



**E·C·G·R·A**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
NOVEMBER  
2022**

**Knight, Ericka**

**From:** Lichtenwalter, Paul  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 4:15 PM  
**To:** Knight, Ericka  
**Subject:** Fwd: Local Share Assessment Payment Notification - Erie County

B.L

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**From:** RV, BFM Gaming <RA-BFM-Gaming@pa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2022 3:06:58 PM  
**To:** 'Sparber, James' <JSparber@eriecountypa.gov>  
**Subject:** Local Share Assessment Payment Notification - Erie County

Dear Mr. Sparber:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act 42 of 2017, the Department is required to distribute quarterly the Local Share Assessment collected for interactive gaming and slots to the municipalities in which a licensed gaming entity is located. This distribution is based on the interactive gaming and slots local share assessment amount collected plus the slot machine license operation fee amount collected over Summit Township's budget limitation.

An ACH for the 3rd quarter of 2022 payment in the amount of \$3,029,084.91 should be deposited in your bank account within 7 - 10 business days. This payment includes the interactive gaming local share assessment of \$15,374.87, the slots local share assessment of \$513,710.04 and the slot machine license operation fee of \$2,500,000.00. Any reductions to the Gross Interactive Gaming Revenue (GIGR) and Gross Terminal Revenue (GTR) for promotional items is the result of the Gaming Bulletin 2015-01 and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's April 28, 2014 decision in Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment Incorporated v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue (90 A.3d 699 (Pa. 2014)).

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

**Jennifer Heckert** | Division Chief  
PA Department of Revenue  
Bureau of Fiscal Management | Gaming Division  
1147 Strawberry Square | Harrisburg PA 17128  
Phone: 717.346.4004 | Fax: 717.787.6738  
E-mail: [jheckert@pa.gov](mailto:jheckert@pa.gov)  
[www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov)

*Our mission is to fairly, efficiently and accurately administer the tax laws and other revenue programs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

BANK 067

ERIE

COUNTY 3,029,084.91 X .55 = 1,665,996.70

067-021010-042100

EUGRA 3,029,084.91 X .45 = 1,363,088.21

067-021050-042100

TOTAL 3,029,084.91

**September 2022**

**Meeting with Executive Director**  
**Ongoing Social Media Management**  
**Ongoing Consulting**  
**September Comms**

**IMPLEMENTED**

- 8 Total September posts
- 2 Total graphics created
- Copyedit/Design Rural Listening Report
- Edinboro Event (Sep. 13<sup>th</sup>)
  - Media Advisory, distribution, and pitching
  - Press Release and distribution
- Union City Event (Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>)
  - Media Advisory, distribution, and pitching
  - Press Release and distribution

**IN PROGRESS | 2022 Grant Releases and Graphics**

- Girard Event
- North East Event
- Holiday Graphics

**IN PLANNING**

- Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report
- ECGRA Playbook
- Roadshow Tours



# ERIE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*Leading intergovernmental collaboration for the Erie Region.*

150 East Front Street • Suite 300 • Erie, PA 16507

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**October 20, 2022**

### **CONTACT:**

Michelle Jaggi

[mjaggi@erieareacog.org](mailto:mjaggi@erieareacog.org)

814-454-1770 or 814-323-0475

## **Media advisory: Erie Area Council of Governments announces launch of broadband expansion study**

Erie, PA – The Erie Area Council of Governments will hold a press conference on October 25 to share information about the launch of a countywide broadband expansion feasibility study. Presenters will include Erie County Executive Brenton Davis; Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA); Jessica Horan-Kunco, Director of the Erie County Department of Planning; and Michelle Jaggi, Executive Director of the Erie Area Council of Governments (EACOG).

The broadband expansion study will analyze existing broadband infrastructure and coverage gaps and recommend implementation strategies for expanding and improving local internet access throughout Erie County. The project is funded via grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission and ECGRA, as well as additional funding from the County of Erie.

**The press conference will take place Tuesday, October 25 at 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the Erie County Department of Planning, 150 East Front Street, Suite 300, Erie, PA, 16507.**

**###**

### **About EACOG:**

The Erie Area Council of Governments was founded in 1993 as a voluntary association of Erie County municipalities. The EACOG works to improve the lives of Erie County residents through multi-municipal projects, programs, and services that enhance operations, reduce duplication, decrease costs, improve efficiency, and leverage resources for all Erie County municipalities.

## **Erie County Broadband Expansion Feasibility Study Press Conference**

Erie County Department of Planning

150 East Front Street, Suite 300

October 25, 2022 • 1:30 p.m.

### **SPEAKERS:**

Michelle Jaggi, Executive Director, Erie Area Council of Governments (Welcome, project overview, announcement of grants awarded and funding for this project)

Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Jessica Horan-Kunco, Director, Erie County Department of Planning

Brenton Davis, Erie County Executive

**(Closing Michelle Jaggi)**



## Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

11:00 am

5240 Knowledge Parkway

### AGENDA

11:00 – 11:30am

ECGRA business – RFP agreement  
Eligibility Review

#### PRESENTATIONS

11:30 – 11:50

Bridgeway Capital – Dawn Seckler, TJ Bogdewick

11:50 – 12:10

GECAC – Danny Jones

#### LUNCH BREAK (12:10 – 12:30)

12:30 – 12:50

International Institute – Dylanna Grasinger

12:50 – 1:10

Paramount Pursuits – Marcos & Trish Digliodo



# HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2220 Reed Street • Erie, PA 16503-2196 • (814) 456-0671

October 24, 2022

Dear Friends,

Let me start with a sincere **THANK YOU** for your generous contribution to this summer's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Zabawa Program! We were very happy to have received such great corporate support from so many businesses and advertisers. **On behalf of the entire Zabawa committee, I am enclosing a copy of your ad in the program book and we hope you are pleased with it.**

Over the three days of Zabawa, we were blessed with great weather. Ever so many people flocked to our church campus to reunite with their friends, their heritage AND great food and drink! By our estimates, near 40,000 people attended over the 3 day period and your support was a key factor in their enjoyment and our success!

We hope you are pleased with our program and as always, if there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to call us! Again we value your support and we hope you plan on staying with us as we move into next year and **our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival!**

Sincerely,

Edie Luniewski, Sponsorship Chair

# Union City 'gateway' project taking shape

**BY STEVE BISHOP**  
Contributing writer

The past few years of talking, planning and fundraising for the transformation of the northern "gateway" to Union City's downtown has turned in recent weeks to noticeable action.

The former Union City Diner has been removed, the site filled and capped, a new courtyard at the site is taking shape inside the construction fence, and the adjacent building's north-facing façade is being given a "diner-like look" in homage for the former diner.

Additionally, an entrance is being fashioned at the rear of the site for a new stairway to the municipal parking lot, and trees have been removed from the borough's small "Industrial Park" green space across West High Street from the site in preparation for improvements.

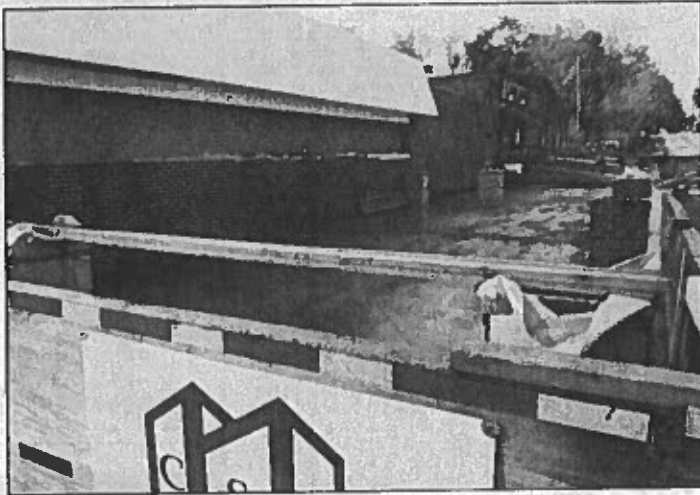
The projects are being coordinated by local nonprofit Union City Pride, which

owns the former diner site and adjacent building, and which was awarded the funding for the overall scope of work.

"We're very pleased with the progress, and appreciate the community's patience while we've worked through this process," said Pride President Terri Migliaccio. "This is the culmination of a lot of thought, public input and funding solicitation over the past four years. We understand the importance of getting this right, and look forward to establishing a new downtown entrance that will serve the community for generations to come."

Union City-based Construction Services of Pennsylvania (CSI) was awarded the bid for the portion of work that required bidding because of the use of state funds, and then was also tasked with complementary project components funded by other sources.

Those complementary projects include completing the courtyard with brick piers and metal rails, replac-



Contributed photo

The north-facing façade of the building adjacent to the former Union City Diner is being given a "diner-like look" in tribute to the former diner. That work includes brickwork, an awning-like roof treatment and window treatment. The former diner site itself is being transformed into a concrete courtyard with brick piers and metal railings, with an entrance to new parking lot stairs at the rear of the site.

ing the stairs to the parking lot, restoring the Main Street-facing façade of the adjacent building to a more historical look, and improvements to the Industrial Park

that are all scheduled to be done this year as the weather allows.

The trees were removed from Industrial Park for a variety of reasons, including that they weren't particularly attractive, created an ongoing mess, and didn't fit with the improvements to come, said Borough Manager Cindy Wells.

"It already looks so much better, so much cleaner," she said, noting that the "Welcome to Union City" sign in the middle of the park has deteriorated and is being removed as well.

The additional improvements planned for the park this year include brick piers and metal railings around the park to match the courtyard at the former diner site across the street, and a concrete walkway into the green space that will culminate in a circular pad at the middle of the park for a future attraction. That attraction is yet to be announced, pending additional funding that is being sought.

◀ See Gateway, P.3

## Gateway

(Continued from front page)

All of this work is considered Phases II and III of Union City's downtown enhancements, following Phase I improvements that included purchasing the diner and adjacent building, a new parking lot and mural on South Main Street, downtown trees, interpretive panels and historic markers, and structural analyses of most of the downtown's buildings.

Phase IV downtown improvements are also planned and funded, and will take place over the next year through a \$150,000 grant

awarded to Union City Pride through the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's (ECGRA) Mission Main Street program, and a \$37,500 local match.

Those projects include a façade and structural improvement matching program for downtown property owners for which applications are already being taken, a marketing initiative for the downtown, and additional improvements to the new South Main Street parking lot.

The anticipated parking lot improvements include an interpretive panel for the new mural, replacing the public sidewalk along the length of the lot, steps mid-lot between

the lot and sidewalk, and electrical pedestals around the lot that would allow it to be used for public activities.

The total investment in Phases II, III and IV is approximately \$608,000, with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, ECGRA, the Union City Community Foundation, the Erie County Redevelopment Authority and MFG Corp. of Union City.

"In addition to these projects, we've applied for funding for more downtown enhancements that would really kick us over the top," said Migliaccio. "It's important we keep pushing forward as a community."



## Funding eyed for Erie effort

Project Resolve raises enthusiasm, questions

**A.J. Rao**

Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022**

Perhaps no project in recent months has generated more enthusiasm — or more questions — from Erie County government officials than Project Resolve.

The ambitious, long-term strategy championed by Penn State Behrend to spark advanced manufacturing in Erie County has garnered bipartisan praise from County Executive Brenton Davis and members of Erie County Council.

But funding for the project has been a point of contention.

On one hand, the Davis administration wants to use American Rescue Plan funds toward the project's key development: the construction of a 60,000-square-foot innovation and battery-testing center at Behrend's Knowledge Park.

See **PROJECT, Page 2A**

Continued from Page 1A

On the other hand, Democrats on County Council question whether Rescue Plan funds should be used toward a capital project, especially since the funds were intended to help those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Davis has argued the center will help COVID-impacted businesses and reverse a "brain drain" of talent to the area. Democrats say the project is still too vague to invest much-needed COVID-19 relief. Erie-area minority leaders accuse Davis of playing favorites and employing a double standard when it comes to Rescue Plan funding.

On one hand, Davis wants to take away \$3.5 million in Rescue Plan funds from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission because it hasn't shown a meaningful return on investment.

On the other hand, Davis has been eager to invest \$5 million in Rescue Plan funds toward Project Resolve, which, at this point, is merely a concept, with no construction plans drawn, no proof that jobs will be created and no website for the public to view.

"There are so many unanswered questions — it's ridiculous," Democratic County Councilman Terry Scutella said at a recent council finance meeting.

On Nov. 1, council members advanced an ordinance to a second reading that approves \$2.5 million in Rescue Plan funds and another \$2.5 million in unrestricted gaming revenue toward the construction of the innovation center. A vote has yet to be scheduled but is expected after the county budget is approved at the end of November.

The Erie Times-News sat down with Behrend officials to learn more about Project Resolve: its purpose, its benefits and why Davis believes a county investment is

needed sooner rather than later.

## **What is Project Resolve?**

Project Resolve started as an umbrella term for multiple complementary projects in Erie County that “joined forces” in 2021 to better compete for federal Build Back Better funding, said Amy Bridger, senior director of corporate strategy and external engagement at Behrend.

These projects included the Corry Area Technology Center and Hub, and a water quality and climate change project — dubbed Project NePTWNE, or Nano & Polymer Technology for Water and Neural-networks in Erie — by Gannon University.

Behrend’s piece was a proposed Center for Manufacturing Competitiveness, an innovation center that would consist of plastics and metal-casting laboratories and the nation’s first heavy-haul battery testing site.

While the joint strategy didn’t amount to Build Back Better money, Bridger said each of the partners continued to move forward with their ideas.

Project Resolve now refers to the overall 10-year strategy to create jobs, entrepreneurship and investment in Erie County through advanced manufacturing and by capitalizing on local industrial clusters like plastics.

## **Erie is a ‘national hot spot’ for plastics**

“The plastics industry in Erie is really strong — we’re a national hot spot,” Bridger said.

Using cluster mapping data, Bridger showed how Erie County sits in a regional cluster of plastics and plastics product manufacturing, stretching from eastern Ohio to central Pennsylvania.

The data showed Erie County with roughly 3,000 employed in the plastics industry and with a high degree of specialization. The data also showed the county’s plastics industry touching or overlapping with similar industrial clusters in the region, from metalworking technology and foundries to mold makers and resin manufacturers.

Bridger said these factors collectively make the region primed for growth over the coming 30 years, particularly as electric vehicles — of which plastic is a primary material — become a more prevalent form of transportation.

However, Erie County is falling short because of its dwindling advanced manufacturing, Bridger said.

From 2010 to 2021, the county was one of the three lowest-performing counties when it came to its share of Pennsylvania’s advanced industry jobs, according to data from the Brookings Institute.

Even as the county produces talent at its schools, many students move away to places that are investing in advanced manufacturing and that are able to snatch up contracts and attract state and federal grants. Bridger said the majority of manufacturers in Erie County are small- to medium-sized businesses that don’t have the ability to go offline to test and implement new technology.

That's where the Center for Manufacturing Competitiveness comes in.

### **Center would modernize tech, reverse spiral of advanced manufacturing**

The proposed center would serve as a test center or "sand box" for next-generation technologies, Bridger said.

By acting as a test bed, the center would allow manufacturers to test new technology and best practices before implementing them in their plants. The idea is that companies would see what works — and what doesn't — in the lab setting, without interrupting the workflow and efficiencies at their worksites.

Bridger said the Wabtec Corp. plant in Lawrence Park Township has expressed interest in the battery testing site, and the center overall, and told Behrend they will use the facility for \$1 million in research annually.

She said Behrend has also received more than 60 letters of support from local manufacturers and that 20 industry partners have pledged more than \$21 million of investment in their own businesses if Project Resolve comes to fruition.

A center for manufacturing competitiveness and a heavy industrial battery- testing center were both projects included in the investment playbook that urban policy experts Bruce Katz and Florian Schalliol of New Localism Associates of Arlington, Virginia, designed for the Erie region.

Bridger estimated that Project Resolve would create roughly 5,000 jobs in the region over the next 10 years.

### **Construction plans expected in spring, projected 18-month build**

Bridger said schematic designs for the center are expected to be done by spring and early estimates have construction costs at around \$18 million.

Initially, Davis sought to use \$5 million in Rescue Plan funds — along with \$5 million from Penn State University — as part of a local match for a state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant of at least \$8 million toward the project.

The state instead awarded the project a \$1.5 million RACP grant in October and approved a line item of \$10 million. That means Behrend can re-apply multiple times and be awarded in installments toward the final \$10 million amount.

"The goal is not necessarily to grow Penn State," she said. "The goal is to move manufacturers along and update the plastics manufacturers and metalcasting manufacturers and get people to locate here for the battery test center. We don't want the jobs at Penn State. We want the jobs in the manufacturing area. That's where those 5,000 jobs are going to go."

"As you prove out your project, you can apply for parts up to \$10 million," Bridger said. "So the money is waiting for us in various tranches. We'll apply again in the spring for an additional amount."

The county's share of \$5 million — revised by County Council to be \$2.5 million from the Rescue Plan and \$2.5 million from unrestricted gaming revenue — along with \$5 million from Penn State University and \$10 million from the state would total \$20 million.

Bridger said Behrend is hoping to partner with Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, which is seeking a National Science Foundation grant of \$160 million for the next 10 years. She said if a partnership is reached, the funds could help staff and equip the innovation center. Bridger added that Behrend will seek approval from Penn State's Board of Trustees once the building's construction plans are finished by spring. After approval, Bridger said she anticipates an 18-month build.

### **Critics say Davis is favoring long-term project over immediate community needs**

The \$2.5 million in Rescue Plan funds would come from a \$5 million Transformative Grants budget line intended for the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

In an earlier interview with the Times-News, ECGRA Executive Director Perry Wood said his agency uses this money toward much-needed community projects, and that cutting the amount in half could hinder those allocations.

Former council Chairman Carl Anderson — who helped spearhead the budgeting of the 2022 Rescue Plan budget — added that “large capital projects intended for general economic development or to aid impacted industries” were not eligible for Rescue Plan funds.

He said the construction of the innovation center should be funded by other means, like the Rescue Plan's revenue replacement option, as opposed to taking money away from ECGRA.

County Council Solicitor Tom Talarico, who also said it still wasn't clear how the project will benefit those impacted by the pandemic, called the use of Rescue Plan funds “inappropriate.” He was requested by council at a recent meeting to compose a written legal opinion on the matter.

Greater Erie Economic Development Corporation CEO Gerald Blanks further called out Davis for committing Rescue Plan dollars to Penn State University — a multi-billion-dollar brand — instead of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission.

“You don't want to give \$3.5 million more to the Black, Indigenous and people of color community?” he asked of Davis.

Blanks also said Project Resolve would do little to help employment numbers among minority communities.

“You know how many minorities get those jobs? Not a lot,” Blanks said. “That's why we're in the business that we're in now — trying to get minorities and women into the construction trade because they can't penetrate that arena.”

Greater Erie Community Action Committee CEO Danny Jones also said Davis was holding organizations like GECAC to a different standard.

Davis's proposed 2023 budget eliminates nearly \$1 million in grant funding to GECAC. Davis insisted GECAC sits on \$12 million in reserve assets and doesn't need additional county dollars.

Jones questioned why Penn State — with its hefty reserves — was worth taxpayer dollars.

### **Davis, Penn State say Project Resolve will reduce inequities through jobs**

In response, the administration has pointed to two firms hired by the county for Rescue Plan consultation, both of which indicated that funding Project Resolve with Rescue Plan dollars was legal.

Documentation from those firms — ArentFox Schiff LLP, a Washington, D.C. based law firm, and Witt O'Brien's — were provided to council and indicated the project would benefit COVID-impacted industries and businesses.

Former U.S. Rep. Phil English, who represented Erie County in Congress from 1995 to 2009, and who also was a campaign contributor to Davis, works at ArentFox Schiff LLP.

Davis has also said investing Rescue Plan money makes sense because Project Resolve is about “modernizing the workforce,” a goal that will increase wages and help re-staff businesses that may be underemployed as a result of the pandemic.

He also said Project Resolve is a transformative project that looks to the future, as opposed to a project with a short-term gain.

“You can give a gallon of milk today but it’s gone tomorrow,” he said. “If we retool our economy and retool our workforce, you can buy the cow.”

Bridger added that increasing the sustainability of manufacturing operations will reduce plastic and waste pollution which “disproportionately affects communities of color and communities of poverty.”

“The manufacturers in this region are something like 17% of the jobs in this region as a whole,” she said. “If those go away, it’s going to be felt for a long time in the community and that throws more people into that poverty cycle.”

*A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @ETNRao*

### **PROJECT from page A1 to A2**



**A railyard full of dozens of locomotives is shown at Wabtec Corp., Oct. 21, 2019, in Lawrence Park Township. CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS FILE**

**'A SOURCE OF PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY'**

*Fund RESOLVE, programs for minorities, seniors, writes Behrend chancellor*

The strength of Erie's economy has always been based in technological innovation, and the products that have been built here — the ships for Commodore Perry's fleet, advanced locomotives, and the plastic and metal products that support the automotive, aerospace and pharmaceutical industries — are a source of pride for our community. But we are losing our competitive edge. Pennsylvania reduced its investment in innovation programs by nearly two-thirds during the Great Recession, according to "Commonwealth of Innovation," a new report by the Brookings Institution. Pennsylvania now ranks sixth out of nine peer states in advanced industry job growth. We trail Indiana and Massachusetts by nine percentage points, and Michigan by 23.

**See FORD, Page 2B What is Project RESOLVE?**

Project RESOLVE is a long-term strategy to advance our region's competitiveness by shifting the plastics, metal-casting and transportation industries to a sustainable model.

Continued from Page 1B

Manufacturing employment in Pennsylvania decreased by 0.5% between 2009 and 2020, according to the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Advisory Council.

That shift has hit Erie especially hard: Across the commonwealth, only Chester County has lost more jobs. Our overall job and wage growth is well below the national average.

By contrast, where there is economic growth, it is shown to be directly sparked by university-based research and design activity.

In Pennsylvania, all but 1% of that investment occurs in three areas: Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and State College. We have an opportunity to change that.

Project RESOLVE is a long-term strategy to advance our region's competitiveness by shifting the plastics, metal-casting and transportation industries to a sustainable model.

By leveraging our strengths — a skilled workforce, and the expertise at our region's universities — we can build more competitive businesses while reducing the plastic and waste pollution that can negatively affect our air and freshwater, including Lake Erie.

Project RESOLVE also will enhance our diversity-and-inclusion efforts, including our Excelerate partnership with Erie Insurance, by creating new engagement and place-based internship programs.

The first phase of Project RESOLVE involves the construction of a Center for Manufacturing Competitiveness, which will include plastics and metal-casting research labs and the nation's first fullservice heavy-haul battery testing facility.

Companies need these resources. And we need those companies to thrive: The region's plastics, metal-casting and transportation companies provide

approximately 17% of all jobs in the Erie region. They employ nearly 25% of the new Americans in Erie County.

Our political leaders understand that: In January 2021, a committee led by members of Erie County Council explored how to best leverage Erie County's share of federal funding for a postpandemic recovery. The first recommendation in the committee's report was a call for "transformative projects," such as Project RESOLVE.

The funding formula for the Center for Manufacturing Competitiveness includes three sources: grants from the state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, or RACP; Erie County support; and investments by Penn State. Recently, Gov. Tom Wolf allocated the first \$1.5 million of RACP funding for RESOLVE, drawing from an approved, multi-year \$10 million line item. That's a tremendous endorsement of the project.

**Project RESOLVE is a long-term strategy to advance our region's competitiveness by shifting the plastics, metal-casting and transportation industries to a sustainable model.**

Penn State will match up to \$5 million in county funding for Project RESOLVE. The university is investing in Behrend, and Erie, to build an innovation hub that will grow our economy and support our citizens.

Our industry partners have pledged to invest in the technologies that will be developed at the Center for Manufacturing Competitiveness. To date, they have committed to making \$21 million in investments in their businesses as part of this initiative.

The resolution before Erie County Council is about more than money. It's about vision — the willingness to invest in innovation that will make our region competitive.

That requires committed partners. We know the model works: In 2019, a \$6 million grant from the Erie Community Foundation linked four partner institutions — Penn State Behrend, the Hamot Health Foundation, UPMC and the Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation — with the goal of bringing clinical medical research trials to Erie. Each of the partners agreed to contribute an additional \$5 million. This partnership is now bringing clinical trials, research funding and new jobs to the region, all while improving the health of women in Erie County.

We appreciate that every member of Erie County Council supports Project RESOLVE. The question before the council is how to allocate funding to support it. That discussion has been complicated by a separate debate about the funding of programs that support Erie's seniors and minority communities. Those vitally important programs should be funded. We believe it is possible for county officials to agree on an approach that supports both underserved communities and economic development.

Now is the time to look forward. We have a rare opportunity to come together and support our much-needed economic growth and our diverse community needs. It can be done in a sustainable and environmentally beneficial way that keeps our community competitive in the decades ahead. If we fail to capitalize on that,

leveraging the opportunity to match and expand on local investment, the generations that follow us will only fall further behind.

*Ralph Ford is the chancellor of Penn State Behrend.*

**FORD**  
from page B1 to B2



**Erie County Executive Brenton Davis and members of Erie County Council tour an engineering facility at Penn State Behrend on Oct. 13. From left are Davis, council members Charlie Bayle, Ellen Schauerman, Brian Shank, Terry Scutella, and Greg Dillon, chair of polymer engineering and science at Behrend. A.J. RAO/ERIE TIMES-NEWS Your Turn Ralph Ford Guest columnist**

