doug Chamberlin</i>	<i>At Large</i>
<i>Chris Masciantonio</i>	<i>At Large</i>

### **Board of Directors**

#### Class of 2010 - Expires December 31, 2012

Angelo Armenti, Jr., Ph.D.	California University of PA
William Lee	Lee Supply
Lou Panza	Monongahela Valley Hospital
Debra Keefer	Mon Valley Regional C of C
Ray Giambattista	Rischtelli Brothers
John Easoz	Solar energy consultant
<i>Rob Lazzari</i>	<i>Solar Power Industries</i>
<i>Doug Chamberlin</i>	<i>World Kitchen</i>
<i>Scott Thurston</i>	<i>Flexsys</i>

#### Class of 2009 - Expires December 31, 2011

<i>Fran Prezioso Jr</i>	<i>Pittsburgh Fayette Express</i>
<i>Chris Masciantonio</i>	<i>U.S. Steel</i>

*(New members of the Executive Committee or board of directors)*

# Workforce Readiness Initiative

*A joint venture of the Mon Valley Progress Council  
and*

*Mon Valley Career and Technology Center*

***Print out and fax form to 724-684-5113 by January 20, 2010***

## Course registration form

### Program description

The focus is to improve workforce readiness by providing instruction in three core areas:

- Technical math
- Technical reading
- Work ethic and business awareness

The goal of the program is to upgrade basic technical skills and workforce readiness for both semi-skilled and entry level technical positions of Mid Mon Valley firms. Course materials will utilize real work examples in areas of instruction.

The program is open to all residents in the Mid Mon Valley and will involve instruction of 30 hours over five weeks. Classes will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. with two classes per week.

Registration is \$100 per participant.

Based on enrollment, the target is to begin the program in late February or early March of 2010.

### Registration information

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to commit to \_\_\_\_\_ pre-registrations for the Work Readiness program.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

### Comments on Work Readiness program

1. Is 6:00 pm a good start time for enrollees from your firm? Yes No  
a. Suggested start time \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please use back of form for additional comments)

**Please return registration by January 20, 2010**

Mon Valley Progress Council

435 Donner Ave., Suite 410

Monessen, PA 15062

Phone: 724-684-3381 Fax: 724-684-3381

## **The 2010 Census Needs Your Help.**

Congressional representation and billions of dollars are at stake. Results of the Census will determine how much funding is allocated to your community for senior citizens' and childrens' programs, health care services, and much more. You Count!

*This March, take 10 minutes to complete 10 simple questions.  
It's easy, safe and important. April 1, 2010 is Census Day!*



IT'S IN **OUR HANDS**  
[www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov)



United States  
**Census  
2010**

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