



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510  
July 13, 2017 –8:30am

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 2017
5. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. PRESENTATIONS
  - a. Del Burch and Josh Jaeger, United Way; 211 System
  - b. Justin Zona and Ryan Bookhammer; STEM Update
8. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Treasurer's Report
  - b. Regional Assets Committee
  - c. Strategic Planning Committee
  - d. Update from County Council
  - e. Update from County Executive's Office
9. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
10. SOLICITOR'S REPORT
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, August 10, 2017  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510





**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**June 8, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on June 8, 2017 at 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Bagnoni, Mr. Barney, Mr. Domino, Mr. Paris, Mr. Peters, Mr. Sample, and Mr. Yaple. Mr. Breneman (arrives late), Mr. Lee, Mr. Wachter, and Mr. Wood are also present.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Barney makes a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES -- May 2017**

Mr. Bagnoni makes a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

**COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

No Comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Enterprise Development Fund – Kelly Byers and Jim Gehrlein. Members of the EDF Board are also present.
- b. Empower Erie – Ron DiNicola, Joe Maloney and Dr. Roy Church.

a. Enterprise Development Fund

Mr. Gehrlein: Thank you. I am the Chairman of the Enterprise Development Fund and have been Chairman for a number of years. What we thought we'd like to do today, since there has been so much change in the last year and a half with our relationship with the GEIDC and so forth, we thought it would be important for you to understand where we are today and what we're doing to make our loan fund grow today, tomorrow and in the future. I am also asking for your help in that area.

The first thing I would like is to have the Board members introduce themselves and give you a 30-second background on each one of them.

Charles Barber: Hi. I have been on the Board since 1996. I am with Erie County Care Management in Erie County.

Larry Hammond: Good morning. I have been on the Board since 2010. I am a business consultant specializing in small-business around \$12M and under.

Harry Brown: I am a retired businessman and also a business consultant. I have been on the Board since 1988.

Betsy Vortek: Good Morning. I have been on the Board about seven years now.

Kelly Byers: I am a CPA at Schaffner, Knight & Minnaugh. I specialize in business evaluation and forensic investigation. I have been on the Board for about two years.

Mr. Gehrlein: I have been on the Board since 1987 when it was first thought of. I am the past President of National City Bank.

Just a little background, most of you from Erie would recognize the fact that when the Enterprise Development Fund was established back in 1987 it was with a stipend from the County of Erie in the amount of around \$800,000. From there, we have grown and you have seen the numbers of where we are today.

To our relationship with the GEIDC over the years, we were their lending arm for the organization and most of our assets were the receivables and the cash that we were generating and so forth. All of our other assets were leased from GEIDC, including employees. So we've managed, over the years, to maintain the fund and to make it grow with the help of the Erie County Gaming Commission along the way.

Last year things changed. Certain things happened with GEIDC. Fortunately for us, awhile back, all of the entities that were a part of GEIDC were all separately incorporated. We were separately incorporated. It helped us in this transition period in the fact that we are a separate corporation and have no real ties to all of the circumstances that are affecting GEIDC and their bankruptcy.

We were able to take our assets and move on. What we did was we went out and hired Robin and Kelly, who are here with us today. They are contracted employees. At one time they were employed by GEIDC and they were our employees for our organization during some time periods when the Fund was in existence. We are fortunate to have them be contracted to come back and help us continue on the evolution of where we are taking the Enterprise Development Fund today, tomorrow and the future.

With that, I'm going to have Kelly give you a little presentation on the background about us and how we see ourselves fitting into the picture for the development of business of Erie County and the future.

Ms. Byers: I promise to keep this brief. I know that some of you have served in this capacity for a number of years and are probably very familiar with the Fund. A few of you may be newer, so this brief history may be helpful.

As Jim had mentioned, the organization was established back in 1986. We are a 501c3 with the mission to assist in the regional economic recovery strategy and to create jobs for those that are low and moderate incomes in distressed areas. Jim also eluded to the growth that the Fund has

experienced over the past several years. Since 2009 when we received our CDFI designation, we grew from 12 loans in our portfolios to a high, in 2015, of 51 loans.

What makes the Fund different than a traditional lending institution? Partially, it's that 501c3 designation. We're not here to maximize shareholder value, so we are here to take a little bit more risk because what we're going to do is to provide this mission to our community.

Currently, we have total assets that amount close to \$6M and equity of \$2.85M. I also mentioned that CDFI designation (Community Development Financial Institution) from the US Treasury Department. The important thing to know about this is that it allows us access to capital from outside the region that otherwise would not be able to be brought into the greater Erie community. The little blow-up of the map there shows that we are the only northwestern Pennsylvania located CDFI. There are other CDFI's that play in this area, but we are the only one that is headquartered here with a locally controlled Board.

Over the years we have received our funding from multiple sources, a mixture of loans and grants, of which ECGRA has been a large proponent. We had started up from the Erie County government grant, around \$350,000, and I won't read them all to you, but you can see that we have been applying for various sources of grants over our history. It is important to note that often when we have a grant application, they are requesting that we have a local match or some other source of funding match for that. So, over the years we have utilized our line of credit in this capacity. Going forward in the near term, that doesn't look to be an option for us so we are still looking for ways to get that outside money, that outside capital from outside of the region, brought into the Erie community. A match is really important.

ECGRA has made four different financial contributions over the last several years to the Fund. They are a mixture of grants and loans. You have asked that we meet certain requirements with that funding, not all of them are listed. You have asked that we look at a target market, that we do a number of micro-loans in certain rounds. I know that job creation and job retention is something that you are also concerned with. To date, \$2.375M has been given by ECGRA in the form of grants and loans to the Fund. In terms of our total performance, of all of the loans that we have done, we have done 61% of them in our target market, we have done 23 micro-loans to date of over \$600,000 and we have received information in our loan applications that state that projected jobs created and jobs retained were a total of 907. Almost all of the businesses we have lent to are for-profit businesses, 98% of those.

I do want to mention a little bit about the equity equivalent loans. Even as a CPA, I admit that even I had to look up what that meant. It is a funding structure that is unique to CDFI. An equity equivalent loan allows us to record the money that we have received in the equity section of our balance sheet so in terms of covenants, we are not counting it as a liability at the time. Traditionally from the research that I have seen, most equity equivalents have a rolling term and an indefinite maturity and that allows for revolving funds to continue in the perpetuity because they're not concerned with the payback of those funds. We do pay interest on those loans. To date, approximately \$160,000 in interest has been paid by the Fund back to ECGRA for use of those funds.

I want to break down a little bit more your specific financial contribution at work through the Fund. I have listed up above the year, the total number of loans that the Fund has done, some other statistics, how many loans are in that target market, the total that was loaned out by the Fund, and then that private investment. The private investment is either the owner capital that was contributed to the business or other funding sources - credit union or bank fund, and of the total that we've lent out, how much of that money came directly from ECGRA.

Down below I have looked at only those deals which have included ECGRA money. We have done 34 of them to date, 18 of them have been in the target market. Approximately \$4M came out of the Fund. \$2.375M of that was the money that came from ECGRA and we were able to get \$17M invested in the community because each of those deals went through. In the application, they

indicated that 294 jobs would be created if those deals were able to close and another 283 jobs would be retained.

Going forward, one of the things that we are looking to do in our strategic planning is to follow up better with each of our clients. If you projected that you would create 294 jobs we want to be able to report back to you, "Were 294 jobs created? Were 400 jobs created?" We want to be able to give you that measure as well.

Mr. Peters: Kelly, could you describe in a little more detail what the column "Private Investment" means?

Ms. Byers: The Private Investments are when a deal comes to us, oftentimes we are referred by a lending institution. The business owner has gone into his/her bank with a proposal looking for funding, "We need \$500,000. We want to buy new equipment, need some working capital, whatever the mix may be, of which we as the company or me as the business owner, "I'm going to put in \$50,000 of my own money. Bank will you be able to give me the other \$450,000?" Often the bank comes back and says, "No I can't do that amount but I can do \$300,000." You're going to need to find the other \$150,000 elsewhere. That's where the Fund comes in. Rarely do we do a deal that does not have some other bank or lending institution involved in it, but we provide that gap funding. That private investment indicates lending dollars as well as owner capital.

Mr. Peters: Do you share first position with those banks or are you subordinate?

Ms. Byers: It always depends on the particular deal. Oftentimes if we are the larger player, we either ask for first position or share first position. If we're the smaller player, maybe we get that second position. In each deal, we try to look at who has more skin in the game. Sometimes if we're going to get real estate as well as the equipment, maybe life insurance; we can split those different collateral pieces up and take a first on something when maybe the bank gets a first on another.

As Jim eluded to, and I think one of the main reasons we are here today, is to be very transparent about the dissolution of DevelopErie. The bankruptcy that GEIDC has and is continuing to go through and the impact to us. It wasn't small. We were a governing board. Generally our role was to come in, listen to the particular deals that were presented to us, does this sound like it meets our mission, do we have the funding stream to do this, Yes or No. We are now a very hands-on managing Board. We have had to delve into areas of the business that we never had to look at before. Staffing was all outside of our realm; physical plant was all outside of our realm. Really we just managed our portfolio and that was all we did.

So in the months leading up to the bankruptcy, my personal opinion is that we felt sometimes as much in the dark as maybe some other community members felt, and I'm sure that there was good reason for that; not everything could be shared at the time. But certainly we could see that things were deteriorating. We made a conscious decision to move forward and to determine where we were going to move to; we needed a physical space. We made a conscious decision to try to retain certain consistency within our employment, so even though today we don't have employees, we have independent contractors. We have two of them who bring a great history of the Fund with them.

Robin Hecker was an employee of the EDC at the time of the dissolution. She moved over to another role in an outside firm; we retained her. Her expertise is in grant writing and compliance with our grants. There's a lot of compliance that is involved with our grants and this was something that our Board was never really involved in before.

Karen Clark had previously worked as a loan officer with the Fund, had a welcome knowledge about the history of a lot of our clients, and we brought her in to manage that part of our portfolio. We have added some staffing in regards to capacity, even though they are not employees.

The accounting function is currently being maintained by Schaffner, Knight & Minnaugh, not myself, but our fine accounting department is taking care of the accounting function right now.

We do have a loan on our books that we made to GEIDC, so we are a creditor in the bankruptcy. We do have first position on some collateral, as do many others. We have a piece of

property out in Fairview Business Park that we are working to hopefully sell. We understand that we will probably not sell it for what the loan value is so we will take a loss on that loan but we are first position free and clear on that. We hope to recoup some amount. That loan is not included in any of the borrowing base that was sent to our bank. We have always treated that loan differently because it was a related entity.

We've had to really focus on rebranding and relationship building. I think in some of the strategic planning at DevelopErie, what made sense at the time was present a unified front for DevelopErie - here's all the things that we can do for you; here's all the products that we have; you don't really need to be concerned with which affiliate does what or know the names of them. I know that after a couple years on the Board I probably couldn't name all seven affiliates so I know that the outside community members didn't know exactly who was doing what.

As media coverage of the bankruptcy comes out and taxpayers are out money because there is a loan that won't be repaid; all of that goes back on us. So, "Who is the Fund?, What do you do?, How are you involved in this?" That's been a real hurdle that was thrown out for us that we continue to chip away at.

Our clients were our first focus. Reaching out to each one of the clients in our portfolio, assuring them that we're still here, we're still in business, their loan is still good, we're going to move forward. Second was our referral sources - to the banks who often send clients our way - letting them know that same thing.

We moved over to the Professional Building, got a PO Box, got telephones, everything you could think of if you were basically a startup business; we had to put all of that in place in just a matter of months.

The last point is we have encountered increased scrutiny from our funding sources. Mainly our line of credit was the one that made them become very nervous. We have three banks that participate in our line of credit. They could see primarily that their main concern relating to us was the staffing concern as we went from a DevelopErie staff of 13 at one time then maybe up to 18, dwindling down to 4 then 3. How are you going to be able to maintain this moving forward? Even though we haven't been in consistent violation of the covenants, even though you have a positive cash flow in reserve, all the ways we can see that we're financially solvent over the coming months, we still have a major concern. That has been, again, another hurdle that we've had to overcome.

There is continued work to be done. Rebranding and marketing, getting the word out - who we are, what we do, making sure that people in the community know us. We're looking at working with a consultant to do a new website, to get new marketing materials, all those kinds of things.

The one thing I think is most important is strategic planning. This is a great opportunity for the Fund to take a look at who we are, what we have done to date, what the community really needs, and how we play a role in that. We have talked over the previous months about the additional products that we can offer. CDFI's around the country do numerous things. Here's a little teaser; we've talked a little bit about the potential of moving into the residential space that aligns really nicely with some of the greater plans in the community, specifically within the City of Erie with its comprehensive plan with the land bank. I think there are real opportunities for us there to partner with work that is already being done in the community to advance those initiatives that are most important to the development of Erie - the city and also the greater Erie County.

We want to continue to lend within our USDA and CDFI target markets. We do still have some funds available through USDA; we are focusing on smaller, micro, under \$100,000 loans. Finally, I would say that we need to recruit some additional Board members. This is a larger organization and this is the full strength of the Board that you see here. I do want to take this opportunity to give credit to my fellow Board members who have found themselves in this space, again, being asked to come once a month to a one-hour Board meeting and then come back next month to really be a managing Board and dedicating countless hours to make sure that we were able to continue to service our

clients first and foremost, and then to really ask ourselves where our future is and be open to new ideas. I think the Board has really stepped up to the plate in that respect.

We're here today to answer any other questions. We want to be as transparent as possible, but we're also here with an ask. And that ask relates to the two equity-equivalent loans that I talked about in the previous slide. Based on our analysis of those loan documents, what we understand is that come 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018 we're going to start to repay principle on both of those. That's \$1.3M, both the \$500,000 and the \$800,000 amounts are both due at the same time. What that may mean for us as the Fund is that we have to pull those monies out of the market so as those loans we have made in the past are repaid to us, we can't rely on these ones. And that is a revolving loan fund. Our mission is to continue to be able to lend that capital in the market. But if we need to repay principle, we're going to have to start to pour all of the payments we have received and turn the money back over to you. That's the way we understand the document to date.

Also, if we were able to transfer those equity-equivalents just to grants, that improves some of our covenants. We think that would really help our relationship and ease the relationship with the bank and give us that latitude to do that strategic planning that we have been talking about and to really position ourselves going forward.

We continue to look for other sources of funding, other grant opportunities. I mentioned that we have a grant in process right now with the SBA. We want to continue to focus on our mission and move forward. We've always seen you as a great partner in that and we hope that you'll continue to be. At this time, I would like to open it up and see if there's anything that the Board members think that I have missed or if any of you have questions.

Mr. Lee: First of all, thank you for coming in and providing us an update. It is very helpful – the information that was presented this morning. I have one question. Kelly, you stated about the projected jobs and that you're going to look at recruiting, providing feedback to how many jobs have been created and so forth. My question is, What model are you currently using to address how many jobs have been created? What type of feedback method are you currently using to track that?

Ms. Hecker: We just started in 2015, to send with the annual request for financials to all of our clients, the job creation form. As they fill out their financial statements, they also fill out a form that states how many jobs they have actually created.

Mr. Lee: So prior to that there wasn't any documentation?

Ms. Hecker: There wasn't any follow-up on job creation.

Mr. Lee: Thank you.

Mr. Peters: There was some discussion about technical assistance. I'm just curious where you stand with that. It was part of our original agreement with the Fund many years ago. I've been on this soap box as I served on that Board and you've all heard me say this, economic development without technical assistance is not really the right approach anymore. Those days are gone where we just write checks like banks do and hope they all work out. So, where do you stand on that, What are your thoughts on that? I heard you mention it but I'm just curious where you're headed.

Ms. Byers: We have had a couple of our clients take advantage of this. We're trying to market that as one of the other offerings. I agree completely that otherwise we're just acting like a bank. What makes us different is that we're going to help the business succeed and thrive and grow and technical assistance is one of the ways we do that. Right now we've sent clients to Quick Books training and we're using some of those outside community resources because of the internal capacity issues that we have to do some training and things like that. In our strategic plan, that is something that is important to us. Again, that is a source of funds that is available from outside the market, and really, I think, a need within the community to continue to develop those businesses and to get them to a place where they're really strong and can stand on their own.

Robin: We have a source of funding from an RBDG Grant from the USDA to provide technical assistance but it only covers the rural areas. We've actually patterned our set-up for our business



education program after Bridgeway. They helped walk me through the contracting and who they used in the area. The consultants that we need to still reach out to are people that are familiar with consulting for a CDFI and the application for the SBA is to cover technical assistance in other areas so that we can add technical assistance services to the clients that aren't in our rural areas.

Mr. Peters: The last question is related to the size of the Fund. You mentioned \$6M in loans. Is that \$6M in outstanding loans and \$2.85M in equity? I just want to define for this Board what that means. Is there \$2.85M sitting in a bank somewhere?

Ms. Byers: I don't have the exact number that is sitting in a bank somewhere and I don't have a balance sheet sitting in front of me but we do have a significant amount of cash; we're required to keep cash reserves. One of our reserves has close to \$500,000 in it. We have cash sitting in a couple of other accounts. The major portion of our equity, basically, is all the outstanding loans we have and all the cash combined together, less what we owe others, is that equity section. But that equity equivalent, that \$1.3M from you, is sitting in the equity portion of the balance sheet and that \$2.85M really has that loan component to it where it needs to be repaid.

Mr. Peters: So, there's \$6M in outstanding loans?

Ms. Byers: No. The current portfolio is \$4.57M. Total assets is \$6M. Total balance sheet assets is \$6M, of that \$4.5M is loan receivables, the other \$1.5M consists mainly of cash. We do have interest in a couple of assets that we have acquired because they were collateral that was pledged to us, so we have a couple of those on the balance sheet as well.

Mr. Gehrlein: We have \$1.3M in cash. We've got \$5.8M in current assets, which includes receivables, reserve for loan losses and undeposited funds. We have a small amount in fixed assets. We have a long-term investment in the building and what the value of that is. So our total assets is \$5.9M. Of that \$1.3M is cash.

Mr. Peters: On the long-term liability side, it would be us at \$1.3M and the line of credit at this point . . .

Mr. Gehrlein: It's not long-term, it's short-term. We do have other governmental agencies that have lent us money but it's years out, like 20-25 years.

Mr. Peters: The line of credit though, it's one line, where there is a syndicate of bankers?

Mr. Gehrlein: No. There are three participating banks. Northwest is the lead bank. First National and ErieBank both participate.

Mr. Peters: And it's outstanding right now roughly . . .?

Mr. Gehrlein: About \$1.8M.

Mr. Peters: Thank you very much.

Mr. Gehrlein: We would just like to thank you for hearing us. We're glad that we had this opportunity to bring this information to you today. A year ago January, things changed dramatically and I think you needed to know where we stand today and the efforts that the Board and our contracted employees have made to make sure that this Fund exists in the future and serves it's purpose and that is to help the community.

Ms. Byers: I have copies of the slide presentation. If there are follow-up questions, certainly all of us are available to talk to you.

Mr. Peters: That's a great point, Kelly. Sometimes when we hear this because it's been awhile since we've heard what's been going on, and often times it will percolate and result in us having other questions.

Mr. Sample: We would like to thank you for coming and bringing this information.

b. Empower Erie

Mr. DiNicola: Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, we are delighted to be here. We are especially grateful to this organization because of their support for the grant application of the

Community College. It made the work of Empower Erie possible and gave us the resources to do the kind of work that is necessary on this scale and scope of what this effort required. And for having the vision and foresight to view, as we do, and we believe the data now supports the Community College is indeed a transformative opportunity for the community.

We are delighted to be here and we thank you first of all for your confidence and support. We took your resources and tried to use them wisely. I think the people that we have brought to the effort, including the gentlemen seated next to me now, are an indication that we have tried to be good stewards of your confidence and your resources.

We began from a full stop at the end of 2016 and now about 200 days later, we have completed a comprehensive feasibility study, we have completed a comprehensive community college plan that are poised for consideration by County government. We're grateful to Chairman Breneman with us this morning, also.

We have brought to the effort, not only the professional consultants that we are recommended to have by the Department of Education in an effort of this kind, but also to have had the benefit of many volunteers, many of them professionals, many of them experienced in post-secondary space, many of them experienced in manufacturing and in the key industries of the community and some of them very experienced in basic community needs. They come with a real-world practicality and understanding. They have given hundreds of hours of volunteer time to this effort and I'm very proud of what they were able to contribute and accomplish.

We were divided into four groups: the research group, the sites and facilities group, the curriculum committee which Dr. Church is involved in, and also the finance area. I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Church, who will be talking about curriculum. Mr. Maloney is going to be talking about finance and I want to say briefly that attracting Dr. Church to this effort was very important to us because he is a national leader in the community college movement. He started in Florida where community colleges are a religion. He moved to Ohio, spent three decades as the President of Lorraine Community College Lorraine County is very similar to our own kind of county in the sense that they are a leading manufacturer in Ohio, they have about 300,000 people, they're on the lake, and they have the same sort of demographic mix, they have an urban population that approximates ours – a suburban and rural population, and he's known around Pennsylvania which is very helpful so he doesn't need to be reintroduced to the Department of Education or the community college presidents around Pennsylvania. They know him because he functions at the National level.

Joe Maloney is the guy that unpacked and dismantled the financial plan from the unsuccessful 2010 effort. Who better to have helping to put the financial plan together so that we can have confidence in a conservative projections of being able to deliver on the promise than a guy who has a long public sector experience and private sector experience that Joe Maloney has.

With that, I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Roy Church to talk about the concept of the community college and the curriculum and we understand that we have about 15 minutes, so we have about 7 ½ or 8 of those before we get to questions. We want to save time for questions. We have found through our experience, we just came from the Chamber – we were endorsed yesterday by the Erie Regional Manufacturing Partnership and you know about our other endorsements, and we find the question and answer period to be particularly helpful.

Dr. Church: I am delighted to be a very small part of this initiative. I got connected to this through your Erie Community Foundation because some of the leadership there had actually worked in Ohio and was familiar with Lorraine and what we had done. I retired last June after 30 years as the President of Lorraine Community College and have been a champion of community colleges for 45 years of my career.

We haven't seen a community college evolve in this country in about the last 20 years. Those of us that believe deeply in the potential and impact of community colleges are delighted to see the new community college emerge, particularly one serving the fourth largest metropolitan area in the

state of Pennsylvania and the largest county that doesn't have a community college. So I was delighted to have been a small part of that.

Why is it critically important today? I am one of those folks who has always appreciated Margaret Wheatley's book, The Chaos Theory, where she conjectures that sometimes the stars align and you can accomplish things that in other times and environments you would not even thought of as possible but you can get things accomplished. My sense is that the stars have aligned for Erie, Pennsylvania right now and you've got a great opportunity to do something really important.

Why important? The big picture is when you look at the needs of Erie, Pennsylvania, they go right back to the economic base that has driven this community and Lorraine, Ohio for the last 30 years. Thirty years ago, 43% of all people who had jobs in Lorraine county were directly involved in manufacturing; today it's 13%. We know that transformation took place because of the globalization pressures that have been faced but more importantly the technological changes that have taken place during that 30-year period. You've actually done better than Lorraine. You still have 18% of your employment base directly involved in manufacturing. While that's a smaller base, it is critically important.

One of the facts most people don't realize is that even though the employment numbers have been reduced, the value of manufacturing to the gross domestic product of Erie, Pennsylvania is about the same as it was 30 years ago. So, you're doing as much or more with far fewer people because of the technological advances.

I'm here to argue that there's a body of knowledge and literature that is currently evolving that says about 2007, we've seen the next generation of dramatic, compounding changes that are going to accelerate the transformation of this economy in the second phase of the digital revolution.

The micro-processor was first created about 1960. It took about 50 years for it to have any backbone. But in 2007, the iPhone began to take off as a new revolutionary technology because it combined innovation with networking, data storage, Wi-Fi, and software to create accelerating change again. We're beginning to see that; that was 2007 – 10 years ago.

So, here's your situation. About 65% of all jobs that are projected in the next 10-20 years will require post-secondary education credentials; a degree or a certificate. That's what employers will be looking for – 65%. There's a pretty broad consensus that that 65% is pretty good. In fact, in Ohio, Governor Casey has incorporated that 65% goal in his latest appropriation bill. It's real. It's out there. Right now you have about 33-34% of all folks that are in the workforce today that have a post-secondary credential; associate degree, bachelor degree or graduate degree. So, you've got 33-34% that have the credentials, 65% need. How are you going to fill this gap?

One of the other metrics that is very concerning is that if you look at the national average, only about 28% of all people leaving high school do not go on to post-secondary education. In Erie, Pennsylvania it's over 40%. You're a little bit behind at the certificate and degree level already (behind the nation), but you're way behind in filling the gap between high school and getting ready for that 65%. How do you fill that gap?

We believe that if you look across the country, it's communities that have a vibrant community college that are able to scale educational opportunities to a level that begins to fill that gap. Are you going to fill it tomorrow? Are you going to fill it in 5 years? 10 years? Probably not. But if you put the system in place, it will have the opportunity to scale to that level.

We looked at the needs assessment in depth, we identified what currently is, we mapped all the other education providers here. We believe the other education providers will not only be sustained, they will be enhanced, if we build a bigger, broader, deeper base of this 30% of folks in the workforce that have a post-secondary credential through the community college.

We then looked at the future and said, what is it the workforce will need to be successful? Not only do you want to enhance the lives of individuals, you want to have your company succeed; you

want them to be able to grow employment, grow market share, grow wealth because we know that's what produces jobs.

One of the things we know from all the economic development research is that companies are saying today that their first or second priority in making decisions about where to locate companies or keep companies is the quality of the workforce. We've identified the kinds of jobs, the kinds of careers that will be necessary to drive that.

About 40% of all students who start in community colleges want to get a Bachelor's Degree. We focus on baccalaureate transfer as the foundation for about half the students because we want them to be able to feed those baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in the continuum. The Pathways 2-9 represent applied degree programs where people are preparing to go directly into the world of work. They want to get specific skills that get them a job in a career field, in a pathway, where they can grow over a working lifetime.

Engineering and manufacturing tops the list. You currently have 18%; 17.8% of this community is in manufacturing. As you can see, we've identified programs that are futuristic; that look at the impact of this technology revolution on your current manufacturing business. We don't want to prepare people for the jobs of yesterday because that's not going to move your industry base forward.

The next big field we're looking at is computer and information technology because we know the micro-processor is having an impact on everything – every aspect of business. We've got a whole variety of programs, including computer forensics. Notice that one of your other strategies is to put an innovation corridor in place that builds on the current needs around how you protect data. Computer forensics is a critical piece of that. Community colleges around the country are able to provide that kind of support in the local community.

Business and entrepreneurship: obviously business services is critical but entrepreneurship is what I want to focus on though. Not only does Erie need to grow the talent pool to succeed economically in the future, it also has to figure out how to create more companies that will create more jobs. Your current companies are doing great; you want them to succeed, you want them to be successful. But you want to build another pipeline of new employment coming from new enterprises. Those are companies that are able to take the technological revolution and turn it to new job opportunity. We would provide the innovation, invention, entrepreneurship support necessary in that area.

The other big area is health and wellness. The health and wellness sector is another career pathway that is absolutely critical. Unfortunately, most of us here are in the group that we would call "getting older" and the reality is Erie is getting older faster than the rest of the state of Pennsylvania. You know you're going to need to have healthcare services. You actually have about 20% of the employment today in healthcare services, and that's only going to increase. That would be the other major pathway that we would be concerned about in the process.

That's what we're putting together for the educational program. We think it will make a tremendous difference in this county. It should position the county for growth and development over the next 20-30 years. That's the long-term transformational change.

Mr. Peters: If it won't disrupt the flow of your presentation because I suspect we're going to get to financials at some point, I'd like to ask a couple quick questions about the educational piece. Can we go back to the slide that shows all of the programs? The concept of baccalaureate transfer – being number one on your list; briefly, how do you work with, not only the other institutions here but, is it common to work with other institutions in our region so that these credits transfer? How does that work?

Dr. Church: If you look at the needs assessment, the number one barrier to individuals pursuing further education is affordability. You've got a whole population of folks that believe they can't afford to go to college. We're proposing a tuition rate to start with of \$2,400 a year. The next lowest cost in the current market is \$8,900. Most of them are above \$10,000-\$20,000-\$30,000. For

many of the folks that need to get engaged, they can't get in the market because of cost. So the baccalaureate transfer is absolutely critical to get that population off the sidelines and get them pursuing the continuum of education.

How do we assure the program is articulated and is consistent with that flow? The State of Pennsylvania has a state transfer policy. Thirty credit hours out of the 60 – 64 credit hours of an associate degree are intended to be general education; math, science, communications, team-building, all of those kinds of things. There is a guaranteed 30-credit hour block that will transfer to any of these institutions in the area. That's the foundation.

They've also identified 68 different programs that go to the baccalaureate degree to which community college courses will transfer. We will take advantage of all of those insofar as possible and then add one more layer. And that layer is developing inter-institutional agreements between Erie County Community College and Gannon University, Mercyhurst, Behrend Penn State, Edinboro. One of the problems with transferring students is that the courses often transfer but they don't count toward what the student is trying to pursue in terms of a degree. So they end up being add-on credits. So while they are accepted, they don't get you to where you need to go.

Mr. Peters: That led into my second question which was specific to the mechatronics that you're proposing in #2. Knowing that Penn State is working on that, and understand I don't know what all of the four presidents have said, but I have at least heard Dr. Ford say that he is in support of this concept in some way or another. The idea would be that if you're in this mechatronics, you could theoretically move credits to Penn State and get a four year?

Dr. Church: Absolutely. We will use them to help us design the actual courses. We will make sure that they fit in the process. We're not intending to duplicate anything that already exists. We've got this huge gap. We need to have everybody else continue to do everything they're doing and we need to add to that.

Mr. Peters: My last question is related more to the private educational institutions that exist. Are they bound by that same rule that those credits have to transfer?

Dr. Church: The state's approach is not as straight forward as some other states. In Ohio, they were guaranteed to transfer, guaranteed to apply to a degree and their other criteria. Pennsylvania is not quite that formalized. They've got multiple tiers that are in the process. That's why you have to have the local agreements that are superimposed on top of the state infrastructure. If we're going to get the maximum efficiency out of the system, we have to do it in partnership with the universities that are participating

Mr. Peters: I meant the For-Profit. So I suspect that the for-profit trade schools or whatever you call them, do their credits have to transfer? And if no, that seems like a pretty significant differential.

Dr. Church: The answer to that is no. They are not regionally accredited. They have a proprietary school accreditation. US Department of Education has got huge problems with proprietary, for-profit institutions today. They're real challenges to the question of how much money in PELL grants and federal student aid is going to proprietary schools versus the results that are being achieved by them. I don't know how many of you are familiar with ITT Tech, the nationally prominent 50,000 students that went out of business because the Department of Education challenged the results they were getting.

Having said that, that is their problems. We're not dealing with those problems. But what community colleges have done is work with those proprietary institutions to create some crosswalks to the community college credit curriculum that allows those students to move over and have an assessment on a skills or content base that allows them to keep from losing all the credit for what they've done. Their credits won't transfer but their knowledge, skills and abilities will if the community college sets up an alternative assessment system. That's what we've done in Lorraine with our proprietaries.

Mr. DiNicola: Thank you very much. That was a great line of questions. There was an article in the Wall Street Journal in late January or early February, a featured article called "Chasing Community College Graduates." You might want to take a look at it because it really spells out how the seed has changed in the attitude towards community college containment. It's come a long way since Harry Truman put community colleges on the map.

Mr. Maloney: Thanks for having us and thanks for your support. We took an approach when we put our projections together to be very conservative in our approach. We did not include any in-kind contributions which was the real problem with the 2010 approach because they used a lot of that. We provided no grants from federal or state other than the tuition reimbursement. We have provided no in-kind contributions, no contributions from manufacturers or anything like that. We anticipate that will happen. One of the first things Dr. Church did was make sure we had a group in development that we could go out and get that money. We did not include these in the projections.

The first item that you see on the slide projection is the amount of enrollment we projected we would have for the community college. This is based on a formula provided to us by PDE and it was available by Nicole Parker, who was our research person. We feel these are very attainable, especially when you start listening to Dr. Church and the gap that we have in there. We have a full-time equivalent status of 69 and build that up to 1,379. Full-time equivalent is made by taking the total credits all these students would earn and divide that by 24. That's the definition provided by PDE as to what is full-time equivalent. Some of the regular full-time students are taking anywhere from 24 credits up. The part-time students could be taking 3 credits, 6 credits, 9 credits, whatever they decide to do. Normally that population is the 25 – 35-year-old that has come back into the system trying to be trained for new jobs and trying to better themselves. That's how we arrived at those figures.

The first source of revenue that we deal with is student tuition. One of the things in the act of the community college is for tuition cannot be more than 1/3 of the operating cost. That's kind of tough to do in many cases because that means the other 2/3 of the cost has to be made up and it mainly has to be made up by the local support. This time we were able to meet all five years that we were within that range, that we complied to that part of the act. In the 2010 study, they were only able to do that one year out of the five.

With our \$2,400 or \$2,800 in student tuition, we have met that. Then as we look further down we have what our cost per student is; and our revenue from the students is no more than 1/3. The out-of-state students pay twice what the local students pay because they don't have any local support. State students would pay the full amount. What we also did was build up the staff and part-time staff based on the number of courses we would be required to go. Every time we added students, we would have a formula that would say, "We need this many more people to handle the courses."

One of the advantages of a community college is that part of their staff is made up of part-time people; that keeps your costs down. You can see that 1/3 of the courses we are going to provide will be provided by part-time staff; it keeps the cost down, we don't have to pay benefits, we do it on a per course basis which keeps the cost down.

Our operating costs were based on the fact that we had costs that were given to us as to what the average community college pays for their full-time staff, what our costs are; we've increased cost in the marketing area so we made sure that we have available money to go out and get those students and reach out to them and bring them into the system. Our costs for facilities are based on we have to have 85 sq. ft. for every student, so anytime we add students we increase the number of square footage we need.

Our second source of revenue is the State of Pennsylvania. That is probably the most unknown source that we've got now. At this point, the state reimburses the other 14 community colleges based on what they received the previous year. Our issue is that we don't have an amount for the previous year; we're just building our community college up. We're asking them to look at and consider giving per student reimbursement for the first five years and building it up to when we get a

mature community college in the fifth year. We don't know if that will work or not. That will be the next hurdle we have to go through after we get the local sponsor on board.

The State also reimburses 50% of the capital costs that we have involved with this. Our capital costs are equipment, improvements to major buildings; they will reimburse 50% of those costs. We also reimburse 50% of the costs of equipment leases and building leases. That's all part of the cost of the capital.

The third portion of the revenue that we have is the local sponsor. Since we were anticipating the County of Erie, today or in the next week, to become the local sponsor we looked at them for the possibility of what they could do as far as sponsoring. As you're aware, they have gaming revenue just like you have gaming revenue. They get half of what comes in. That money has been used for debt servicing on two projects. One would be the Runway Project, which was a \$20M bond issue taken out in 2007; that bond issue has had a principle interest income of \$2.9M a year. That bond debt is paid off in 2017. That means that out of the county's money, they will have freed up \$2.9M. We're hoping they will look at that and say, "We can use that to support this community college."

In the year 2021, the bond issue with the Civic Center Arena that they put together in 2011-12, will be paid off. That's another \$900,000 that they were paying in debt servicing that is no longer available. Mike Batchelor has put out the phrase, "We've invested in asphalt and bricks-and-mortar. Now it's time to invest in human resources." We're hopeful that the County Council will come along to the point where they will take and use those funds that are available there to provide a local sponsor.

Once we cash flow this and look at what we can do with the money we are getting, or hope to get from the State, what we get from the students, what we have available from the County, what we have available from the Erie Community Foundation and the Gaming Revenue Authority money, that we will have enough funds to fund this project for the capital and the operating needs and also to provide \$750,000 in scholarships for each year for the first two years when we're not accredited. At the end of the fifth year, we still have funds left over out of that money we've got coming in. I think at this point we're in good shape as far as the projections of where we will be, as far as financially.

Mr. Sample: The first two years while you're not accredited, did I not hear previously that you can borrow an accreditation or work in conjunction with another college for accreditation so that these credits actually do have a home?

Dr. Church: That is one possibility; one option that could be considered. One of the things we know from the accreditation experts, Middle States is the regional accrediting agency here, is that if you choose that option then it takes longer for the local community college to actually get its accreditation. The most efficient way would be for you to start, get the Department of Education authorization, and with their authorization Middle States will award candidacy status after about two years. That would allow students to then access PELL grants and federal loans. It may take another couple years to actually get the full Middle States accreditation. Your first two years are the problem with PELL grants.

Mr. Sample: So do those credits become retroactive then since you're in the infancy stage?

Dr. Church: Correct. What Middle States will do is when they grant accreditation, if you have followed their guidelines and have the approval of the State of Pennsylvania, they will retroactively certify those credits as credits.

Mr. DiNicola: We have brought on our own accreditation expert so that we were getting a clear view of our own accreditation options. It really did become a question for us of whether we wanted to kick the can down the road or actually get in the business of providing the credits. It's very tough to do a hybrid model. Either you're providing the course or you're not providing the course. That's a challenge. Some people have elected to kick the can down the road. The model that we are projecting is one that we are engaged in delivering the credits and we're actually putting in the time necessary to achieve the accreditation.

Also, you should know that Pennsylvania will grant degrees before we have the accreditation but the accreditation becomes very important from a credibility standpoint but also from the standpoint of Title 4 funding, which allows the students who have financial needs attend the college. This is why we had the money in the budget that reflects our commitment to providing scholarships. We need to be able to hit the ground running, and we're going to work on scholarships. That is something that we need to do as a community. Where we have had some philanthropic support, we expect there will be additional philanthropic opportunities.

Mr. Yaple: Would there be an understanding amongst, say the 2 year colleges; a guy has a two-year degree, he's graduating and wants to go to Mercyhurst. Would that agreement that they will accept that be unaccredited yet? Will there be a continuous flow? Politically, we're not going to hold him up.

Mr. Sample: Basically, will those credits be transferable without the accreditation if there's a private agreement?

Dr. Church: The answer to that is yes. Now the mechanics of that are a bit more complicated.

Mr. Yaple: But it would eventually catch up? I just wouldn't want the student to get two years, get disengaged. . .

Mr. Sample: We don't want to have an ITT where they took the courses but can't get the credits to transfer.

Dr. Church: That is why the approval of the Department of Education in Pennsylvania is so critical. That's the protection for the student. They are not going to authorize this community college unless they are convinced the plan is sufficient to provide a quality education for the students that the State can stand behind.

Mr. Paris: Are there any other benefits of going to a community college like going to a regular college, like sports or anything else?

Dr. Church: We call those the student life aspects of a collegiate education. There will be a whole array of out-of-class opportunities for students to be engaged in. Generally, it starts out with club level sports and intramurals and builds. There is a community college league in the State of Pennsylvania so there are collegiate level opportunities. But those are just on the athletic side. We will also have journalism, a college paper, other student government kinds of things because there is more to a college education than just the classroom instruction. This will be a full comprehensive college.

Mr. Maloney: We built that money into the budget. You'll see that we started off with \$50,000 in student services and we built that up to \$500,000 by the fifth year. They will pay for that by the fees which is not included in what we looked at here. They pay an additional fee to cover that cost.

Mr. DiNicola: Also, a community college by its very nature has a very diverse student body. Less than 1/3 are full-time; 2/3 are part-time. It's a fellow who just lost his job at GE to outsourcing or more competition and he's working at the Dollar Store. He's getting in to the community college for a couple hours a day, trying to raise the family, trying to keep the bread on the table, trying to get an education so he can get that certificate. Maybe he's got trade-adjustment assistance, maybe he doesn't. It depends on the circumstances. It's that single mom, single parent that's trying to get in and get that additional education. Any of the circumstances that come into play, it's more affordable because it's not a research college; it doesn't invest a lot of money into writing papers and conducting research because it is a practical, skills-delivery, engaged in the primary function of education.

It reduces the students overall cost because it is supposed to be, theoretically, accessible to you by public transportation so that you're not necessarily going to have room-and-board issues. You're going to be able to get in and get out of the college. For those reasons, it is a fundamentally different kind of college.

Dr. Church: Universities that have a research and publications responsibility assign their faculty two or three courses a semester. Community college faculty are focused totally on teaching



and learning; they teach five or six courses a semester. That's one of the fundamental, structural differences in cost.

Mr. Lee: First of all, gentlemen, thank you for coming in. I really appreciate it. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to read the college plan, I highly recommend that you read it. It's a very easy read, there's a lot of value as far as understanding what the plan exactly encompasses.

One of the things from an administration standpoint, and I'm saying this just so everyone on the Board can understand, we wanted to make sure that this is seen as a community college for the entire county and that it is not seen for just inside the City of Erie, versus outside the City of Erie.

If you could share briefly what you're doing to make sure that the entire county has an opportunity to that. And Mr. Maloney, this is a question for you; the projections as far as from the State, it is very important that people understand that it is not 1/3, 1/3, 1/3. Tuition is not 1/3, the State is not 1/3, not 1/3 from the local sponsoring organization which would be Erie County.

The question for you would be, the projections that are going to be requested for 1-5 from the statement will not be any historical information. For whatever reason, if they don't come at those levels and if they come in considerably less, because everyone knows the financial status of the state, can you share what the strategy would be to make up that difference because it is my understanding that the county would be required to pay the balance for whatever that may be.

Mr. DiNicola: Let me begin first with the County. Let me preliminarily state that we are grateful to have had the support of the County Executive and the four members of Council on our grant application that we submitted to both you and the Community Foundation and the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformative Philanthropy. They have been very supportive of our effort to study this and question it and come up with a plan so they can make a decision of whether to go forward. It has always been a priority to make this an Erie County Community College.

Judy Roth is here who served on Sites & Facilities; I'll let her chime in. We've had an entire Sites & Facilities Committee; part of the Sites & Facilities Committee's work was to explore satellite locations for the community college so it would be totally accessible to everyone in the County. We made it a priority to get with as many school boards throughout the county as we could; last count I think we were at eight or nine of those to make a full presentation. I'm happy to report that's from Waterford, Union City, Wattsburg, Girard and I know there's others I'm not mentioning. The receptions were generally very good; very positive from the educators and the elected officials in those counties.

We also did a leadership meeting in Corry and a Power Hour event in Edinboro, in addition to a public event in Erie County. But the essence of this has to be county-wide because that is where our manufacturers and our employers also need and require. We were fortunate enough, as I mentioned earlier, to get the endorsement from the Erie Regional Manufacturer Partnerships and many of those facilities are located far east and west of the county and south of the city. So it's very important to us to continue to reach ordinary citizens as well who are formulating their judgments about this.

We did do, as part of our polling, over 500 samples of countywide residents and over 70% viewed a community college as important or very important. Mr. Lee, we thank you also for your insights and support as we moved along in this process.

Ms. Roth: We looked at 25 different properties, but the first thing we did was set a large criteria. I apologize that we don't have the college plan here, but some of you have received them. If you go to [empowereire.org](http://empowereire.org) you can get one.

The bottom line is that we divided into three groups. The main campus will be downtown; it is to be partnered with and next to the Innovation District because, of course, that is your largest population. We also have agreements to talk further with Edinboro University, both their campus and Porreco, Mercyhurst North East, Girard High School, and the High Tech Center in Corry. We have

agreements with all of those to talk about classroom instruction with an instructor there for those students. It is really county wide. Those are our satellites.

The third thing we have are technical training centers and we've talked and worked with the Erie School District to talk about Central Tech's use for their equipment, which is frankly some of the best in the country. We've also looked at Oliver Road; there's a High Tech Center there that we've looked at. We've also talked to Erie Insurance about their Tech Center. So, we're looking at the whole county having instructors in a classroom with classroom instruction.

Mr. Sample: We're going to have to move along because we have a lot of other stuff. I don't mean to cut you short because it is very interesting. Are there any other questions?

Mr. Maloney: Understand that the State now provides \$230,000 in operating costs for the other 14 community colleges. The County of Erie is paying in for this community college and we're getting zero money out of it; so we're trying to impress on the legislators, "You need to kick in a little bit." We're only looking for about 1% of that money to do it. If we have issue with them where they say they can't do it, what we would have to do is review what we have as far as student enrollment and probably look at reducing the amount we get for enrollment.

I did look yesterday at what would happen if we cut our enrollment the first year down to half. That would also cut down the State's share in half; we still can do it. We still have the availability to do with, even if we have half the enrollment that we have, with the funds that are available.

Mr. DiNicola: The big point is there are no guarantees. We're going to have to make the case in Harrisburg. We're going to do what we always have to do; we're going to have to go down there and make the case. We have people in our community who are helping and advocating and making a strong support.

Dr. Church: Once the Department of Education authorizes this college, it will be eligible for some part of whatever is allocated for community colleges. Now you won't have 14, you'll have 15. There are a lot of dynamics to get there, but there will be some funding from the state, that's the point.

Mr. DiNicola: They did increase their budget in the last budget to \$4M. If we got \$100,000 from every other college, it's already getting \$16M per capita but it varies by college, they are already getting \$16M since they've been in existence; they got on the train early. We didn't. Out of that \$4M that was in appropriation, if they gave us just \$100,000 we would be funded for ... that's the state match for us for the whole year. It's not a big ask.

Mr. Peters: I have a question regarding timing with County Council. I don't know if this is a question for you or Councilman Breneman. I'd like to understand because we do have some changes coming to the county, at least a couple that we know about. We have some new council people coming on board. What's the timing? Now you have four. From what I understand you have the possibility of a fifth. How quickly does this get through?

Mr. DiNicola: I think that's a question for the Chairman.

Mr. Breneman: We will have this application to PDE next month. Our timeline is that can we have the support for this Resolution to make it happen? Now as far as what happens after the application period, it is my understanding that the community college is not 100% there without the board of trustees. I think that is something that the gentlemen here can speak on, whether it would occur before next year or when would it happen.

Mr. DiNicola: What is interesting about this on several levels, is that we haven't had a community college so we don't have that internal DNA, but neither has the State for a while. Roy Church was involved in the last community college startup which was in Youngstown, which is a great story for another time. What we know is that we are on the timeline of County Council and the County Executive until we get out of the County. Then we go to the Board of Education and the Department of Education. The Board of Education appoints a subcommittee. The subcommittee studied our plan and our application and we have no clue what the timeline is.

Mr. Peters: My question was more about, if it can't get past the County, it stops right?

Mr. Breneman: We will be passing it.

Mr. Peters: The timing is that it will get through the County.

Mr. Wood: I would like to make some summarizing comments. First, I would like to thank Empower Erie. They are a group of volunteers that are doing this out of a sense of passion; I don't want that to be lost on our group. It's truly your dedication and passion that have brought this forward, so thank you so much for everything you have done for the community.

Second, I want to state for the record that the ECGRA Board has received both a copy of the Feasibility Study and the Draft Action Plan. We've hosted discussions and deliberations on these documents, study sessions if you will, on these documents so the majority of the Board is up to speed on what these documents contain and the significance of them.

Thirdly, I want to bring your attention to the fact that about a week ago, TIME magazine published an article called, "The Case for Community College." It's a very persuasive article. It documents the most successful community colleges in the country which are of a technical nature. It says that community colleges are now THE workforce strategy in the United States; they are central to the workforce strategy. It also says that the average tuition for community college is \$3,500/year. I believe I saw in the presentation that it's only going to be \$2,800. Those are some great advantages for our community.

On the flip side, though, the State of Pennsylvania from the community college perspective is not the most competitive community college system. One of your team members is Kate Shaw, former Deputy Secretary of Education in the State of Pennsylvania, a very impressive individual who wrote extensively on community colleges. She states in the article, talking about Pennsylvania, "the chronic lack of resources makes it more difficult for community colleges to respond to the workforce needs than in a state where they are better supported."

With New York and Tennessee making community colleges free, while we have some advantages with lower tuition and certainly the community rallying around it, there are some disadvantages with starting a community college in the State of Pennsylvania.

I just wanted to bring that balance out before we continue with deliberations and support the position of the board. I thank you for your time.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Peters: I have very little to say about the Treasurer's Report. First of all, it's nice to be back and I'm sorry I missed everyone for the last few months. My work schedule has had me traveling quite a bit.

I know that there were some questions about the report last month. Those are straightened out. I have reviewed it. I feel comfortable with where we're at and unless there are questions, I don't feel the need to go over it line by line. We've not changed this now for well over a year. You have your normal Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, Budget vs. Actual, Schedule of Grant Reserve, and the Check Detail Report. This has now been standard for over a year.

I had one other item of business to cover. One of the groups that we funded, Ben Franklin, one of our deals and one of the tranche's of funding is that we would get warrants on certain transactions. They had a liquidity event last week where one of their companies, Conduit Technologies which is at the Gannon incubator, was sold to a company that they had partnered with. I have sent a formal request to Ben Franklin for information regarding, because I believe that we're in that deal. I'm not 100% sure, but I've sent a request to them seeking an understanding of what our payback would look like. If we're not in the deal, if it was pre-innovation funds, then we may get nothing, But I did send the request.

Mr. Yapple makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Bagnoni seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

- b. Regional Assets Committee – Mr. Sample: We had a combined meeting a week ago.

Mr. Paris: We had a joint Regional Asset and Strategic Planning meeting and under Old Business, we spoke about the Ignite Erie budget revision and we had a recommendation of a reduction of funds. We also spoke about the Community College and talked about the presentation that was given to us at the Community Foundation. Some of us were there. We have that update from their presentation today.

We went over the MMC Grants. There is a resolution to vote on those today but we also talked about whether we are going to continue to fund that. That is something we need to discuss. Do we want to do that openly sometime?

Mr. Wood: We had some interesting dialogue about figuring out if we could somehow work with the Jefferson and the Council of Governments to refine that grant program, which I think is great advice. I'm willing to sit down and talk about, specifically capacity. The discussion revolved around the fact that local government don't seem to consider some of the more creative options that are available to them. So if there was an entity, an intermediary if you will, to step up to help folks get ready for MMC grants, the region might benefit.

Mr. Paris: We also talked about the MRI applications and we will be approving one today, the 1855 Capital.

Mr. Wood: If I could just add, there were three recommendations made to the MRI board. One is to put forth a Resolution at this Board Meeting to the Solicitor, the Board, and the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with 1855 Capital. The other two were to pursue further research on Blue Highway Capital Partners. This is an interesting venture capital firm as well. The second one was to incur more research on the G.R.E.A.T.T. project.

- c. Strategic Planning Committee – See above.

- d. Update from County Council – Mr. Breneman: I just had a couple of things I wanted to make note of. What I witnessed over the past several months, not just the past year in dealing with this gaming revenue issue with Harrisburg, I just have to commend ECGRA and its leadership on this matter. The quickness of the information and the public campaign with public engagement on this has been phenomenal. I think it has really done a great service to the County as a whole, not just for – going back to the hearing that took place for the Legislators; I think that the County owes you a debt of gratitude for all the work that has been done up to this point. While we still don't know what the final outcome will be, I think that we're further ahead.

Mr. Wachter: If I could comment on one thing that Mr. Breneman just noted: I hope it was not lost on the Board members, and I reviewed the minutes from last month's Board meeting where Perry had noted some of the comments from the Chairman of the House Oversight Gaming Committee indicating that as the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is operating today is the model for how the rest of the state should utilize their gaming funds. Some of my contacts in Harrisburg have indicated that it is because of those comments and that dedication from the leadership of the State that they have made efforts legislatively to ensure that gaming funds are going to be returned to Erie County. I would note that that level of trust that is placed by the Commonwealth into the system that we have in place, that the County had put into place and you gentlemen are implementing is the reason why they are taking steps to assist the County to make sure that necessary funds are available and that all eyes are on Erie County as to how the Gaming Authority continues to develop and continues

to operate. I hear it regularly from my contacts in Harrisburg about, How did you guys put that together? What did you do? Why is it working so well?

Congratulations. While this is often a thankless job because you have to tell many people no, that they're not going to be able to be funded, the rest of the Commonwealth is jealous as to how this particular organization is operating.

Mr. Sample: And the fact that we've been able to get funds out to the entire county, not just specific groups. It has been a knowledge over economic development but through the quality of life issues for a lot of the smaller communities that couldn't afford to have what they have. I do appreciate that.

Mr. Wachter: I would also note that it wasn't until this version of the Gaming Authority was constituted to begin operating that the lawsuits stopped. There was a significant amount of lawsuits that had wasted a lot of taxpayer funds over determining the proper methodology in order to release these funds and invest them in the community. You've done a service to the Commonwealth but you've also done a service to the local taxpayers ensuring that you don't spend more money than you have to on lawyers.

- e. Update from County Executive's Office – Mr. Lee: I would like to give an update on the Summer Jobs Program. Last time we had a meeting we had a discussion in reference to the dispersement of funds dealing with ECGRA and Erie County government. We wanted to bring everything under one umbrella from an efficiency and effective standpoint. The Board made a decision that that wasn't the route that they wanted to go. I went back and shared that decision with the County Executive, in particular the finance team. Their position was still as it was before, that they really were pushing for it all to come under one umbrella because it made more sense to them from an efficiency standpoint.

However, I went back and shared with the finance team the position of ECGRA and I thought that ECGRA was meeting the County half way. We don't live in a perfect world. This would just make sense to move off of because we have much more pressing issues. I got the finance team to concede and they understand. So we are going to go the route as far as the recommendation, which is that all the funds will come into the County, the County will approve them, the County will first utilize the County money and then ECGRA money will be utilized. We will with share with ECGRA what the amounts of the checks. We are able to move off of that issue. Compromise is what life is all about. I wanted to give that update that this is no longer an issue.

Orientation for the Summer Job's Program is slated to start next week. The projected number is 175 students. We have about 50 employers. We're looking for the program to be as good as it has been in the past. What I mean by that is 95% of the students that have signed up for the program, completed the program, which is really good. It's a very valuable experience and we're looking forward to that again this year.

One of the components that we had talked about adding that will be part of the program is a community service project. We will be partnering with ServErie and we're slated to be working at Central. GECAC is going to be coordinating that with some of the Summers JAMS participants.

Mr. Sample: Do we know what the break-out is, county to city?

Mr. Lee: We do not know.

Mr. Sample: And I had expressed some dissatisfaction with the lack of timing with GECAC to the people – when they give them notice on Monday that they have a meeting on Tuesday. I didn't know if that had been sent to GECAC. I just don't think you're going to get a lot of county participation if they don't give them enough time to react.

Mr. Lee: I know you had brought that up last time. I had asked that you forward that to me so that I could look into that personally. I did not receive anything from you on that. That is something I wanted to address myself to see what transpired there. I didn't have enough of the details to be able to go back to GECAC and ask for specifics so that we could nail them down and really find out what transpired.

I have seen information that they have done very good outreach in surrounding areas and participation will be what it was last year. Our goal is to get 50 – 50. Last year we had about 70 – 30; 70% inside the city of Erie and 30% outside the city of Erie. A lot of that has to be driven by ongoing communication and that also includes the employers of the city of Erie as well.

So, my invitation still stands to get me the details, I would be more than happy to follow up with GECAC on that.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Wood: The revenues for the first quarter came in. We have seen another dip in revenues: \$254,570.93; that is down about \$20,000 from last year. That is down about \$130,00 since 2010. So we still see that same downward spiral. You see a revenue dashboard in your executive director's report, as well as confirmation from Erie County about those funds.

You'll also see standard items of the executive director's report; letters from the community of appreciation and media. Then you'll find to wrap it all up, the notes that have come out of the Strategic Planning meeting and the Regional assets meeting that were joint, which includes the recommendations that we discussed. I would like to say that one of those recommendations is to pass the amendment for the IgniteErie budget as well as a reduction in the committed funds that we have with PennVenture. To be specific, we have a \$2M reserve there. The discussion there was to reduce that to \$1M to make it available for other purposes.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

#### OLD BUSINESS

a. Ignite Erie Budget Amendment

Mr. Wood: Are there any questions regarding what we discussed in the Strategic Planning meeting?

Mr. Peters makes a motion to approve the Ignite Erie Budget amendment. Mr. Yaple seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

b. Reduction of PVP Committed Funds

Mr. Barney makes a motion to amend the funds. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. Peters: Perry, I request that we give them a heads-up that we took that action.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution No. 7, 2017: Resolution to enter into agreements with the four (4) entities that comprise the recipients of the 2017-18 Multi-Municipal Collaboration Grants.

Whereas the recipients are identified as the following applicants: Erie Area Council of Governments, Girard Township, Jefferson Educational Society, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Corry.

Whereas the applicants are worthy of the total of \$238,350 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit A.

Mr. Sample: For discussion, I serve as a board member of CIBA. I am going to abstain from voting on the CIBA part so there is no appearance of conflict of interest from both deliberation and vetting on this matter.

Mr. Paris: I also have a conflict of interest which you can read as I sent to the director. As you are aware, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has been asked to approve the Multi-Municipal Grant award at this meeting. One such award goes to the City of Corry Redevelopment Authority and the Authority funds the Corry Neighborhood Initiative with those funds. I have an ongoing professional relationship with the CNI. As such, it would be a conflict of interest for me to vote to approve any funding that would ultimately end up with CNI. Accordingly, I have inquired with ECGRA Solicitor Wachter who has ruled that this presents a conflict of interest, and as such, I am required to abstain from any deliberation or vote on this matter. I ask that this memo be made part of the minutes of this meeting per the requirements of the Pennsylvania Public Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

Mr. Wood: Thank you Mr. Paris. We will be sure to enter that into the record by the secretary, as well as Mr. Samples similar statement of conflict of interest.

Mr. Peters makes a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Barney seconds the motion. Motion carries 5 yes – 2 abstain (Mr. Paris and Mr. Sample)

- b. Resolution No. 8, 2017: Resolution to enter into an agreement with 1855 Capital partners for previously discussed Mission Related Investment (MRI) for \$500,000 MRI for the purpose of small business expansion in Erie County in accordance with the ECGRA Impact Investment Policy. This Resolution would empower your executive director and solicitor to negotiate terms in the same manner that were done for Bridgeway Capital, Enterprise Development Fund, Ben Franklin Technologies and the Progress Fund.

Mr. Yapple makes a motion to accept the Resolution. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

- c. Resolution No. 9, 2017: Resolution to enter into agreements with six (6) Human Services groups, as part of our relationship with the Erie Community Foundation to the extent outlined.

Mr. Bagnoni makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Domino seconds the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to call an executive session for the purpose of discussing legal matters that are related to the board.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Peters, is there anticipated to be any action following the executive session?

Mr. Peters: No.

Mr. Wachter: In that case, you would be allowed to adjourn the meeting prior to going to the executive session.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sample moves to adjournment and for the board to go into an executive session.





**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Profit & Loss**  
June 2017

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2017-18 Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		254,570.93		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	7,298.31	16,918.97		
46420 · Interest Income - EDF #1		3,750.00		
46421 · Interest Income - EDF #2		6,000.00		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC	7,583.33	7,583.33		
	<u>14,881.64</u>	<u>288,823.23</u>		
<b>Total Income</b>				
<b>Expense</b>				
62100 · Contracted Services	7,441.30	18,888.30	21,275.00	85,100.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,386.89	4,822.87	7,289.00	29,150.00
65000 · Office Administration	3,353.90	13,014.70	11,600.00	46,400.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	8,649.60	36,467.72	66,250.00	265,000.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	20,107.28	56,307.69	52,663.00	210,650.00
	<u>40,938.97</u>	<u>129,501.28</u>	<u>159,077.00</u>	<u>636,300.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>				
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	(26,057.33)	159,321.95		
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
70000 · Grants / Settlements				
70050 · Municipal Settlements	63,642.73	63,642.73		
70060 · Human Services		19,500.00		
70070 · Special Events	4,967.40	171,014.05		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration	238,350.00	238,350.00		
70130 · Small Business Financing				
70136 · Ignite Erie Industry+University	250,000.00	250,000.00		
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70157 · Innovation District	25,000.00	25,000.00		
	<u>581,960.13</u>	<u>767,506.78</u>		
<b>Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements</b>				
<b>Net Other Income</b>	(581,960.13)	(767,506.78)		
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>(608,017.46)</u>	<u>(608,184.83)</u>		



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of June 30, 2017

	June
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	105,128.98
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10100 · Uncommitted Funds	8,471,589.65
10101 · Committed Funds	3,338,883.00
<b>Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings</b>	11,810,472.65
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	11,915,601.63
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12001 · Note Receivable - EDF #1	500,000.00
12002 · Note Receivable - EDF #2	800,000.00
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	18,846.25
12004 · Note Receivable - BWC	1,000,000.00
12005 · Note Receivable - Progress	1,000,000.00
<b>Total 12000 · Notes Receivable</b>	3,318,846.25
13000 · Lead Assets Endowment II	2,927,064.18
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	5,688.61
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	6,251,599.04
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	18,167,200.67
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	18,167,200.67
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	15,848,321.32
Net Income	(608,184.83)
<b>Total Equity</b>	18,167,200.67
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	18,167,200.67



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
June 2017

	<u>June</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Net Income	(608,017.46)
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to net cash provided by operations:	
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	812.66
 Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>(607,204.80)</u>
 Net cash increase for period	(607,204.80)
Cash at beginning of period	12,522,806.43
 Cash at end of period	<u><u>11,915,601.63</u></u>



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
June 2017

Expense	June	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
<b>62100 · Contracted Services</b>					
62110 · Auditing Fees	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	(6,000.00)	0.00%
62130 · Professional Services	3,823.20	13,676.40	45,000.00	(31,323.60)	30.39%
62140 · Legal Services	3,334.50	3,334.50	30,000.00	(26,665.50)	11.12%
62145 · Website Design	163.75	1,559.75	3,000.00	(1,440.25)	51.99%
62150 · Payroll Services	119.85	317.65	1,100.00	(782.35)	28.88%
<b>Total 62100 · Contracted Services</b>	<b>7,441.30</b>	<b>18,888.30</b>	<b>85,100.00</b>	<b>(66,211.70)</b>	<b>22.20%</b>
<b>62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>					
62840 · Office Equipment	0.00	72.00	7,000.00	(6,928.00)	1.03%
62850 · Janitorial Services	0.00	590.20	2,400.00	(1,809.80)	24.59%
62880 · CAM	0.00	0.00	1,750.00	(1,750.00)	0.00%
62890 · Rent	1,386.89	4,160.67	18,000.00	(13,839.33)	23.11%
<b>Total 62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>1,386.89</b>	<b>4,822.87</b>	<b>29,150.00</b>	<b>(24,327.13)</b>	<b>16.55%</b>
<b>65000 · Office Administration</b>					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	1,185.09	2,198.09	7,000.00	(4,801.91)	31.40%
65020 · Postage	181.98	440.90	600.00	(159.10)	73.48%
65030 · Printing	0.00	695.00	2,500.00	(1,805.00)	27.80%
65040 · Office Supplies	400.07	503.88	5,000.00	(4,496.12)	10.08%
65050 · Cell Phone	0.00	140.56	2,200.00	(2,059.44)	6.39%
65060 · Copier Lease	182.00	546.00	2,300.00	(1,754.00)	23.74%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	293.98	799.95	4,500.00	(3,700.05)	17.78%
65080 · Bank Fees	199.43	256.41	50.00	206.41	512.82%
65085 · Professional Development	0.00	6,322.00	16,000.00	(9,678.00)	39.51%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	911.35	1,111.91	6,000.00	(4,888.09)	18.53%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 65000 · Office Administration</b>	<b>3,353.90</b>	<b>13,014.70</b>	<b>46,400.00</b>	<b>(33,385.30)</b>	<b>28.05%</b>
<b>65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>					
65105 · Outreach	1,442.87	1,442.87	17,000.00	(15,557.13)	8.49%
65110 · Advertising	3,660.44	7,674.74	15,000.00	(7,325.26)	51.16%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	1,486.37	3,699.88	17,000.00	(13,300.12)	21.76%
65120 · Insurance	812.66	2,437.98	9,000.00	(6,562.02)	27.09%
65150 · Travel	1,247.26	1,367.91	7,000.00	(5,632.09)	19.54%
65160 · Special Projects	0.00	19,844.34	200,000.00	(180,155.66)	9.92%
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>8,649.60</b>	<b>36,467.72</b>	<b>265,000.00</b>	<b>(228,532.28)</b>	<b>13.76%</b>
<b>66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	18,428.63	51,652.47	188,100.00	(136,447.53)	27.46%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,467.68	3,642.15	14,500.00	(10,857.85)	25.12%
66015 · FUTA Tax	21.18	21.18	200.00	(178.82)	10.59%
66020 · PASUI Tax	189.79	243.66	2,200.00	(1,956.34)	11.08%
66500 · Retirement	0.00	748.23	5,650.00	(4,901.77)	13.24%
<b>Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>20,107.28</b>	<b>56,307.69</b>	<b>210,650.00</b>	<b>(154,342.31)</b>	<b>26.73%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>40,938.97</b>	<b>129,501.28</b>	<b>636,300.00</b>	<b>(506,798.72)</b>	<b>20.35%</b>





**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
As of June 30, 2017

	June	YTD	Totals/Subtotals
<b>Uncommitted Funds</b>	8,471,589.65		
<b>Committed Funds</b>	3,338,883.00		

**2017 Restricted Funds:**

First Quarter Gaming Revenue		254,570.93	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue		0.00	<b>254,570.93</b>

**Disbursements:**

First Quarter Disbursements	581,960.13	767,506.78	
Second Quarter Disbursements		0.00	
Third Quarter Disbursements		0.00	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements		0.00	<b>767,506.78</b>

**Disbursements Detail**

**Grants/Settlements**

**Community Assets**

**Human Services**

All God's Children Ministries		2,500.00	
Community Resources for Independence		7,500.00	
Mission Empower		3,500.00	
Sisters of Mercy		6,000.00	<b>19,500.00</b>

**Lead Assets**

0.00	<b>0.00</b>
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**Special Events**

Albion Area Fair, Inc.		1,397.40
Asbury Woods Partnership, Inc.		923.10
Bayfront NATO, Inc.		3,697.50
Borough of Union City		1,804.55
Borough of Wesleyville		4,307.80
CAFÉ		487.90
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.		5,959.35
Downtown North East		2,696.20
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundations		11,290.55
Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival		536.35
Edinboro Highland Games		14,875.00
Erie Art & Music Festival		13,110.40
Erie Asian Pacific American Association		2,489.65
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	563.55	563.55
Erie Downtown Partnership		765.00
Erie Drum Corps Association		871.25
Erie Homes for Children & Adults	2,346.00	2,346.00
Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game	992.80	992.80
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership		4,165.00
Film Society of NW PA		908.65

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of June 30, 2017**

Goodell Gardens & Homestead		5,363.50	
Harborcreek Township		1,909.10	
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church		18,494.30	
Jefferson Educational Society		1,916.75	
Lake Erie Arboretum At Frontier		5,057.50	
Lake Erie Ballet		566.10	
Lake Erie Fanfare, Inc.		7,092.40	
Mercy Center for Women		20,839.45	
The Nonprofit Partnership		1,375.30	
North East Community Fair Association		3,202.80	
Presque Isle Partnership		3,791.00	
Roar on the Shore		4,817.80	
SafeNet		2,550.00	
Saint Patrick's Church		2,135.20	
Sister's of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network		4,037.50	
Union City Pride	1,065.05	1,065.05	
WQLN Public Media		2,454.80	
Waterford Community Fair Association		4,247.45	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		2,310.30	
YMCA of Greater Erie		2,125.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		854.25	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		620.50	<u>171,014.05</u>
<b>Municipalities</b>			
<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>			
Erie Area Council of Governments	100,000.00	100,000.00	
Jefferson Educational Society	97,000.00	97,000.00	
Girard Township	16,350.00	16,350.00	
Redevelopment Authority - City of Corry	25,000.00	25,000.00	<u>238,350.00</u>
<b>Municipal Settlements</b>			
Erie County	7,000.70	7,000.70	
Greene Township	7,000.70	7,000.70	
McKean Township	7,000.70	7,000.70	
Millcreek Township	7,000.70	7,000.70	
Summit Township	28,639.23	28,639.23	
Waterford Township	7,000.70	7,000.70	<u>63,642.73</u>
<b>Neighborhoods &amp; Communities</b>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Small Business Financing</b>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ignite Erie Industry + University; Penn State Erie - The Behrend College	250,000.00	250,000.00	<u>250,000.00</u>
<b>Youth &amp; Education</b>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Mercyhurst University - Innovation District	25,000.00	25,000.00	<u>25,000.00</u>
<b>Total Funds Disbursements</b>	<u>581,960.13</u>	<u>767,506.78</u>	<u>767,506.78</u>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
**As of June 30, 2017**

**Committed Funds:**

Enterprise Development Fund		500,000.00
Shaping Tomorrow		
Community College		385,000.00
Erie's Public Schools - Tech After Hours		133,333.00
Erie's Public Schools - Community Schools		75,000.00
Gannon University - Go College		31,250.00
Gannon University - East-West Bayfront Plan		14,300.00
Primary Health Network		100,000.00
Mercyhurst University - Innovation District	(25,000.00)	350,000.00
Penn State, The Behrend College	(250,000.00)	250,000.00
PennVenture Partners	(1,000,000.00)	1,000,000.00
1855 Capital Partners		500,000.00
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<u>(1,275,000.00)</u>	<u>3,338,883.00</u>



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Check Detail Report**  
**June 2017**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
06/02/2017	2158	GreatAmerica Financial Services	Copier Fees/Lease	-332.00
06/02/2017	2159	Printing Concepts Inc.	Annual Report	-1,442.87
06/02/2017	2160	Times Publishing Company	Regional Asset Notice	-101.30
06/02/2017	2161	Velocity Network, Inc.	Phone/IT/Fax	-953.74
06/07/2017	2162	Erie County	2017 First Quarter Settlement Payment	-7,000.70
06/07/2017	2163	Greene Township	2017 First Quarter Settlement Payment	-7,000.70
06/07/2017	2164	McKean Township	2017 First Quarter Settlement Payment	-7,000.70
06/07/2017	2165	Millcreek Township	2017 First Quarter Settlement Payment	-7,000.70
06/07/2017	2166	Summit Township	2017 First Quarter Settlement Payment	-28,639.23
06/07/2017	2167	Waterford Township	2017 First Quarter Settlement Payment	-7,000.70
06/07/2017	2168	Penn State Erie, The Behrend College	Ignite Erie: Industry+University Business Acceleration	-250,000.00
06/07/2017	2169	Amanda Burlingham	Communications Services	-3,823.20
06/07/2017	2170	Epic Web Studios	Website support	-163.75
06/07/2017	20013	Tammi Michali	5/13/17 to 5/26/17 Payroll-Tammi	-737.99
06/12/2017	2171	Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.	07/01/17 to 06/30/18 Membership	-285.00
06/15/2017	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	5/13/2017 to 5/26/2017 Payroll	-5,699.07
06/15/2017	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	5/27/2017 to 6/9/2017 Payroll	-6,512.05
06/23/2017	2172	City of Erie Parking	Parking expenses	-30.00
06/23/2017	2173	Erie Area Council of Governemnts	2017 MMC Grant	-100,000.00
06/23/2017	2174	Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	2017 Special Events	-563.55
06/23/2017	2175	Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc	2017 Special Events	-2,346.00
06/23/2017	2176	Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game	2017 Special Events	-992.80
06/23/2017	2177	Erie Reader	Outreach	-2,200.00
06/23/2017	2178	Girard Township	2017 MMC Grant	-16,350.00
06/23/2017	2179	Jefferson Educational Society of Erie	2017 MMC Grant	-97,000.00
06/23/2017	2180	Mercyhurst University	Innovation District	-25,000.00
06/23/2017	2181	Penn State Erie, The Behrend College	June 2017 Rent	-1,386.89
06/23/2017	2182	Presque Isle Designs, LLC	June 2017 - Graphic Design	-1,208.40
06/23/2017	2183	Redevelopment Authority - City of Corry	2017 MMC Grant	-25,000.00
06/23/2017	2184	Union City Pride	2017 Special Events	-1,065.05
06/23/2017	EFT	VISA	April 2017 - Tom	-681.60
06/23/2017	EFT	VISA	May 2017 - Tom	-976.29
06/23/2017	EFT	VISA	April 2017 - Perry	-2,362.85
06/23/2017	EFT	VISA	May 2017 - Perry	-3,483.96
06/23/2017	EFT	VISA	April 2017 - Diane	-58.65
06/23/2017	EFT	VISA	May 2017 - Tammi	-209.25
06/30/2017	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	06/10/2017 to 06/23/2017 Payroll	-7,278.02





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

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
JULY 2017**

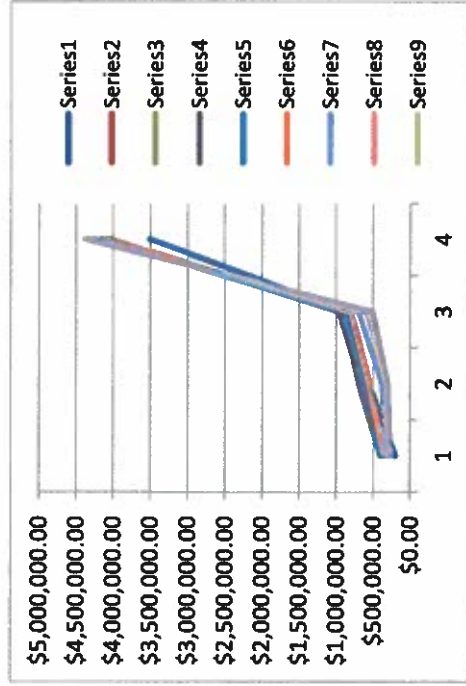
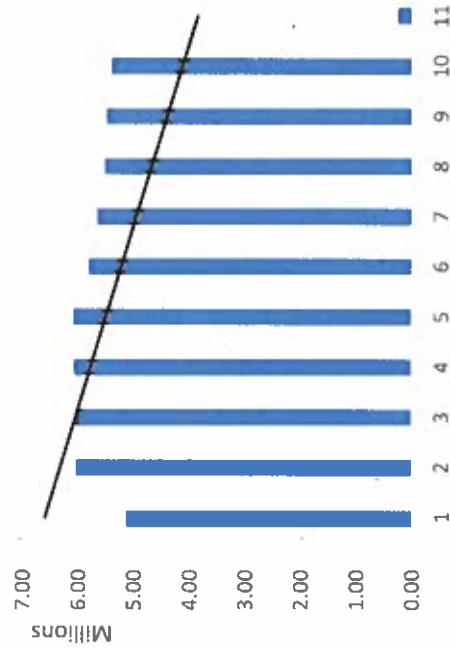




**Revenue Dashboard  
by Quarter  
2007 - 2017 YTD**



Year	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
2007	201,418.07	562,082.72	867,508.44	3,507,952.54	5,138,961.77
2008	366,211.37	672,936.98	941,125.00	4,063,561.53	6,043,834.88
2009	407,507.87	701,525.21	898,525.69	4,060,932.24	6,068,491.01
2010	385,476.85	665,559.96	962,909.94	4,073,449.24	6,087,395.99
2011	393,440.61	636,302.96	903,421.25	4,166,222.13	6,099,386.95
2012	356,241.99	554,752.50	794,443.73	4,114,583.35	5,820,021.57
2013	318,869.71	374,557.04	701,478.54	4,261,932.00	5,656,837.29
2014	281,934.65	315,628.24	584,126.03	4,350,692.65	5,532,381.57
2015	264,934.67	308,566.19	541,749.43	4,390,710.21	5,505,960.50
2016	271,003.84	300,719.61	507,757.83	4,332,642.04	5,412,123.32
2017	254,570.93				254,570.93
<b>2007 - 2017 YTD</b>	<b>3,501,610.56</b>	<b>5,092,631.41</b>	<b>7,703,045.88</b>	<b>41,322,677.93</b>	<b>57,619,965.78</b>







April 27, 2017

James Sparber  
Finance Director  
Erie County Courthouse  
140 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 111  
Erie, PA 16501-1011

Dear Mr. Sparber:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act of 2004, as amended, (the Act) the Department is required to distribute quarterly the Local Share Assessment collected to the municipalities in which a licensed gaming entity is located. The distribution is based on the amount of money collected.

An ACH for the first quarter of 2017 payment in the amount of \$509,141.85 should be deposited in your bank account within 3 - 5 business days. Any reductions to the 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 contact me at 717-772-4372.

Sincerely,

Shawn Barnes, Director  
Bureau of Fiscal Management

unrestricted 067-001010-042100  
Restricted 067-001050-042100

254,470.92

254,470.93

509,141.85



**Cumulative Investments Report  
2009-2017**



Recipient	Category	Date	Amount	Subtotals
<b>Albion Area Fair Inc.</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$9,291.00	
	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$11,748.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$9,882.00	
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$6,726.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$11,303.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$9,362.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$4,424.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$10,687.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$12,120.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$13,500.00	
Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,160.00		
Special Events	4/4/2017	\$5,959.35	\$113,162.35	
<b>All About Character Inc.</b>	Human Services	7/21/2014	\$10,000.00	
	Shaping Tomorrow	11/12/2015	\$75,000.00	\$85,000.00
<b>ANNA Shelter</b>	UChoose	12/13/2012	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Asbury Woods Partnership Inc.</b>	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$11,136.00	
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$9,996.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$6,354.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$4,742.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,340.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,352.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$2,696.20	\$45,616.20
	Human Services	7/2/2013	\$9,592.00	\$9,592.00
<b>Bayfront East Side Taskforce</b>	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$10,019.00	
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$8,877.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$9,840.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$11,880.00	\$40,616.00
<b>Bayfront NATO / MLK Center</b>	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$1,750.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$11,880.00	\$13,630.00
<b>Ben Franklin Technology Partners CNP</b>	Small Business Financing	5/9/2011	\$350,000.00	
	Small Business Financing	1/17/2012	\$350,000.00	
	Small Business Financing	12/13/2012	\$500,000.00	
	Small Business Financing	8/24/2016	\$500,000.00	\$1,700,000.00
<b>Benedictine Sisters of Erie</b>	Human Services	3/24/2014	\$21,829.00	\$21,829.00
<b>Bethany Outreach Center</b>	Human Services	3/6/2012	\$3,500.00	
	Human Services	4/7/2016	\$14,000.00	\$17,500.00
<b>Blended Spirits Ranch</b>	UChoose	12/13/2012	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Booker T. Washington Center</b>	Human Services	1/11/2017	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
<b>Boro Women's Services</b>	Human Services	7/2/2013	\$675.00	\$675.00
<b>Borough of Union City</b>	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$536.35	\$536.35
<b>Borough of Wesleyville</b>	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$599.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$587.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$448.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$487.90	\$17,121.90
	Human Services	3/24/2014	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Bosnian Islamic Community of Erie</b>	Human Services	12/17/2015	\$15,750.00	\$15,750.00
<b>Box of Light Studios</b>	Human Services	12/17/2015	\$15,750.00	\$15,750.00
<b>Boy Scouts of America -French Creek Council</b>	Human Services	10/6/2011	\$3,282.50	
	UChoose	1/12/2012	\$5,000.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$358.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$650.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$9,750.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,960.00	\$22,000.50
<b>Bradley H. Foulk Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County</b>	Human Services	10/16/2015	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Bridgeway Capital</b>	Small Business Financing	3/27/2015	\$100,000.00	
	Small Business Financing	1/6/2016	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,100,000.00
<b>Café</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$17,095.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$17,500.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$15,687.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$15,750.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$16,625.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$15,750.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$14,875.00	\$113,282.00
<b>Children's Miracle Network</b>	Human Services	7/15/2016	\$10,937.00	\$10,937.00
<b>City of Corry Redevelopment Authority</b>	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/23/2017	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
<b>Commodore Perry Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00



<b>Common Ground Youth Center, Inc.</b>	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$9,120.00	\$9,120.00
<b>Community Health Net</b>	Human Services	7/2/2013	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
<b>Community of Caring</b>	Human Services	3/24/2013	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Community Shelter Services</b>	Human Services	10/6/2011	\$10,455.52	\$10,455.52
<b>Corry Area Historical Society</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$1,294.00	\$1,294.00
<b>Corry Area School District Foundation</b>	The School District Challenge	11/9/2016	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Corry Industrial Benefit Association</b>	Pilot Programs & Special Projects	4/24/2014	\$20,000.00	
	Pilot Programs & Special Projects	9/19/2014	\$50,000.00	\$70,000.00
<b>Corry Salvation Army</b>	Human Services	1/15/2012	\$11,309.07	\$11,309.07
<b>County of Erie</b>				
Settlement 2008-2009	Local Government Development	1/5/2011	\$335,779.96	
Interest 2008-2009	Local Government Development	2/3/2011	\$6,172.88	
Settlement 2010	Local Government Development	4/1/2011	\$168,204.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	4/21/2011	\$10,819.62	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	8/4/2011	\$17,498.33	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	11/10/2011	\$24,844.08	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	2/14/2012	\$114,571.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	5/24/2012	\$11,171.65	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	8/17/2012	\$13,880.70	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	11/20/2012	\$21,847.20	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	2/6/2013	\$113,151.04	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	5/14/2013	\$8,768.92	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	8/6/2013	\$10,300.32	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	11/6/2013	\$19,290.66	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	2/4/2014	\$117,203.14	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	5/8/2014	\$7,753.20	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	8/13/2014	\$8,679.78	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	11/13/2014	\$16,063.47	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	2/10/2015	\$119,644.05	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	5/13/2015	\$7,285.70	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	8/5/2015	\$8,485.57	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	11/4/2015	\$14,898.11	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	2/9/2016	\$120,744.53	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	5/3/2016	\$7,452.61	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	8/5/2016	\$8,269.79	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	11/7/2016	\$13,963.34	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	2/7/2017	\$119,147.66	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2017	Local Government Development	6/7/2017	\$7,000.70	\$1,452,892.23
<b>Crime Victim Center of Erie County</b>	Human Services	6/28/2012	\$9,590.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$1,804.55	\$11,394.55
<b>Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation</b>	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$13,389.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$14,116.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$13,172.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$12,137.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$13,110.40	\$65,924.40
<b>Dafmark Dance Theater</b>	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$900.00	\$900.00
<b>Dan Rice Days (Girard Borough)</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$290.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$320.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$360.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$306.00	\$1,276.00
<b>Downtown Edinboro Art &amp; Music Festival</b>	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$11,658.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$1,975.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,084.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$7,920.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,246.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$8,512.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,303.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$1,845.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,736.00	\$47,279.00
<b>Downtown North East Inc.</b>	Mission Main Street	6/27/2013	\$15,000.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/26/2014	\$15,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$8,950.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00	
	Mission Main Street	12/2/2016	\$15,000.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$3,697.50	\$72,647.50
<b>Earle's Nest Leadership Corporation</b>	Pilot Programs & Special Projects	1/27/2016	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
<b>Connections</b>	Human Services	6/10/2011	\$9,826.50	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$718.00	
	Human Services	12/5/2014	\$5,208.00	\$15,752.50
<b>East Erie Suburban Recreation &amp; Conservation Authority</b>	Human Services	9/26/2012	\$7,500.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/28/2013	\$16,612.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	11/22/2013	(\$1,562.00)	\$22,550.00
<b>Edinboro Area Historical Society</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$1,294.00	





	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$640.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$1,679.00	\$3,613.00
<b>Edinboro Arts &amp; Music Festival</b>	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$2,125.00	\$2,125.00
<b>Edinboro Highland Games</b>	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,068.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,493.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$6,300.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,755.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$8,320.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,520.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,928.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$2,489.65	\$35,873.65
<b>Edinboro University Foundation</b>	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$4,455.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$9,900.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,375.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,250.00	\$18,980.00
<b>EmergyCare</b>	One-Time	1/5/2011	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
<b>Emma's Footprints</b>	Human Services	4/7/2016	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Empower Erie</b>	Shaping Tomorrow	10/12/2016	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00
<b>Enterprise Development Fund</b>	Small Business Financing	10/12/2011	\$875,000.00	
	Small Business Financing	7/26/2012	\$500,000.00	
	Small Business Financing	8/22/2013	\$1,000,000.00	\$2,375,000.00
<b>Erie Area Council of Governments</b>	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/28/2013	\$151,800.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/12/2015	\$88,000.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/15/2016	\$37,500.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/23/2017	\$100,000.00	\$377,300.00
<b>Erie Art Museum</b>	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$173,343.00	
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$86,672.00	
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$43,335.83	
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$86,672.00	
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$86,672.00	
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$84,086.00	\$560,780.83
<b>Erie Art &amp; Music Festival</b>	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$4,037.50	\$4,037.50
<b>Erie Arts Fest (Erie Summer Festival of the Arts)</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$4,058.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$3,553.00	\$7,611.00
<b>Erie Arts &amp; Culture</b>	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$127,354.00	
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$63,677.00	
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$31,838.55	
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$63,677.00	
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$63,677.00	
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$57,566.00	\$407,789.55
<b>Erie Asian Pacific American Association</b>	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$765.00	\$765.00
<b>Erie City Mission</b>	UChoose	1/12/2012	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre</b> (formerly Erie Dance Conservatory Company)	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$135.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$860.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$3,572.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$5,153.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$563.55	\$10,283.55
<b>Erie County CASA</b>	Human Services	6/28/2012	\$8,522.00	\$8,522.00
<b>Erie County Fair at Wattsburg</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$13,067.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$12,362.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$14,961.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$10,257.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$3,415.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$13,157.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$13,881.00	\$81,100.00
<b>Erie County Historical Society</b>	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$74,683.00	
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$37,342.00	
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$18,670.69	
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$37,341.00	
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$37,341.00	
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$31,694.00	\$237,071.69
<b>Erie County Lead Assets Endowment</b>	Lead Assets Endowment	2/23/2012	\$5,434,032.91	
	Lead Assets Endowment	12/13/2012	\$1,168,004.80	
	Lead Assets Endowment	9/30/2013	\$565,393.00	
	Lead Assets Endowment	9/17/2014	\$1,373,646.00	
	Lead Assets Endowment	7/9/2015	\$1,659,714.47	
	Lead Assets Endowment	5/18/2016	\$1,000,000.00	\$11,200,791.18
<b>Erie County Redevelopment Authority</b>	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/12/2015	\$25,600.00	\$25,600.00
<b>Erie County Vietnam Veterans Memorial</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$6,000.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$10,800.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$3,198.00	\$19,998.00
<b>Erie DAWN</b>	Human Services	7/2/2013	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00



Erie Downtown Partnership	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$2,500.00		
	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$10,396.00		
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$2,500.00		
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,250.00		
	Mission Main Street	6/27/2013	\$12,500.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,250.00		
	Mission Main Street	6/26/2014	\$15,000.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,232.00		
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$1,647.00		
	Mission Main Street	12/2/2016	\$15,000.00		
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$1,375.30	\$82,650.30	
Erie Drum Corps Association	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$871.25	\$871.25	
Erie Homes for Children & Adults (EHCA)	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$3,236.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,480.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$3,139.00		
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$12,720.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$1,800.00		
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$2,346.00	\$25,721.00	
Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Game	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$992.80	\$992.80	
Erie Opera Theatre	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$10,458.00		
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$8,379.00	\$18,837.00	
Erie Philharmonic	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$161,710.00		
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$80,855.00		
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$40,427.59		
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$80,855.00		
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$80,855.00		
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$71,796.00	\$516,498.59	
Erie Playhouse	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$163,329.00		
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$81,665.00		
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$40,832.21		
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$81,664.00		
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$81,664.00		
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$68,562.00	\$517,716.21	
Erie Police Athletic League (PAL)	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$9,173.00	\$9,173.00	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$1,517.00		
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$10,096.00		
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$1,874.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,250.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,375.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,475.00	\$20,587.00	
	Human Services	7/26/2012	\$3,850.00	\$3,850.00	
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$11,800.00		
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$7,312.00		
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$6,985.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$6,290.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$6,762.00		
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$4,443.00	\$43,592.00	
Erie Yesterday	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$1,000.00		
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$2,240.00		
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00		
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$10,700.00	\$28,940.00	
Erie Zoological Society	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$369,859.00		
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$184,930.00		
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$92,464.76		
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$184,930.00		
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$184,930.00		
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$191,457.00	\$1,208,570.76	
Erie's Public Schools	Tech After Hours	Shaping Tomorrow	11/12/2015	\$200,000.00	
		Human Services	7/15/2016	\$15,000.00	
	Community Schools	Shaping Tomorrow	10/12/2016	\$150,000.00	
		The School District Challenge	11/28/2016	\$60,000.00	\$425,000.00
expERIENCE Children's Museum	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$56,149.00		
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$28,075.00		
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$14,037.26		
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$28,075.00		
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$28,075.00		
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$19,405.00	\$173,816.26	
Fairview Area Historical Society	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$1,061.00		
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$800.00	\$1,861.00	
Fairview Presbyterian Church	Human Services	6/10/2011	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	
Fairview School Foundation	The School District Challenge	12/10/2015	\$8,350.00		
	Pilot Programs & Special Projects	6/13/2016	\$39,150.00	\$47,500.00	



Fairview Township	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/28/2013	\$65,000.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	4/28/2014	(\$65,000.00)	\$0.00
Flagship Niagara League	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$67,066.00	
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$33,533.00	
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$16,766.40	
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$33,533.00	
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$33,533.00	
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$78,911.00	\$263,342.40
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$2,769.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$900.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/26/2014	\$3,180.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$9,600.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00	\$31,449.00
Fort LeBoeuf School District Foundation	The School District Challenge	12/10/2015	\$10,655.00	\$10,655.00
Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$712.00	\$712.00
Gannon University	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$1,350.00	
	Go College	Shaping Tomorrow	11/12/2015	\$125,000.00
	East-West Bayfront Plan	Shaping Tomorrow	10/12/2016	\$50,000.00
Gannon University: Erie Chamber Orchestra	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$10,206.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$12,240.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$11,550.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,352.00	\$42,348.00
Gannon University: SBDC	Small Business Financing	12/15/2010	\$175,000.00	
	Small Business Financing	12/31/2013	\$87,500.00	\$262,500.00
Gannondale	Human Services	6/10/2011	\$10,790.00	\$10,790.00
Gaudenzia Erie	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,802.00	
	Human Services	4/7/2016	\$19,000.00	\$21,802.00
General McLane Foundation	The School District Challenge	5/9/2016	\$10,960.00	\$10,960.00
Girard Township	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/13/2016	\$7,500.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/23/2017	\$16,350.00	\$23,850.00
Girard School District Foundation	The School District Challenge	12/10/2015	\$8,675.00	\$8,675.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$10,800.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$3,533.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$524.00	\$14,857.00
Greater Calvary Full Gospel Baptist Church	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$1,481.00	\$1,481.00
Greater Erie Area Habitat for Humanity	Human Services	12/31/2012	\$12,600.00	\$12,600.00
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,375.00	
	Summer Jobs	8/5/2016	\$150,000.00	\$152,375.00
Greater Erie Youth Symphony Orchestra	UChoose	12/13/2012	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Greene Township				
Settlement 2008-2009	Local Government Development	1/5/2011	\$335,779.96	
Interest 2008-2009	Local Government Development	2/3/2011	\$6,172.88	
Settlement 2010	Local Government Development	4/1/2011	\$168,204.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	4/21/2011	\$10,819.62	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	8/4/2011	\$17,498.33	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	11/10/2011	\$24,844.08	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	2/14/2012	\$114,571.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	5/24/2012	\$11,171.65	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	8/17/2012	\$13,880.70	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	11/20/2012	\$21,847.20	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	2/6/2013	\$113,151.04	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	5/14/2013	\$8,768.92	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	8/6/2013	\$10,300.32	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	11/6/2013	\$19,290.66	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	2/4/2014	\$117,203.14	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	5/8/2014	\$7,753.20	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	8/13/2014	\$8,679.78	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	11/13/2014	\$16,063.47	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	2/10/2015	\$119,644.05	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	5/13/2015	\$7,285.70	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	8/5/2015	\$8,485.57	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	11/4/2015	\$14,898.11	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	2/9/2016	\$120,744.53	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	5/3/2016	\$7,452.61	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	8/5/2016	\$8,269.79	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	11/7/2016	\$13,963.34	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	2/7/2017	\$119,147.66	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2017	Local Government Development	6/7/2017	\$7,000.70	\$1,452,892.23
Hamot Health Foundation	Human Services	7/6/2015	\$20,000.00	
	Human Services	10/17/2016	\$15,000.00	\$35,000.00
Harbor Creek Little League	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$10,950.00	\$10,950.00
Harborcreek Historical Society	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$2,174.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$1,024.00	\$3,198.00



Harborcreek Township	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$743.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$1,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$1,440.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/12/2015	\$23,200.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$1,634.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$1,828.00	\$29,845.00
Harborcreek Youth Services	Human Services	10/16/2015	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Healthcare Ventures Alliance	Human Services	2/7/2017	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Highmark Caring Place	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$2,500.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$2,500.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,250.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$4,860.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$5,462.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$5,760.00	\$23,332.00
Housing And Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS)	Human Services	3/26/2012	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Humane Society of NWPA	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$2,432.00	\$2,432.00
Impact Corry (formerly Corry Community Development Corp)	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$274.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,363.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/27/2013	\$6,500.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,068.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/26/2014	\$9,850.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$1,249.00	
	Mission Main Street	12/2/2016	\$15,000.00	\$52,304.00
Inter Church Ministries	Human Services	5/30/2012	\$3,950.00	\$3,950.00
Iroquois School District Foundation	The School District Challenge	12/10/2015	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
JC Martin Golf Course	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$9,798.00	\$9,798.00
JFK Center	Human Services	12/31/2012	\$14,819.00	
	Human Services	10/17/2016	\$8,977.00	\$23,796.00
Jefferson Educational Society	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$5,000.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$39,250.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$49,500.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$4,092.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$13,950.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/12/2015	\$100,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$17,551.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$13,844.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/15/2016	\$100,000.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	6/23/2017	\$97,000.00	\$440,187.00
Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF)	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$1,125.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$1,755.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$6,200.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$1,582.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$1,644.00	\$12,306.00
Lake Erie Ballet	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$2,645.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$2,813.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,724.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,700.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$3,420.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$5,549.00	\$19,851.00
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine	Human Services	8/5/2016	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare Inc.	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$2,050.00	
	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$12,516.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$2,568.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$2,350.00	
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$12,696.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,421.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,148.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$12,600.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,214.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,205.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,265.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,232.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$12,960.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$4,073.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,640.00	\$83,938.00
Lake Erie Region Conservancy (LERC)	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$11,400.00	\$11,400.00
Lake Shore Railway Historical Society	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Lawrence Park Historical Society	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$7,280.00	\$7,280.00
Lawrence Park Township	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$730.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/27/2013	\$7,754.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$801.00	





	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$897.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$675.00	\$10,857.00
<b>LeBoeuf Little League</b>	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$10,950.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,928.00	\$19,878.00
<b>LifeWorks Erie</b>	Human Services	7/26/2012	\$6,600.00	\$6,600.00
<b>Living in Fulfilled Excellence</b>	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$5,248.00	\$5,248.00
<b>Maria House Project</b>	Human Services	6/10/2011	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Jewell Band Aides</b>	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$4,560.00	\$4,560.00
<b>McKean Borough</b>	Mission Main Street	6/26/2014	\$12,500.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00	\$27,500.00
<b>McKean Community Development Group</b>	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$450.00	\$450.00
<b>McKean Township</b>				
Settlement 2008-2009	Local Government Development	1/5/2011	\$335,779.96	
Interest 2008-2009	Local Government Development	2/3/2011	\$6,172.88	
Settlement 2010	Local Government Development	4/1/2011	\$168,204.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	4/21/2011	\$10,819.62	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	8/4/2011	\$17,498.33	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	11/10/2011	\$24,844.08	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	2/14/2012	\$114,571.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	5/24/2012	\$11,171.65	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	8/17/2012	\$13,880.70	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	11/20/2012	\$21,847.20	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	2/6/2013	\$113,151.04	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	5/14/2013	\$8,768.92	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	8/6/2013	\$10,300.32	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	11/6/2013	\$19,290.66	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	2/4/2014	\$117,203.14	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	5/8/2014	\$7,753.20	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	8/13/2014	\$8,679.78	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	11/13/2014	\$16,063.47	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	2/10/2015	\$119,644.05	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	5/13/2015	\$7,285.70	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	8/5/2015	\$8,485.57	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	11/4/2015	\$14,898.11	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	2/9/2016	\$120,744.53	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	5/3/2016	\$7,452.61	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	8/5/2016	\$8,269.79	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	11/7/2016	\$13,963.34	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	2/7/2017	\$119,147.66	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2017	Local Government Development	6/7/2017	\$7,000.70	\$1,452,892.23
<b>McLane Little League Association</b>	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$7,760.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$3,511.00	\$11,271.00
<b>Mead Park Association</b>	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$12,120.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$11,850.00	\$23,970.00
<b>Meals on Wheels</b>	Human Services	10/6/2011	\$9,061.41	\$9,061.41
<b>Medical Associates of Erie</b>	Human Services	10/17/2016	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Mercy Center for Women</b>	Human Services	3/26/2012	\$8,500.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,325.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,663.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,345.00	\$15,833.00
<b>Mercy Hilltop Center</b>	Human Services	1/11/2017	\$2,315.00	\$2,315.00
<b>Mercyhurst Institute for Arts &amp; Culture</b>	Lead Assets	7/14/2011	\$100,129.00	
	Lead Assets	5/23/2013	\$50,065.00	
	Lead Assets	7/24/2014	\$25,032.30	
	Lead Assets	12/22/2014	\$50,065.00	
	Lead Assets	4/20/2016	\$50,065.00	
	Lead Assets	12/2/2016	\$43,337.00	\$318,693.30
<b>Mercyhurst University: Downtown Erie Innovation District</b>	Shaping Tomorrow	10/12/2016	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00
<b>Millcreek Education Foundation</b>	The School District Challenge	9/15/2016	\$17,933.00	
	The School District Challenge	1/25/2017	\$5,045.05	\$22,978.05
<b>Millcreek Township</b>				
Police Officer	Local Government Development	4/2/2009	\$55,052.00	
Police Officer	Local Government Development	10/22/2009	\$62,595.00	
BVFD Replacement Breathing	Local Government Development	10/22/2009	\$135,000.00	
BVFD Replacement Ladder Truck	Local Government Development	10/22/2009	\$400,000.00	
Settlement 2008-2009	Local Government Development	1/5/2011	\$335,779.96	
Interest 2008-2009	Local Government Development	2/3/2011	\$6,172.88	
Settlement 2010	Local Government Development	4/1/2011	\$168,204.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	4/21/2011	\$10,819.62	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	8/4/2011	\$17,498.33	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	11/10/2011	\$24,844.08	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	2/14/2012	\$114,571.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	5/24/2012	\$11,171.65	



Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	8/17/2012	\$13,880.70	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	11/20/2012	\$21,847.20	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	2/6/2013	\$113,151.04	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	5/14/2013	\$8,768.92	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	8/6/2013	\$10,300.32	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	11/6/2013	\$19,290.66	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	2/4/2014	\$117,203.14	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	5/8/2014	\$7,753.20	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	8/13/2014	\$8,679.78	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	11/13/2014	\$16,063.47	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	2/10/2015	\$119,644.05	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	5/13/2015	\$7,285.70	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	8/5/2015	\$8,485.57	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	11/4/2015	\$14,898.11	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	2/9/2016	\$120,744.53	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	5/3/2016	\$7,452.61	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	8/5/2016	\$8,269.79	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	11/7/2016	\$13,963.34	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	2/7/2017	\$119,147.66	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2017	Local Government Development	6/7/2017	\$7,000.70	\$2,105,539.23
<b>Miller Worldwide Ministries</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$372.00	\$372.00
<b>Mothers Against Teen Violence</b>	Human Services	7/21/2014	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
<b>Multicultural Community Resource Center</b>	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$8,800.00	\$8,800.00
<b>Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System (MHEDS)</b>	Human Services	9/26/2012	\$6,100.00	\$6,100.00
<b>My Father's House of Erie</b>	Human Services	6/10/2011	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>The Nonprofit Partnership</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$1,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,814.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$2,606.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,557.00	\$8,977.00
<b>North East Community Fair Association</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$1,451.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$585.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$1,841.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$585.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$1,173.00	\$5,635.00
<b>North East Historical Society</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$3,479.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$3,200.00	\$6,679.00
<b>North East Little League</b>	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$5,100.00	\$5,100.00
<b>Northwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center</b>	Human Services	7/6/2015	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Northwestern Community Educational Foundation</b>	The School District Challenge	1/9/2017	\$7,260.00	\$7,260.00
<b>Nurturing Hearts</b>	UChoose	12/13/2012	\$5,000.00	
	Human Services	10/24/2013	\$15,000.00	\$20,000.00
<b>Opportunities Unlimited</b>	Human Services	7/21/2014	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Orphan Angels Cat Sanctuary</b>	UChoose	12/13/2012	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Parade Street Community Center</b>	Human Services	1/11/2017	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<b>Penn State, The Behrend College</b>	Ignite Erie	5/13/2015	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
<b>Pennsylvania Sea Grant</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$12,300.00	\$12,300.00
<b>Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA)</b>	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$8,487.00	\$8,487.00
<b>Platea Borough</b>	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/28/2013	\$20,000.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	9/1/2014	(\$10,234.99)	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/12/2015	\$6,187.00	\$15,952.01
<b>Preservation Erie</b>	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$867.00	
	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/28/2013	\$25,000.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$9,387.00	\$35,254.00
<b>Presque Isle Partnership</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$6,141.00	
	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$10,284.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$17,289.00	
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$11,502.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$7,830.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$31,932.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$11,550.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$11,400.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$5,069.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,448.00	\$121,445.00
<b>Primary Health Network - Sarah Reed Children's Center</b>	Shaping Tomorrow	11/12/2015	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
<b>Purple Martin Conservation Association</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$800.00	\$800.00
<b>Roar on the Shore Inc.</b>	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$20,467.00	\$20,467.00
<b>Rosine Blass Neighborhood Watch</b>	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$3,160.00	\$3,160.00
<b>Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity</b>	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$1,837.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$1,778.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$1,800.00	\$5,415.00
<b>SafeNet</b>	Human Services	5/13/2013	\$15,000.00	
	Human Services	3/24/2014	\$10,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$4,500.00	



	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$4,750.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$10,640.00	
	Human Services	10/16/2015	\$10,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$5,400.00	\$60,290.00
<b>Saint Boniface Players</b>	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$752.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$1,355.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$981.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$937.00	\$4,025.00
<b>Saint Joseph Church</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$1,790.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$1,431.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$6,840.00	\$10,061.00
<b>Saint Luke School</b>	UChoose	1/12/2012	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Saint Patrick Church</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$2,000.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$2,000.00	
	Human Services	12/31/2012	\$5,789.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$2,124.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$2,250.00	
	Human Services	10/16/2015	\$10,000.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$3,672.00	\$27,835.00
<b>Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$3,500.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$3,032.00	\$6,532.00
<b>Sarah Reed Children's Center</b>	Human Services	12/5/2014	\$5,000.00	
	Human Services	12/17/2015	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Sarah Reed Senior Living</b>	Human Services	10/17/2016	\$7,313.00	\$7,313.00
<b>The Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania</b>	Human Services	7/2/2013	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
<b>Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network</b>	Human Services	6/10/2011	\$10,000.00	
	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$6,310.00	
	Human Services	5/13/2013	\$15,000.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/27/2013	\$7,200.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$11,400.00	
	Human Services	3/24/2014	\$7,500.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$3,600.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$3,515.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$2,520.00	
	Human Services	10/17/2016	\$8,719.00	\$75,764.00
<b>SNOOPS Neighborhood Association</b>	Human Services	12/31/2012	\$5,000.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$10,640.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$15,000.00	
	Human Services	10/16/2015	\$2,000.00	\$32,640.00
<b>Stairways Behavioral Health - Center City Arts</b>	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$11,052.00	
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$12,006.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$11,280.00	\$34,338.00
<b>StARUp Incubator, Inc.</b>	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$10,320.00	
	Community Assets	10/31/2014	(\$347.61)	\$9,972.39
<b>Summit Township</b>				
Ladder Truck Funds	Local Government Development	4/2/2009	\$306,800.00	
Route 97 Water System Improvements	Local Government Development	4/2/2009	\$2,644,073.00	
Pump Station Improve/Force Main Extension	Local Government Development	4/2/2009	\$52,442.00	
Phase II Route 97 Interceptor Upgrade	Local Government Development	4/2/2009	\$510,000.00	
Settlement 2008-2009	Local Government Development	1/5/2011	\$1,373,645.31	
Interest 2008-2009	Local Government Development	2/3/2011	\$25,252.69	
Settlement 2010	Local Government Development	4/1/2011	\$688,107.73	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	4/21/2011	\$44,262.07	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	8/4/2011	\$71,584.09	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	11/10/2011	\$101,634.88	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	2/14/2012	\$468,699.99	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	5/24/2012	\$45,702.22	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	8/17/2012	\$56,784.69	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	11/20/2012	\$89,374.92	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	2/6/2013	\$462,890.63	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	5/14/2013	\$35,872.84	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	8/6/2013	\$42,137.67	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	11/6/2013	\$78,916.34	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	2/4/2014	\$479,467.38	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	5/8/2014	\$31,717.65	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	8/13/2014	\$35,508.18	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	11/13/2014	\$65,714.18	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	2/10/2015	\$489,452.92	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	5/13/2015	\$29,805.15	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	8/5/2015	\$34,713.70	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	11/4/2015	\$60,946.81	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	2/9/2016	\$493,954.90	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	5/3/2016	\$30,487.93	



Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	8/5/2016	\$33,830.96	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	11/7/2016	\$57,122.76	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	2/7/2017	\$487,422.23	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2017	Local Government Development	6/7/2017	\$28,639.23	\$9,456,965.05
<b>Sunshine Group of Erie</b>	Human Services	3/26/2012	\$1,636.36	
	Human Services	7/8/2013	(\$273.15)	\$1,363.21
<b>Points for Kids Charities</b>	Human Services	5/30/2012	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
<b>Light Wish Foundation</b>	Human Services	7/2/2013	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Union City Area School District Foundation</b>	The School District Challenge	12/2/2016	\$3,945.34	\$3,945.34
<b>Union City Community House Association</b>	Mission Main Street	6/27/2013	\$15,000.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/26/2014	\$15,000.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/11/2015	\$11,500.00	\$41,500.00
<b>Union City Family Support Center</b>	Human Services	6/15/2011	\$4,275.00	
	Human Services	5/30/2012	\$5,000.00	\$9,275.00
<b>Union City Pride Inc.</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$750.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$726.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$900.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$900.00	
	Special Events	4/4/2017	\$1,065.05	\$4,341.05
<b>United Way of Erie County</b>	Human Services	6/28/2012	\$6,000.00	
	Human Services	3/24/2014	(\$6,000.00)	
	Pilot Programs & Special Projects	6/1/2016	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>The Upper Room</b>	Human Services	12/5/2014	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00
<b>Urban Erie Community Development Corporation</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$229.00	
	Human Services	7/21/2014	\$7,500.00	
	Community Assets	9/25/2014	\$3,184.00	
	Ignite Erie	3/27/2015	\$50,000.00	
	Human Services	12/17/2015	\$20,804.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,648.00	
	Special Projects	5/23/2017	\$2,500.00	\$92,865.00
<b>Venango Training &amp; Development Center, Inc.</b>	Summer Jobs	5/22/2014	\$110,000.00	
	Summer Jobs	8/6/2015	\$118,250.00	\$228,250.00
<b>Veterans Miracle Center of Erie</b>	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,448.00	\$8,448.00
<b>Voices for Independence</b>	Human Services	11/8/2012	\$13,813.00	\$13,813.00
<b>WQLN</b>	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$10,452.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$4,275.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$11,400.00	\$26,127.00
<b>Wilmington Township</b>	Multi-Municipal Collaboration	2/28/2013	\$41,000.00	\$41,000.00
<b>Waterford Borough</b>	Mission Main Street	6/27/2013	\$15,000.00	
	Mission Main Street	6/26/2014	\$7,000.00	\$22,000.00
<b>Waterford Community Fair Association</b>	Special Events	8/11/2011	\$3,050.00	
	Community Assets	11/10/2011	\$12,258.00	
	Special Events	3/22/2012	\$3,000.00	
	Community Assets	9/27/2012	\$9,798.00	
	Special Events	3/28/2013	\$3,150.00	
	Community Assets	9/26/2013	\$7,040.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2014	\$3,600.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2015	\$4,275.00	
	Community Assets	9/10/2015	\$12,360.00	
	Special Events	4/1/2016	\$4,675.00	
	Community Assets	9/8/2016	\$8,352.00	\$71,558.00
<b>Waterford Township</b>				
Settlement 2008-2009	Local Government Development	1/5/2011	\$335,779.96	
Interest 2008-2009	Local Government Development	2/3/2011	\$6,172.88	
Settlement 2010	Local Government Development	4/1/2011	\$168,204.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	4/21/2011	\$10,819.62	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	8/4/2011	\$17,498.33	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	11/10/2011	\$24,844.08	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2011	Local Government Development	2/14/2012	\$114,571.11	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	5/24/2012	\$11,171.65	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	8/17/2012	\$13,880.70	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	11/20/2012	\$21,847.20	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2012	Local Government Development	2/6/2013	\$113,151.04	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	5/14/2013	\$8,768.92	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	8/6/2013	\$10,300.32	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	11/6/2013	\$19,290.66	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2013	Local Government Development	2/4/2014	\$117,203.14	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	5/8/2014	\$7,753.20	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	8/13/2014	\$8,679.78	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	11/13/2014	\$16,063.47	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2014	Local Government Development	2/10/2015	\$119,644.05	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	5/13/2015	\$7,285.70	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	8/5/2015	\$8,485.57	





Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	11/4/2015	\$14,898.11	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2015	Local Government Development	2/9/2016	\$120,744.53	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	5/3/2016	\$7,452.61	
Quarterly Settlement 2nd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	8/5/2016	\$8,269.79	
Quarterly Settlement 3rd Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	11/7/2016	\$13,963.34	
Quarterly Settlement 4th Quarter 2016	Local Government Development	2/7/2017	\$119,147.66	
Quarterly Settlement 1st Quarter 2017	Local Government Development	6/7/2017	\$7,000.70	\$1,452,892.23
<b>Wesleyan Cemetery Association</b>	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9/25/2014</b>	<b>\$8,400.00</b>	<b>\$8,400.00</b>
<b>Wayne Township</b>	<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>	<b>2/28/2013</b>	<b>\$11,836.00</b>	<b>\$11,836.00</b>
<b>West Erie County Emergency Management Agency</b>	<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>	<b>2/28/2013</b>	<b>\$15,400.00</b>	
	<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>	<b>6/13/2016</b>	<b>\$21,100.00</b>	<b>\$36,500.00</b>
<b>Women's Care Center of Erie County, Inc.</b>	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>7/6/2015</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>YMCA of Erie</b>	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>11/8/2012</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>	
	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>12/3/2013</b>	<b>\$9,113.52</b>	
	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>7/6/2015</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$26,613.52</b>
<b>Young Artists Debut Orchestra</b>	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9/25/2014</b>	<b>\$9,900.00</b>	
	<b>Special Events</b>	<b>4/1/2015</b>	<b>\$1,235.00</b>	
	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9/10/2015</b>	<b>\$11,880.00</b>	
	<b>Special Events</b>	<b>4/1/2016</b>	<b>\$1,816.00</b>	
	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9/8/2016</b>	<b>\$8,064.00</b>	<b>\$32,895.00</b>
<b>Young People's Chorus of Erie</b>	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>11/10/2011</b>	<b>\$11,478.00</b>	
	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9/27/2012</b>	<b>\$7,580.00</b>	
	<b>UChoose</b>	<b>12/13/2012</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	
	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9/26/2013</b>	<b>\$7,832.00</b>	
	<b>Community Assets</b>	<b>9/10/2015</b>	<b>\$7,092.00</b>	<b>\$43,982.00</b>
<b>Youth Leadership Institute of Erie</b>	<b>Human Services</b>	<b>1/11/2017</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>

**706 grants & loans / 203 nonprofits & municipalities**  
Last Updated February 14, 2017

	<b>Total Investment in Erie County</b>			
			\$45,245,606.84	\$45,245,606.84
<b>Total (2009-2016)</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
\$44,906,315.76	\$4,165,962.00	\$8,178,477.60	\$9,930,329.11	\$4,481,335.10
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
	\$4,423,739.93	\$5,433,235.20	\$7,166,956.24	\$1,126,280.58



## Perry Wood

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**From:** Ben Franklin Technology Partners CNP <lizwilson@psu.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** Perry Wood  
**Subject:** Ben Franklin's Erie Innovation Fund Applauds Local Software Company, Conduit Technology, on Recent Acquisition



**Ben Franklin**  
**Technology Partners**  
*Central & Northern PA*  
[cnp.benfranklin.org](http://cnp.benfranklin.org)



## Ben Franklin's Erie Innovation Fund Applauds Local Software Company, Conduit Technology, on Recent Acquisition

Five years ago, Ben Franklin's Erie Innovation Fund, a partnership with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, made its first investment in an Erie-based startup, Conduit Technology. The money was used to help develop software that enabled the automation of what had historically been a paper-laden process. Prior to Jim Noland and his team developing Conduit Office, those companies that offered home health care equipment, like wheelchairs, had to generate and collect by hand all the clinical documentation needed in order to be paid by the insurance companies for the medical devices and services they sold. That documentation collection process was a cumbersome, multi-step process that involved many different medical professional entities, required highly-trained employees, and left no uniform way to track the documentation.

Conduit Technology created an innovative, web-based tool that works directly with clinicians to automate this critical process, reducing costs, collecting all the documents needed, and managing the back office workflow. Housed for the past few years in the Erie Technology Incubator on the campus of Gannon University, Conduit's continued growth trajectory first attracted the attention of a Venture Capital Group out of Harrisburg, PA, Penn Venture Partners (PVP). The funding they put in to Conduit was one of the first venture capital investments made in the Erie area and helped the company grow and hire at a critical time. By 2014, Conduit employed ten full-time professionals.

Fast forward to June 2017. Brightree LLC, the leading provider of cloud-based software to improve business and clinical performance, announced its acquisition of Conduit Technology. The company's flagship product, Conduit Office is the engine behind Brightree's solution called MyForms. The two entities are no strangers to each other, first meeting back in 2014 and forming a strategic relationship which resulted in the introduction of a product which is now used by more than 200 organizations and 7,000 users.

Jim Noland, commented, "I met Ben Franklin and the Erie Innovation Fund at a critical time in the development of my business. Without their funding, half of which was matched by ECGRA, I would not have been able to hire the talent I needed, much less develop a software solution that would attract the attention of an industry leader such as Brightree. I'm excited about what the future holds, and where it may lead me, but also grateful for the support I was able to get right here locally. I've always known that when I cashed out, the



money I paid back to the Erie Innovation Fund would stay here, in Erie, PA, to help seed the next entrepreneur with a great idea."



Company, 123 Street, City, NA 12345, USA

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**A Hilbert Company**

June 2, 2017

Mr. Perry Wood, Executive Director  
ECGRA  
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear Mr. Wood and the ECGRA Board of Directors:

I would like to express Reddog Industries, Inc. and my support for the McDowell High School MILL (McDowell Innovative Learning Lab) and encourage you to get behind this manufacturing immersion program. At Reddog, we encourage and support innovative technology educators at McDowell High School that are engaging students in pursuit of apprentice manufacturing positions.

I support the Millcreek Township School District's aspiration to acquire a Haas CNC Mill Machine. I worked with the administration at Erie Central Tech High School to get this equipment for their students. There is a significant amount of value in training high school students on CNC Milling Machine's and programming software that is essential for manufacturing operations. Our industry is changing and we are facing a greater demand for employees with a unique skillset different than even just a few years ago.

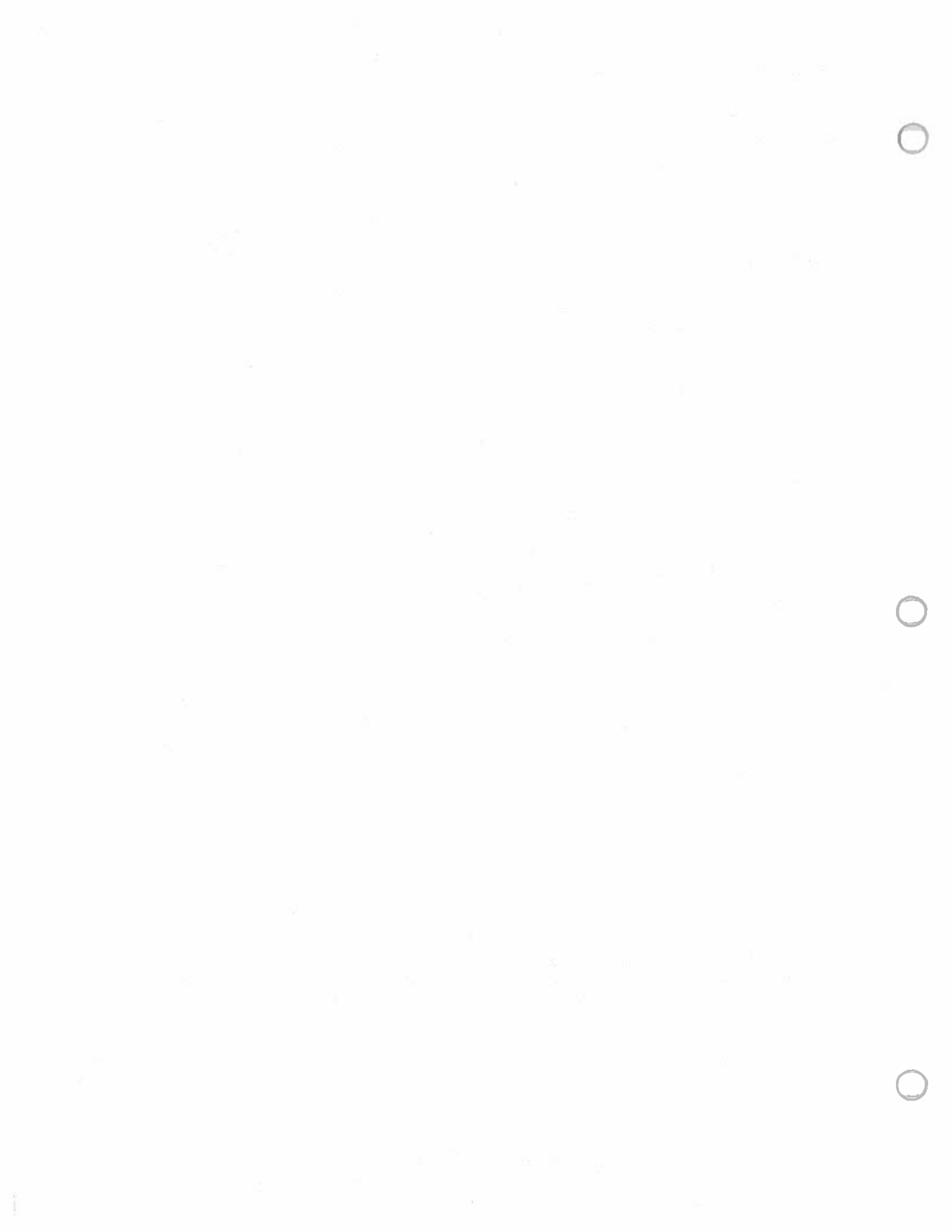
We currently have open positions for apprentice mold makers and tool & die specialists, the skills gap we and many others in our trade specialty suffer from is immense, we need our high schools to support technical training and place a greater emphasis on the skilled trades as a very successful career path. Students must have access to the latest technology in order to spark their interest in the trades. Your support with funding is essential; we strongly encourage your consideration of this request.

I would appreciate your support of McDowell's MILL. An investment of this magnitude is a show of community support for the students who will receive the hands-on training and exposure and for the local manufacturers that are seeking these highly skilled employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William M. Hilbert Jr." in a cursive script.

William M. Hilbert Jr.  
President/CEO



Education

ELECTRONICS AND ROBOTICS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Electronics and Robotics

# THE CASE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHY IT'S MORE VITAL—AND VULNERABLE—THAN EVER  
BY JOSH SANBURN/WATERTOWN, S.D.



opportunities

## ELECTRONICS AND ROBOTICS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

# R

RILEY ANDERSON WAS A C STUDENT IN HIGH school, bored by the work and driven partly by a desire to stay on the football team. In 2015, he graduated 25th in his class— of 31 students.

Without a particular career in mind, Anderson enrolled at Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) in Watertown, S.D., a relatively inexpensive two-year college 30 minutes from his home. There, his classrooms were hangar-size spaces filled with wind turbines, solar panels, ethanol distillers and miniature hydroelectric dams. It seemed more like his dad's garage, where Anderson would spend hours tinkering with his 1971 Chevrolet pickup truck, than a place to learn math. But trigonometry began making sense when you used it to fit together piping systems. Basic computer code seemed worth learning when you could program an assembly-line robot.

The former C student soon started making straight A's. He graduated in May with a 4.0 GPA and, most important, a job lined up. Two years after squeaking by in high school, Anderson is set to become a maintenance technician at 3M. His annual starting salary is \$60,000. The South Dakota median is a little over \$53,000.

LATI is a model for the growing number of politicians, CEOs and academics who believe that community colleges have the potential to become much needed engines of economic and social mobility. Last year, 99% of its students entered the workforce or went on to four-year colleges. The school has an 83% retention rate, well above the national community-college average of about 50%, and few instances of students' defaulting on their loans. The evolving curriculum is designed with input from more than 300 regional

*A bulletin board in Lake Area Technical Institute's electronics and robotics department advertises dozens of job openings around South Dakota*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ACKERMAN + GRUBER FOR TIME



businesses, and starting salaries for LATI alumni average 27% more than those of other new hires in the region. All of this has led the college, with a student body of almost 2,500, to 14 consecutive years of growing enrollment. Officials originally projected that LATI would reach its current size in 2040.

That success, sadly, is an outlier. Across the nation, community colleges—which educate about 40% of all undergraduates in the U.S.—are facing declining enrollment and tightened budgets. Even as officials hold them up as the answer to bridging America’s yawning blue-collar-skills gap, many are ill equipped to deliver on the promise. Less than 40% of community-college students graduate, and many drop out their first year. While more than 80% of two-year students say they want a bachelor’s degree, only 14% get one after six years.

The schools, meanwhile, are increasingly reliant on money from students as states cut funding, an added burden on a population that can ill afford it. Low-income students outnumber middle- and high-income students at community colleges by 2 to 1, and a recent study estimated that as many as 14% may be homeless.

The schools “are facing huge problems,” says Sara Goldrick-Rab, a professor of higher-education policy at Temple University, who supports making community college free. “I don’t think they’ve ever been more vulnerable.”

At the same time, the value of an associate’s degree has never been clearer. Currently, the median salary for someone with only a high school diploma is \$36,000. For those with a community-college degree, it’s \$42,600. And that gap is projected to grow as automation transforms the U.S. workforce, making higher-level science, technology, engineering and math skills critical in fields that once required little more than manual dexterity. Earlier this year, 48% of small businesses reported that they couldn’t find qualified job applicants to fill open positions, according to the National Federation of Independent Business.

Recognizing the need, states across the country have taken steps to make community college more accessible. In May, Tennessee expanded its popular free community-college program, from

accepting only high school graduates to all adults in the state. The month before, New York became the first state to offer free tuition for both two-year and four-year public institutions, albeit with cost exemptions and conditions that have been criticized by free-college advocates. Oregon made community college free for in-state students in 2015, while Arkansas and Kentucky are developing similar programs.

The importance of two-year schools was routinely emphasized by President Obama, who called for making community college free in 2015. But the proposal faced opposition from the Republican-led Congress and went nowhere. Despite winning a majority of rural votes in 2016, President Trump has barely discussed two-year schools, while proposing a 13% cut for the Department of Education, a plan that could make it even more difficult for the nation’s most vulnerable schools to serve their students.

**AMERICA’S FIRST** community college is widely thought to be Joliet Junior College in Illinois, which was founded in 1901 to prepare students for a so-called senior college. Dozens of others followed, but their mission evolved after the Great Depression. Instead of providing a foundation in the liberal arts, many two-year schools became job-training centers, churning out teachers, nurses, police officers, pilots and even dentists. Compared with four-year colleges, they attracted more women, minorities and lower-income students and tended to be concentrated in small cities and rural towns.

Today community colleges largely break down into two categories: schools meant to help students transfer to a four-year college, and occupational institutions like LATI that are focused on

## **‘COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE NOW SEEN AS THE PRIMARY VEHICLES FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING IN THIS COUNTRY.’**

**CARRIE KISKER,  
EDUCATION-POLICY RESEARCHER**

placing students in jobs. Both grant associate’s degrees, cater to commuters and other nontraditional students and offer a comparative bargain: average annual community-college tuition is roughly \$3,520, compared with \$9,650 for four-year public colleges and \$33,480 for four-year private colleges.

Since the Great Recession, the vocational approach has become the favored model. “Community colleges are now seen as the primary vehicles for workforce training in this country,” says Carrie Kisker, director of the Center for the Study of Community Colleges. According to a 2016 report from Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, 11.6 million jobs were created in the recovery. All but 100,000 of those jobs went to people with some college education.

But the national emphasis hasn’t translated into widespread results. To many education-policy experts, the poor graduation and job-placement rates at most community colleges are the result of asking underresourced schools to serve underresourced students. Students often work part or full time to afford tuition, and many are parents. Too many schools, meanwhile, lack robust counseling departments or career-services offices to keep students on track, let alone affordable on-campus child care.

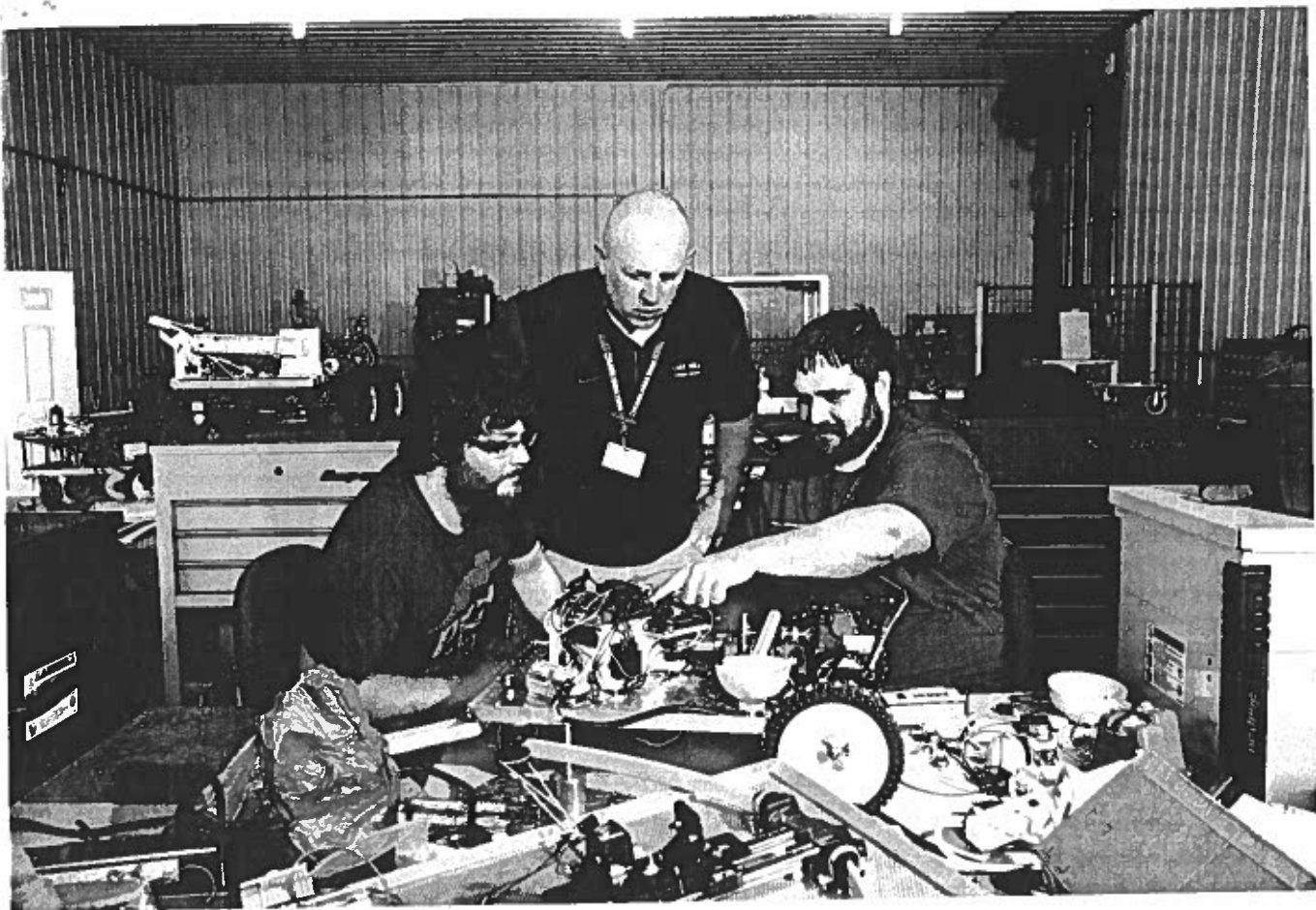
“A very big reason for the lack of success is that students have no idea what they want to do—they just know they want to go to college,” says Sandy Baum, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute. “And there aren’t enough resources to provide appropriate guidance.”

The problems are particularly acute in places that stand to benefit most. In Pennsylvania, which has a need for skilled workers after losing tens of thousands of blue collar manufacturing jobs, community-college graduation rates are some of the lowest in the country. Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pa., graduated 12.3% of its students in 2014, according to the U.S. Department of Education. At Community College of Philadelphia, the figure was just 9.8%.

The culprits are many. Pennsylvania’s 14 community colleges are run as stand-alone shops, without an umbrella group to push for increased funding and shared resources. Unlike South Dakota’s LATI,







*LATI instructor Brooks Jacobsen works with students in the school's robotics lab*

which shapes its coursework around the needs of employers and relies on their donations of heavy-duty machinery for its classrooms, Keystone State schools have been left largely on their own. "The chronic lack of resources makes it more difficult for community colleges to respond to the workforce needs than in a state where they're better supported," says Kate Shaw, executive director of the Philadelphia-based education nonprofit Research for Action.

Other schools have found success with more creative approaches. In Texas, Austin Community College recently redesigned an old shopping mall to become a high-tech learning lab with more than 600 computer stations. Northern Virginia Community College, one of the nation's largest two-year colleges, with roughly 75,000 students (the largest is Indiana's Ivy Tech Community College system, with 170,000), now develops curriculums with George Mason University to make it easier for its students to transfer for a bachelor's degree. Pierce College in Washington State has dramatically increased its graduation rates by mandating a college-success course, doubling its tutoring services and allowing faculty members to see how many students complete each course.

The City University of New York doubled graduation rates in its two-year program after offering free tuition, books and even public transportation for students who register full time. Other schools in New York and California have announced similar programs.

Few states have taken bigger strides than Tennessee, which not only made community college free for high school graduates beginning in 2015 but also overhauled how its schools organized their curriculums. The schools now offer a structured group of eight disciplines rather than dozens of programs. After two years, more than 33,000 students have taken advantage of the Tennessee Promise, increasing first-year community-college enrollment by 30%.

"It has completely changed the conversation at the dinner table," says Tristan Denley, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the Tennessee board of regents, which runs the state's community-college system. "Five years ago, students might ask Mom and Dad, 'Can I go to college?' Now it's 'Where should I go to college?'"

LATI'S 40-ACRE CAMPUS is filled with semitrucks, miniaturized assembly lines, industrial robots, 3-D printers, LED panels and even a tiny city that will be powered by a wind turbine on the school's roof. But its best advertisement is decidedly low tech: a bulletin board inside the electronics and robotics department covered in overlapping print-outs, each one touting a job opening. "To us, a student is successful if they're placed," says Mike Cartney, LATI's president. "We talk to them about 'Where do you want to be? Where do you want to go with your life?'"

For most students at LATI, the answer is securing a well-paying job with one of the hundreds of companies that help keep the school responsive. In fact, demand has pushed wages so high that legislators in this deeply red state recently increased the sales tax to help pay community-college instructors more than the starting salaries of their students.

"Lake Area gives you the nudge," said Riley Anderson in the weeks before he finished school and prepared to start one of those well-paying jobs. "Most of my class already has jobs lined up, and it's a month before graduation." □



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## Pennsylvania House OKs biggest gambling expansion in years

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The bill passed narrowly, 102-89, less than a year after similar legislation failed in the House.

**By The Associated Press**

Posted at 9:31 AM

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania House of Representatives on Wednesday night passed sprawling gambling legislation, unveiled just hours earlier, to expand casino-style gambling to the internet, airports, bars and elsewhere in a move that could shape how the state government deals with its deficit-riddled finances this summer.

The bill was marshaled by Republican majority leaders toward the floor vote, a last-ditch move to raise hundreds of millions of dollars from taxes and license fees to help prop up, if temporarily, the state's threadbare treasury. The bill represents perhaps Pennsylvania's biggest gambling expansion since it legalized casinos in 2004, a law that made it the nation's No. 2 commercial casino revenue state.

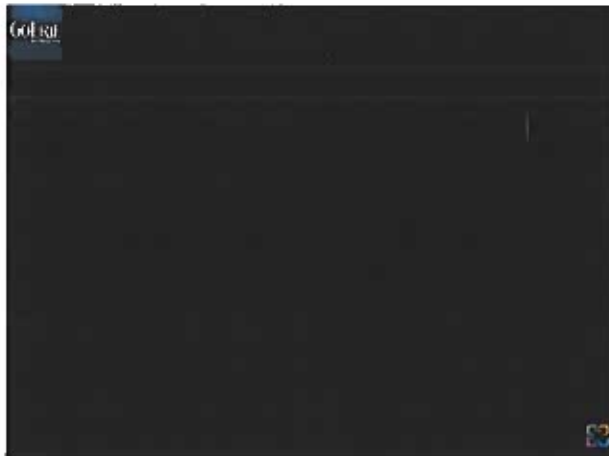
It passed narrowly, 102-89, less than a year after similar legislation failed in the House. The vote capped years of unsuccessful efforts by some lawmakers to bring legal gambling to bars.

House Majority Leader Dave Reed, R-Indiana, said the vote was an important step before budget negotiations heat up this month. It was not clear whether it would garner support from Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf or the Republican-controlled state Senate, which passed a much narrower gambling bill last month. But Reed said there is little support in the House for the money-raising alternative, a tax increase.

Wolf avoided giving his position on the bill Wednesday night, saying in a statement that he is committed to reaching a consensus on gambling legislation that carries new revenue and protects jobs and programs for seniors.

Opponents complained during floor debate that they had not had a chance to read the bill, made public Wednesday afternoon, or ask questions about provisions that could allow gambling at thousands of bars.

"If you've all had the chance to read it, I don't know how you did it," Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Montgomery, told colleagues.



Supporters said tax revenue from new gambling would benefit bar owners, local governments, veterans organizations and volunteer fire companies, while tapping into activities — online gambling and video gambling in bars — that are already going on, albeit illegally.

"There is a lot of good in this bill for everyone," said Rep. Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster.

Some gambling revenue was set aside in the bill as earmarks as GOP leaders searched for 11th-hour votes. Rep. Kurt Masser, R-Columbia, said the bill would loosen the casinos' grip on legalized gambling in Pennsylvania and favor small business owners in a "Main Street vs. Wall Street" fight.

Opponents warned of a wave of gambling addiction, and argued that widespread gambling in bars would cannibalize the money for schools that is fed by casino gambling revenue and the money for programs for the elderly that is supplied by lottery play.

House Gaming Oversight Committee Chairman Scott Petri, R-Bucks, opposed it too, saying the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and the Pennsylvania State Police had not had a chance to give input on the regulatory scheme envisioned by the bill for new license applicants.

"We're trying to jam something through quickly and we're trying to get it in under cover of night," Petri said.

Under the bill, a liquor license holder, such as a bar, truck stop, bowling alley, VFW hall or fraternal club, could operate slot machine-style gambling machines, called video gaming terminals. As many as 40,000 terminals would be allowed statewide, with a limit of five at each establishment, 10 at truck stops. Supporters estimated that 7,000 to 8,000 bars and other establishments could be expected to host a terminal, with tax revenue going to the state, the lottery, the establishment and local governments.

Rep. Ed Neilsen, D-Philadelphia, warned that gambling would start up at bars right across the street from churches, day care centers and schools.

Most casinos opposed that provision, but largely backed other elements that would let them create an internet portal to bring their games to online audiences, including online gambling parlors at airports, and place slot machines at a couple dozen off-track betting parlors around the state.

The Pennsylvania Lottery also would be able to bring its games online, making Pennsylvania the first state to allow both casino and lottery games online. A separate provision would seek to reinstate a requirement, struck down last year by the state Supreme Court, that casinos pay millions of dollars annually to their host communities.

### **Highlights of the Pennsylvania House's gambling legislation**

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed legislation Wednesday night to expand casino-style gambling to websites, airports, bars and off-track betting parlors. It also would allow online lottery games and reinstate a requirement that casinos pay millions to host communities. The measure still needs approval in the Senate, which passed a narrower gambling bill last month. Here is a look at the highlights:

## GAMBLING AT BARS

A liquor license holder, such as a bar, hotel, restaurant, truck stop or fraternal club, could operate slot machine-style gambling machines, called video gaming terminals. As many as 40,000 terminals would be allowed statewide. Each establishment could operate up to five, while a truck stop could operate as many as 10. The state would take 37.5 percent of the gambling revenue, with certain amounts set aside for the Lottery Fund, volunteer emergency services grants and compulsive gambling prevention programs. The license holder would get 26 percent of the gambling revenue, terminal operators would get 31 percent, host counties and municipalities would each get 2 percent and the rest would go to the cost of regulation.

## ONLINE GAMBLING

Licensed commercial casinos in Pennsylvania can apply to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to operate casino-style gambling on websites and mobile applications. The fee to operate a website would be \$8 million. Gross revenue from online gambling would be taxed at a 16 percent rate to the state, 2 percent for economic development projects and 1 percent to the host county. Just three states — New Jersey, Delaware and Nevada — allow online gambling.

## LOTTERY

The Pennsylvania Lottery would be able to feature online games, including its existing games, instant tickets and raffle games. The proceeds would go into the state Lottery Fund, which subsidizes programs for the elderly. The lottery would be prohibited from operating casino-style games online, such as poker, roulette, slot machines and blackjack. Four states — Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan — allow online lottery play, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

## LOCAL SHARE

Casinos would be required to pay millions of dollars annually to their host communities, reinstating a mandate struck down by the state Supreme Court last year because it treated casinos differently. Under the bill, Pennsylvania's casinos would pay 2 percent a year of gross slot-machine gambling revenues annually to the host county and \$10 million annually to the host municipality, except for SugarHouse Casino in Philadelphia and smaller "resort" casinos, which would pay 2 percent a year to both the host county and the host municipality.

## AIRPORT GAMBLING

Casinos could seek approval to operate an online gambling parlor at an international or regional airport in Pennsylvania, with an agreement from the airport authority. The machines would be accessible only to ticketed passengers. License fees would be \$5 million at the Philadelphia airport; \$2.5 million for the Pittsburgh airport; \$1 million for Erie, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Lehigh Valley and Harrisburg; and \$250,000 for Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe and University Park Airport in State College. Twenty percent of airport gambling revenue would go to the airport and 16 percent to the state.

## SLOT MACHINES AT OFF-TRACK BETTING PARLORS

The gaming board could authorize each casino with a horse-racing track to operate as many as

The gaming board could authorize each casino with a horse racing track to operate as many as 250 slot machines at up to four licensed off-track betting parlors in Pennsylvania. The license fee for each facility would be \$5 million. Gambling at the sites would be taxed at a 54 percent rate, with 50 percent going to the state, 2 percent to the host municipality and 2 percent to the host county.

#### FANTASY SPORTS

Daily fantasy sports betting in Pennsylvania would become regulated and taxed in Pennsylvania. Fantasy sports companies such as FanDuel and DraftKings would have to pay a \$50,000 license fee and pay a 19 percent tax based on in-state participation. Applicants would have to verify that players are at least 18.

#### SPORTS BETTING

Casinos could apply to the gaming board to operate sports betting at the casino or online, should it become legal under federal law or under a federal court ruling.

#### RESORT CASINOS

Resort casinos — Valley Forge Casino in suburban Philadelphia and Lady Luck Casino Nemacolin in southwestern Pennsylvania — can pay \$1 million to be relieved from requirements in the original 2004 casino law that gamblers must also take part in other amenities at the establishment.

#### CASINO OWNERSHIP

A 2004 provision limiting ownership of casinos to no more than one controlling stake in one casino would be repealed.

Source: House Republicans, House Democrats.

# IN THE COMMUNITY

WE'RE PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  
**GAMING FUNDS**

HELP US! #SaveGamingRevenue



On March 9th, Harborcreek Township, along with 41 other nonprofit organizations that will organize over 300 Community events in Erie County over the next 12 months, was awarded an incredibly generous \$1,909.10 from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority to help supplement our Harborcreek Community Concerts, Light Up Night and Park It Events.

ECGRA makes strategic investments in five key areas, one of them being Quality of Place. In meeting that criteria as a grantee, Harborcreek Township promotes well-being, fosters civic pride, drives tourism, promotes local talent, and makes Harborcreek an incredible place to live.

Currently, \$17.5 million in Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) grant and endowment funds are working to improve life in Erie County.

Harborcreek Township is an example of "ECGRA Money at Work" – and would like to thank the entire staff and Board of Directors at ECGRA for their continued support of Harborcreek Township.

WE'RE PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  
**GAMING FUNDS**

HELP US! #SaveGamingRevenue



Another great HC school year is in the books and Summer 2017 is in full gear – and what a busy summer it is shaping up to be. Community Concerts on June 23rd and August 18th will bring HC together for 2 great events – and that’s just the start of summer activities. Road repairs and paving projects continue throughout our roads systems that should make for a smooth ride. Business development continues at a steady climb in HC with the opening of Erie Brewing Company and the beginning of construction and additions to new and existing Harborcreek Businesses.

Make sure to pay special attention to the “A Day in the Life of yourHarborcreek” on page 12. It’ll be a great project if we can get lots of you ace photographers involved. Remember, August 18th is the day to “shoot”.

As always, yourHarborcreek promises to continue to bring you all the latest news in Harborcreek Township.

Have a great summer, HC!

**Harborcreek Township...  
Something for Everyone.**

*Tim, Joe and Dean*

Interested in advertising in “your Harborcreek” magazine and reaching over 17,000 residents of Harborcreek Township?

Please contact Stacey Stranko at [SStranko@harborcreektownship.org](mailto:SStranko@harborcreektownship.org) or call: 814-636-4419

Would you like to contribute content to “your Harborcreek” magazine? Please forward information and pictures (if applicable) to [YourHarborcreek@harborcreektownship.org](mailto:YourHarborcreek@harborcreektownship.org) or call 814-899-3171. Harborcreek Township maintains full editorial rights and will include content when content room is available.

### **MAGAZINE DEADLINE:**

The next deadline to submit content to be considered for “your Harborcreek” magazine is August 16, 2017.

Photo credits in this issue of “your Harborcreek”, all or in part, courtesy of *John D. Fox Photography* and Kevin Soles.

### **Harborcreek Township**

5601 Buffalo Road  
Harborcreek, PA 16421  
[www.harborcreektownship.org](http://www.harborcreektownship.org)

### **Normal Business Hours:**

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm  
Closed Weekends and Holidays

### **Supervisors:**

Tim May, Joe Peck, Dean Pepicello

Connie Cruz - Zoning Administrator

Shelley Hull - Board Secretary

Steve Seidler - Comptroller

Dave Eades - IT

Brian Benovic - EMA

Krista Kane - Code Enforcement and  
Parks Coordinator

Michelle Hannold - Receptionist/Roads  
Secretary

Wayne Boyd - Operations Manager

### **The Road & Parks Crew:**

Mike Bean

Kurt Heidecker

Bob Hoover

John Pearson

Wayne Peterson

Greg Rzodkiewicz

Steve Salow

Nick Taccone

Bryer Sonney

Mike Harrington

Dave Zellefrow

Steve Brainard

Ray Beer

Tom Berlin

Don Erbin

Ted Harmle

George Erbin

### **Harborcreek Township Sewer Authority**

814-899-9191

Brian McNamara, HTSA Manager

### **Harborcreek Senior Center/AARP Chapter**

Located in lower level of HC  
Municipal Building — Hours - Monday &  
Wednesday — 12:30pm to 4:30pm  
Monthly meetings normally held the  
first Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm.  
Please call 814-899-3171 to confirm.

## **CONTENT**

*In The Community* ..... 2-6

*Fire Departments* ..... 7-8

*Historical Society* ..... 10-11

*Husky Happenings* ..... 13, 14, 20

*Healthy Around Harborcreek* ..... 23

### **Local Government Offices:**

District Justice Mark Krahe  
3921 Buffalo Road  
Erie, PA 16510  
814-451-6516

State Representative  
Curt Sonney - 4th District  
District Office  
K-Mart Plaza  
4457 Buffalo Road  
Erie, PA 16510  
814-897-2080

State Senator Dan Laughlin  
1314 Griswold Plaza  
Erie, PA 16501  
814-453-2515





# 2017 Harborcreek Township Community Concerts

**Friday, June 23rd Headliner**  
**Small Town Revolution**

**Friday, August 18th Headliner**  
**RadioAge**

The fun begins at 5:30 each concert night and the band takes the stage at 6:00.

Great music, food, face painting, kids activities, community spirit and fantastic fireworks displays at each concert.

Thanks to all the sponsors of the HC Community Concerts.



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your **HARBORCREEK**

**SPOTLIGHT AD: Stan's Garden Center**



# Roots Of Lineage



Like us on  
**Facebook**

In the last 60 plus years, Stan's Garden Center has grown into the regions premier Garden Center for all your gardening needs. But few know that Stan's has blossomed from a Mom and Pop operation at the intersection of Saltsman and Cumberland Roads in Harborcreek. In 1954, Stan and Anna Marie Skarzenski began "Stan's Mums" by selling mums in the months of August and September. Seven years later in 1961, the business grew for the first of many times offering a floral shop as well as vegetable plants and annual flowering plants as well as holiday plants. Another nine years later, "Stan's Garden Center" was born and focused on what they did best, providing local gardeners the finest in annual spring flowers and garden vegetable plants. The future of Stan's changed drastically in February 1981 with the passing of Stan Skarzenski. But the Skarzenski family was committed to carrying on Stan's legacy, and in March

of 1981, Stan and Anna Marie's son Jim, left his job at G.E. to run the garden center full time.

Under Jim's leadership, Stan's continued to flourish and in 1987 moved from cramped quarters at their original site to their current location of over 31 acres at 5001 Buffalo Road. Through multiple expansions, Stan's is now comprised of over 4 acres of greenhouse that includes annual flowers and vegetables, house plants, bonsai, and gardening supplies as well as over an acre of nursery stock that offers perennials and flowering trees and shrubs.

2003 provided more growth to Stan's Garden Center when a 2nd location was opened on West Lake Road in Millcreek Township. Highlighting an expansion to the Westside location in the Spring of 2017 is the construction of 5 greenhouses totaling over 7,500 square feet. Where there is a Stan's Garden

Center, something is Always Growing On!

One thing that has not changed in the over 60 years of Stan's Garden Center is the dedication of the Skarzenski family to the garden center industry. A third generation has joined Jim in leading Stan's Garden Center into a bright future. Son Josh Skarzenski has spent his lifetime nurturing his green thumb and has also earned a degree in Landscape Design and Development at SUNY Alfred State College, minoring in Floriculture Production.



*West Side Location*



**East Side Location**

Route 20 | Harborcreek  
814.899.5424

**West Side Location**

West Lake Road | Millcreek  
814.835.6960

[www.stansgardencenter.com](http://www.stansgardencenter.com)

**Visit our West Side Location with 5 New Greenhouses!**

Let ECGRA keep doing the job it does very well

The article "ECGRA costs under fire from reps" in the June 18 edition by Nico Salvatore was very enlightening, but one essential element was missing: the comparison of Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority operating costs with other nonprofit organizations.

For instance, Perry Wood's annual salary was listed as a little over \$91,000. However, Michael Bachelor, president of the Erie Community Foundation, receives an annual salary of almost \$250,000 plus benefits, over two and one-half times what Wood receives. ECGRA operates with a staff of three. The Erie Community Foundation has a staff of 13. What are their salaries? I don't know what facilities ECGRA has, but I know the foundation operates out of one of those old, beautiful homes on West Sixth Street. What is the cost of that? In other words, are the operating costs for ECGRA out of line with most nonprofit organizations? I would like to know that.

While there seems to be bipartisan support by our elected representatives to defund ECGRA, there was a remarkable statement by them in the article. The statement: "They (the representatives) believe the authority's share of gaming revenue could just as easily be administered by the elected officials on Erie County Council. Just as easily! Are they serious? The council has a hard time now dealing with county issues, and you representatives want to burden them with this important responsibility?"

County Council would have to hire a full-time staff to handle this additional workload. That's already in place. Its called the ECGRA board of directors. Leave them alone to do the job they are charged to do — distribute casino revenue to the many small, deserving organizations. Their excellent work has enhanced the quality of life for the citizens of Erie County. Let them continue their good work and keep the gaming revenue distribution out of the hands of the politicians — Philip Chaffee, Corry

# VIEWPOINT

## OUR VIEW

### Community college vote is just the start

**The Issue:** Community college plan OK'd  
**Our View:** Due diligence just beginning

**E**rie County Council's 4-2 vote on Tuesday in favor of the county sponsoring a community college comes amid unanswered questions and considerable uncertainty.

Chief among the questions is what becomes of the county's share of the taxes paid by Presque Isle Downs & Casino, which is the linchpin of the plan to fund the college going forward. The local share of casino revenues in Erie County and other host communities has been the subject of aggressive maneuvering in Harrisburg.

Also uncertain is how the application will be received in Harrisburg. As the county prepares to submit its plan for review, Gov. Tom Wolf and the Legislature have been wrestling with closing a major budget deficit.

Those and other factors have the potential to complicate or disrupt the plan. But they are not cause to delay moving forward.

We credit the council majority — Jay Breneman, Kathy Fatica, Andre Horton and Fiore Leone — for pushing ahead with filling a major gap in the region's educational continuum. Their votes are a bold and courageous break from the status quo.

And we laud Erie lawyer Ron DINicola and the other people behind Empower Erie for laying the groundwork for a college and making the case for it. The quality of that work provided a firm foundation for the effort.

Now County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and her administration are charged with taking that case to Harrisburg. It's critical that they keep County Council and the public informed every step of the way.

Voting to sponsor the college and accept the local share of financial responsibility for it is just the first step in a long process. Shepherding the project forward will require extensive due diligence.

That will include, assuming state approval, assembling a first-rate oversight and administrative structure and team, and a curriculum that aligns with the needs of prospective students and the region's workforce development priorities.

Adding credibility and heft to the community college push was formal support from the region's leading business groups. Many of their members are facing the graying of their workforces and the need to replace skilled workers as they retire in the years ahead.

A nimble postsecondary feeder system that can adjust to changing workforce needs will help with local employers' challenges. We urge those groups to remain involved in the planning and establishment of the college.

It's also vital that the drivers behind Empower Erie follow through on plans to continue to support the development of the college and ensure its success. That includes helping to make the case for the school in Harrisburg, serving as a liaison to the business community, and raising additional private funding.

## Other indicators

• The city of Erie's population, which fell to an estimated 99,472 in 2015, slipped to an estimated 98,593 in 2016, according to U.S. Census figures released in May.

• Uncertainty still surrounds the fate of Erie County's local share of gaming revenues from Presque Isle Downs & Casino. The local share of casino funding has been the subject of negotiations in the state Legislature, which reopened the state's gaming law after the state Supreme Court last fall ruled that part of it was unconstitutional.

Those negotiations also raised the possibility that Erie County's entire share would be distributed directly by county government, rather than half of it going through the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

## YOUR VIEW

Legislators criticized for actions on gaming law

Once again, legislators, not only some elected by the local population but also many of those elected by citizens of the commonwealth, saw fit to begin passing an all too quickly put together piece of totally insane legislation. An article titled "Future of Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority in question" (Erie Times-News, June 9) quite clearly illustrates the adage, "If you cannot get something done intelligently, just do something to make it look like you did something."

Since September 2016, when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that the Pennsylvania Gaming Act's formula/method of distributing some of Pennsylvania's casino gambling proceeds to the county/municipalities wherein each is located was unconstitutional and gave the Legislature a fixed deadline to correct the act, the Legislature did little or nothing to correct the alleged discrepancy. Now, being that elected officials are so very much more informed and wiser, the Legislature began the legislation described in the ETN article. For months, I've written to Pennsylvania legislators, imploring them to get something done but get it done only after doing the proper research of what is working right and what is not working.

On one hand, House Bill 410 looks to "base budget (legislative) decisions on performance" (which is repeatedly not done now by state administrators and legislators), which would an extremely smart approach, while aforementioned Erie Times-News article displays (by some of our legislators mentioned) an idiotic approach. And even worse are their statements on the gaming money distribution issue. Get something done right.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has managed the portion of the dispersed casino money in the most appropriate and proper way, to the greatest benefit of all Erie County residents. Erie County Council will not either be able or do so.

— William A. Wittenberg, Westleyville



# Laughlin works to keep ECGRA

By Nico Salvatore  
nico.salvatori@timesnews.com

Erie County's state senators are working on a plan to uphold the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority following legislative efforts by the region's House delegation to defund it and give Erie County government sole control over a local share of gaming revenue.

State Sen. Dan Laughlin, Republican of Millcreek Township, said on Friday he believes the Gaming Revenue Authority still has a role to play in distributing a portion of gaming revenue made possible by Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit

Township.

"I believe that ECGRA has been doing their job and that it is my wish to keep them intact," said Laughlin, whose 49th District includes most of Erie County.

Laughlin said he and state Sen. Michele Brooks, Republican of Mercer County, are working on the issue together.

Brooks, whose 50th District includes parts of Erie County, could not be reached for comment.

Laughlin said he could not provide specifics. He said he and Brooks are still ironing out the details of the plan, which is tied to statewide gambling expansion legislation awaiting action in the Senate.

The House sent the legislation, House Bill 271, to the Senate in recent weeks with language defunding ECGRA amid criticisms that the authority's operating costs are too high. The bill would largely preserve the region's annual share of gambling money at \$10 million, while removing ECGRA, which historically has split the money with Erie County government, from the equation.

Perry Wood, ECGRA's executive director, has said he does not believe Erie County Council and the county executive would use gaming money to pursue economic development as aggressively as ECGRA has. Each year

ECGRA distributes millions of dollars to nonprofits and small businesses.

Wood has since announced the authority is addressing lawmakers' concerns, which have focused mainly on Wood's compensation and expenses related to a lobbying firm the authority hired in 2016.

"ECGRA's been doing its job and communicating regularly with our senators in order to make sure they understand the implications of defunding ECGRA," Wood said on Friday. "I think that message has been received. We're going to continue giving all the information they need in order to make a good decision.

Lawmakers are expected to take up the gambling bill next week as part of negotiations on a revenue package that would fund the 2017-18 spending bill the state House and Senate passed on Friday.

It was not immediately clear what Erie County's House delegation thought of Laughlin's efforts. Members met with Brooks on Monday to discuss the Gaming Revenue Authority. Laughlin said he was unable to attend the meeting.

Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/ETNsalvatori](#).

Erie Times-News | GoErie.com | Thursday, June 29, 2017 B7

## ANOTHER VIEW

### Amid uncertainty, Erie County Council acts boldly on college



Pat Howard

The last push for an Erie County community college, in 2010 with then-County Executive Barry Grossman and a group called Rethink Erie on the point, was plagued by missteps, conflicting financial estimates and a general deficit in credibility.

The effort finally foundered when Erie County Council voted against committing the county financially. Supporters vowed the effort wasn't finished, but there was no clear path forward.

When a successor to that coalition emerged last year under the moniker Empower Erie, its organizers clearly had learned some of the lessons of 2010. And the faces on County Council had changed.

Empower Erie, chaired by Erie lawyer Ron DiNicola, delivered an orderly process,

a disciplined message, well-crafted research and arguments, and less speculative financials. It didn't hurt that the push appears to have had four County Council votes wired from the get-go.

This time the college's backers didn't pretend public money wouldn't be needed to support the college. They opted instead for a strategy meant to wall off the college from the county's general fund and residents' property tax bills. That would be done by shifting gaming money now going to debt service — for the airport runway extension and Erie Insurance Arena — when that borrowing is paid off in coming years.

Empower Erie's drive to Tuesday's 4-2 County Council vote in favor of the college was a model of competence and clarity compared with the 2010 effort. And while the financial projections ask more of the public this time, they are considerably more credible.

Remember that Erie accountant Joe Maloney, longtime adviser to County Council whose word carries a lot of weight at the courthouse, repeatedly

raised concerns about the numbers crunching in 2010. This time Maloney helped develop those projections, and expressed confidence that they err on the conservative side.

But planning a startup on this scale, especially one subject to political winds, is always a best guess that's subject to unforeseen twists and unintended consequences. It's the nature of the beast.

Supporters argue, and I warily agree, that the risks of inaction outweigh those of moving ahead. Decades of studies and consultants have exhorted that only big and bold can turn Erie and the region around, and that counsel has been routinely ignored.

Boston economic development guru Brian Bosworth, whose 2001 prescription is one of those gathering dust (and which recommended a community college), described the dynamic in 2011: "What I remember is, I saw a little too much complacency in Erie. ... I saw too great an acceptance of economic hard times, and not enough willingness to push out and reinvent the region."

County Council is pushing out. It just so happens that the vote to submit the college plan to the state comes amid major uncertainty about its underpinnings, though some of that will shake out in Harrisburg in the days and weeks ahead.

Those complications start with the fact that no one knows what the local share of gaming revenue will be, if any. Erie County's allotment would at a minimum be reduced under proposals floated so far.

Consider also that Empower Erie's plan calls for college startup costs to come in part from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. Under the last version of the state House budget, the Gaming Revenue Authority would cease to exist.

The uncertainty is compounded by the fact that Erie County is looking to Harrisburg for new funding at a time when, in the words of state Sen. Dan Laughlin, "the state is broke right now." One option being eyed for raising new revenue — a massive expansion of video gambling throughout Pennsylvania — in due course could reduce the take of

existing casinos and in turn whatever local share survives the budget process.

County Councilman Ed DiMatteo argued that the question marks were cause for delaying action on the community college. But there's no future in waiting for Harrisburg to get its act together, and this is just the first step in a long process.

The state review could take up to a year, which will provide time for reacting to whatever comes out of Harrisburg. And the prospect of giving more people of limited means a viable path upward — and the region's economy a nimble workforce development vehicle supported by the county's largest business coalitions — is worth the turbulence and risk.

For decades the powers that be in Erie have retrenched when it was time to push ahead. Amid all of the uncertainty, County Council's vote is a big step toward breaking that spell.

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# Erie Times-News

## Community college backed



At the Erie County Courthouse in Erie, Joseph Curtlett, 69, left, speaks in opposition to a community college before Erie County Council held a vote during a special meeting Tuesday morning. (PHOTOS BY GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS)

### County Council to act as sponsor, allowing formal application to go to state

By Kevin Flowers  
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**B**arry Grossman paid close attention to the latest push for an Erie County community college.

Grossman, a Democrat who served as Erie

County executive from 2010 through 2013, fought hard to establish the school during his time in county government's top job. However, County Council rejected county sponsorship of a community college in 2010, largely because of financial concerns.

Tuesday, though, was a different story.

#### Online Extras

To see photos from the meeting: [GoErie.com/photos](http://GoErie.com/photos)

During a special meeting at the Erie County Courthouse, County Council voted 4-2, with one abstention, to approve county sponsorship of a

community college, which makes county government responsible for millions of dollars annually in operating costs if the state approves the school.

Grossman, in an interview Tuesday, said he was "thrilled" by council's move.

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Continued from A1

"I've thought for a long time that they had the votes, so I wasn't surprised," Grossman said. "What always got me is that a lot of people don't realize or understand that Erie County taxpayers are already paying state taxes for the other 14 community colleges in the state. But we're not getting any of the benefits.

"We need a community college," Grossman said. "And I think it's going to happen this time. There is more support."

Council Chairman Jay Brennan and colleagues Andre Horton, Kathy Fatica and Fiore Leone voted in favor of sponsoring the community college.

"On this day, we chose hope over fear," said Horton, who has long argued that the establishment of a new community college would be a much-needed investment in "human capital" and give many local residents who cannot afford a four-year college or trade school education a less-costly higher education option.

Council members Ed DiMattio and Carol Loll voted against sponsorship. Councilman Kyle Foust abstained from voting because he believes his employer, Mercyhurst University, would compete with the new school.

"The questions are numerous and there are no guarantees," said DiMattio, who added that he was unwilling to place an additional financial burden on Erie County taxpayers.

"I am not willing at this time, with the unknowns of a state budget and (local gambling revenue) disbursements, to place the taxpayers of Erie County in such a position," DiMattio said.

A community college plan developed by nonprofit Empower Erie over the last several months now becomes the formal application for the new school. That plan could be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper's administration quickly, said Gary Lee, the county's director of administration.

Dahlkemper's administration will take the lead in presenting the community college plan to the state now that County Council has signed off on it.

"We will review the plan," Lee said. "Our goal is to have it submitted to the state by the end of the week."

Lee said he expects a Department of Education subcommittee to begin a thorough

review of the community college plan. He added that Dahlkemper's administration plans to ask the state to host a public meeting in Erie County regarding its community college evaluation process.

Casey Smith, the Department of Education's acting communications director, has said the community college evaluation process can take up to a year.

Empower Erie's chairman, local lawyer Ron DiNicola, said that he is confident the Department of Education will "recognize the scale and urgency of our community's higher education needs" and sign off on a community college for Erie County.

DiNicola has frequently pointed out that northwestern Pennsylvania is the largest area in the state without direct access to a community college.

A traditional community college has not been created in Pennsylvania since 1993, when Cambria County Area Community College opened. There are 14 community colleges in Pennsylvania, and they are funded by a combination of state funding, local dollars and student tuition.

County Council's vote came after nearly an hour of public comment both for and against the plan. A 2010 effort to organize a local community college failed for lack of a prime financial sponsor, even after a 2009 study recommended that Erie County create one.

Opponents countered by saying that the school is unnecessary when local colleges and trade schools provide similar courses. Some local officials and residents are also concerned about escalating costs.

According to Empower Erie's plan, an Erie County community college would see annual operating expenses and revenues of nearly \$7 million in its first year, with each of those numbers climbing to roughly \$14 million by its fifth year.

Student tuition would start at \$2,400, increasing to \$2,800 over the same time frame.

The school hopes to privately raise millions of additional dollars to pay for capital improvements and equipment over its first 10 years, the plan suggests, and county government could redirect almost \$4 million now earmarked for annual long-term debt payments to cover the state-required local share of the college's funding, according to Empower Erie's plan.

The feasibility study concluded that the new school could offer curriculum that includes engineering, welding, computer security, accounting, journalism, fitness and

nursing instruction, as well other courses of study, with projected enrollment of 1,525 students in the school's first year, including full-time students.

The feasibility study examined more than 25 potential sites in Erie County for the school.

The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges is also supportive of the Erie County community college plan. The Harrisburg-based nonprofit is a volunteer membership and advocacy association whose members include community college presidents, members of the colleges' boards of trustees and key college administrators.

"We are pleased to hear that discussions to expand community college programming are continuing," Danielle Gross, the organization's director of public affairs, said Tuesday following County Council's vote. "The commission supports expansion efforts under the Community College Act of 1963 and will await the decision of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education regarding the (Erie County) plan."

The Erie Community Foundation, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy collectively have contributed \$300,000 toward the new community college effort. The Community Foundation on Monday pledged an additional \$100,000 to help a later phase of the project.

The Hagen Fund and Gaming Revenue Authority have promised an additional \$3.7 million if County Council votes to create a community college and the school is approved by state government.

Several other local labor and business groups endorsed the local community college plan.

County Council on Tuesday also approved, in a 5-1 vote with one abstention, a resolution to prohibit county elected officials and members of their families from working at the community college.

Foust abstained, while Horton cast the sole "no" vote, saying the prohibition was redundant because the county's administrative code already includes a policy on conflicts of interest.

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## Why we're voting for county to sponsor community college

The following article was submitted by Erie County Council members Jay Brener, Kathy Fatica, Andrew Arton and Fiore Leone. County Council is scheduled to vote today on the county sponsoring a proposed community college.

This past year, our county embarked on a familiar journey toward the establishment of a community college. With the backing of Erie's philanthropic community and County Executive Kathy Dahilkemper, Erie County Council passed a resolution to study the need for a community college, and we opened our chambers to comment and question.

Since then, we have learned a lot. The work done by Empower Erie gave us a fresh snapshot of Erie County's workforce, its economy, and the current education system. The process has been thoughtful, deliberate and transparent. The work to study the community college has enlightened us to the wide public support across the county and affirmed what we already suspected: Erie County needs this community college.

The feasibility study of the college made a striking assertion that helped bring this issue into focus for us. "The previous feasibility study asserted that a community college was needed then and current research shows that it is needed now. It is impossible to quantify how it might have helped Erie navigate the waters through the Great Recession, through major layoffs at some of Erie's largest employers or respond to businesses demanding a skilled and trained workforce, but Erie's current economic, education and employment climate would be well-served by a local community college."

What if we had acted then? Since 2010, when we last explored the establishment of a community college, our economic environment is far worse; worse than before and worse than we could have even imagined at the time as some of our oldest companies have taken flight. Since then, further deterioration of the manufacturing base and an increased poverty rate have left us vulnerable, while a large population of young people lost out on an opportunity to

access a community college and a remarkable number of midcareer friends have searched for direction without the benefit of a community college.

Today we will vote for the community college because the time has come to act. Erie's next generation of leaders deserve to have access to an education system anchored by a community college, and there are so many of our neighbors who are still weathering this economic transition who need access to open, affordable post-secondary education to thrive in the new economy.

For the first time in American history, it is incredibly likely that the generation behind us will not do as well economically as our generation. This community college will change outcomes, attract new jobs, and help lift up some of our neighbors, family members, and all of Erie County's children. The forward progress of generations is a goal we as elected officials, neighbors, fathers, mothers, grandparents and fellow Eriettes must begin to collectively pursue and always keep in our sights.

There is a viable pathway

toward implementation this time around as the Erie Community Foundation has made a \$3.7 million commitment to help jump-start the community college, and there is a plan to fund it that does not require a tax increase. There is a coalition of leaders, including the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, Erie Regional Manufacturing Partnership, Manufacturer and Business Association, Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council, Great Lakes Building Trades, UE Local 506, the United Way of Erie County, Corry Higher Education Council, Girard School District and many more, committed to making this dream of equitable access to community college education for our county a reality. There is an opportunity to hope that this community college could happen, and that is a reason for optimism.

We make this vote with our collective responsibility to serve the best interests of Erie County front of mind. Erie County represents the most populated region of the state where there is no access to a community college, despite the fact that our

state tax dollars support community colleges across Pennsylvania. Close to one-third of a billion dollars in taxpayer money is being spent on community colleges each year in Pennsylvania. Erie is getting zero return on that investment. It is time to collectively turn the corner away from debating whether or not we need a community college and start demanding that we get one.

There is a lot of work ahead of us and our constituents are counting on us to prioritize and plan for a future our region is still imagining. We must give our next generation the opportunity to succeed and our region the opportunity to grow — the community college will help Erie County educate the next generation of workers for 21st century jobs and attract new companies.

Beyond the data, the endorsements, the philanthropic investment and urgent need for workforce development — all leading us in the direction of establishing this college — we are voting today for the future of Erie — a future not yet imagined, but one that will be better because we have a community college.

The Corry Journal, Tuesday, June 27, 2017

## Impact Corry still onboard for railroad property purchase

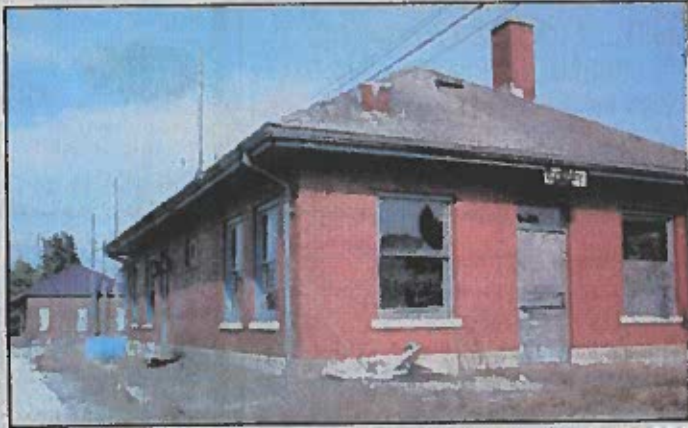
BY KIM LUX  
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Impact Corry's plan to purchase the historic railroad property on Center Street has hit a small snag, but Steve Bishop, president of Impact Corry, is optimistic the property will be theirs soon.

The organization first looked into buying the property two years ago, and has since received funding from the Corry Community Foundation, the Arlene H. Smith Charitable Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority for the purchase.

Through the purchase, Impact Corry aims to revitalize the downtown Corry business area and highlight Corry's rich historical significance in the oil industry.

"We got delayed by a couple of months because there was some miscommunication between us and the railroad company about a proposed deed for the property," Bishop said. "We ultimately decided to write the proposed deed and we sent it to the railroad company. Now it's a waiting game until we hear from them."



Contributed photo

Impact Corry is still working to purchase three parcels of railroad property on Center Street for \$25,000 in order to revitalize the downtown area. The organization will use funding from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Arlene H. Smith Charitable Foundation to make preliminary repairs to a building on the property once it is purchased.

The railroad property is currently owned by Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad and includes three parcels of land.

The largest parcel is between Center Street and 1st Avenue, where the former depot building and a brick maintenance building sits. Other parcels include a narrow slice of grass and trees between the tracks and Main Street,

and a pie-shaped piece on the east side of Center Street, between Center and Maple Avenue.

Impact Corry will be purchasing the property for \$25,000.

Bishop said Impact Corry has about \$30,000 in funding from the ECGRA's Mission Main Street grants and the Arlene H. Smith Charitable Foundation to complete some preliminary work once the property is

officially purchased.

"I am hoping to hear from the railroad company any day now," Bishop added. "I'm hopeful that this misstep hasn't put us too far behind schedule. If all goes according to plan, we can still purchase the property and go through the closing process this summer."

Recently, Impact Corry had the property surveyed and staked to determine

the exact property lines for all three parcels.

"We did this to determine exactly where the property is," Bishop said. "We've got a good handle on it now. I'm very excited to see what lies ahead for this historic property."

Once the property is purchased, Impact Corry will first work to clean up the parcels, which have fallen into disrepair over the past few years.

Preliminary repairs done to the main building on the property will include repointing the brick and wrapping it in aluminum fascia.

Bishop said that once this is complete, Impact Corry will be looking for the community's input on what's done next with the property.

The organization aims to establish either a public hearing or survey, where residents can weigh in on the project.

"It is such a historic project that I feel will really enhance the area," Bishop said. "Our hope is more people will come to Corry to visit this property that's played such a significant role in our area's history. I'm looking forward to where this journey takes us."



**YOUR VIEW**  
**ECGRA wasting money and should be abolished**

If we don't abolish the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, we're all dumber than a box of rocks. I can't imagine a bigger waste of taxpayer money.

The real intent in establishing the various authorities was to take the politicians off the hook for making the hard, politically unpopular decisions (like rate and tax increases), since authorities don't worry about being re-elected.

If anyone doubts that, look at the history of the first couple years of the Erie City Water Authority. Additionally, the authorities were supposed to depoliticize the hiring process and abolish nepotism and cronyism.

In the case of ECGRA, I say we fail on all counts. Employees are appointed by the politicians and paid more than the managers at GEI. And they are obviously under very limited fiscal oversight. For example, we needed a consultant? The executive director needs a doctoral degree to dispense funds? And who paid for the full-page ad in Sunday's Erie Times-News?

To anyone shocked by this, I ask who was supposed to be overseeing these guys the last few years?

Abolishing ECGRA should provide at least an extra \$500,000 for distribution, and it looks to me like this decision is a no-brainer.

— Paul Jaworski, Erie

**YOUR VIEW**  
**ECGRA keeps gaming funds out of politicians' hands**

While I appreciate state Rep. Brad Roe's unannounced and unexpected concern for the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and Erie County's role in distributing gaming revenue, I must admit that I am a bit puzzled. Erie County Council, which created ECGRA, appoints the board members, and has extensive access and review of ECGRA's work at every step of the process, has never had a discussion with the local legislative delegation about ECGRA, and we certainly didn't discuss or ask for them to disband ECGRA.

The overhead costs that the representative is all of a sudden concerned about are hardly any different than what it would cost the county if economic development returned as a county department. The fact is, the overhead costs of ECGRA are a red herring for politicians who want easier access to, and control of, gaming funds.

ECGRA was created by county government to act as a firewall, and to give extra transparency and scrutiny to where and how the dollars are spent. Under the mysterious and drastic move made by the state House of Representatives, and backed by our local delegation, that firewall would be dismantled and once again those dollars would be subject to the whims and deal-making of politicians.

Please contact Sens. Dan Laughlin and Michele Brooks, and tell them to keep these funds out of the hands of politicians. It ain't broke, so don't break it.

— Jay Breenman, chairman, Erie County Council

**ANOTHER VIEW**

*Pa. House seeks to deepen state's gambling addiction*



Pat Howard

Legalized gambling — any gambling really — comes with the specter of people who will become addicted or at least form habits more costly than they can really afford.

Since the opening of Presque Isle Downs & Casino in 2007, that's been evident in the prosecution of people who turned to theft to feed that habit. Some of them get in really deep.

And those are just the ones you hear about. There's surely damage being done to lives and families in ways that don't turn up in the court docket.

But the deepest and most intractable gambling addiction of all has been playing out in plain view for months. Government in Pennsylvania has it bad.

The latest round of political maneuvering over the proceeds of vice was launched last fall by

a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling that voided part of the state's 2004 casino law as unconstitutional and put huge sums of casino tax revenue in play. The legislative sharks immediately started circling.

That set off alarm bells in Erie and other communities that host casinos. The court decision in effect abrogated the deal the state made with those communities to provide them with millions in gambling cash in exchange for shouldering the problems and burdens that casinos bring.

That put at risk the roughly \$11 million annually Erie County has been receiving from the casino. This region, like the state, has become deeply reliant on that money.

The state Senate's version of the legislative fix to the gambling law would make Erie County mostly whole, splitting \$10 million a year between Erie County government and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

But then the House upped the ante earlier this month by proposing to change who controls the money and to cut some new regional

players in on the action.

The House version would eliminate the Gaming Revenue Authority from the equation in favor of funneling \$8 million straight to county government. It would also reallocate \$1.5 million for blight reduction countywide.

The remaining \$500,000 annually would be redirected to the city of Erie for public safety or infrastructure. Or in the language of the legislation: "\$500,000 of the gross terminal revenue to a city of the third class with a population of not less than 80,000 located within a county of the third class that is also a home rule county." Home sweet home.

The prospect of the region retaining most of its casino money has been met with relief. And the House's move to eliminate the Gaming Revenue Authority in favor of direct county control over the money ignited a vehement debate in these parts.

But the most consequential aspect of the House version for the state as a whole involves another massive expansion of gambling throughout Pennsylvania. That would deepen state

government's addiction and enable it by arranging for more people to lose more money in more places.

It would do that by allowing 40,000 video betting machines in bars, fire halls, restaurants, bowling alleys and other venues licensed to sell alcohol. Gov. Tom Wolf's administration has projected that would raise \$150 million.

As the state struggles with a massive budget deficit, the House play would fatten Harrisburg's coffers by putting gambling in easy reach of a lot more folks who could put their money to more productive uses. The Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity came out against the expansion this week, arguing that it would "have a hugely negative effect on the quality of life of already challenged neighborhoods and communities."

In addition to the moral and civic considerations, the proposed expansion raises questions about how much gambling the market can bear. The new options could cut into the take by existing casinos and the Pennsylvania Lottery,

and presumably in due course threaten the share received by Erie County and other host communities.

The casino industry is taking that threat seriously. The Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem launched a \$1 million advertising campaign aimed at turning public opinion against licensing video gaming terminals statewide.

There's risk for the state as well. Remember that it was just five years ago when then-Gov. Tom Corbett pushed unsuccessfully to outsource management of the state lottery in a bid to increase its revenue. Corbett's reasoning was that without more money coming in, the coming demographic wave of older Pennsylvanians would swamp the lottery's capacity to fund services for them.

As the House proposes doubling down on gambling again, the bottom line is simple. For the state to win that bet, it has to create more losers.

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Albion Area Fair Inc., All About Character Inc., ANNA Shelter, Asbury Woods Partnership Inc., Bayfront East Side Taskforce, Bayfront Maritime Center, Bayfront NATO/MLK Center, Ben Franklin Technology Partners CNP, Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Bethany Outreach Center, Blended Spirits Ranch, Booker T. Washington Center, Boro Women's Services, Borough of Union City, Borough of Wesleyville, Bosnian Islamic Community of Erie, Box of Light Studios, Boy Scouts of America -French Creek Council, Bradley H. Foulk Children's Advocacy Center of Erie County, Bridgeway Capital, Café, Children's Miracle Network, Commodore Perry Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Common Ground Youth Center, Inc., Community Health Net, Community of Caring, Community Shelter Services, Corry Area Chamber of Commerce, Corry Area Historical Society, Corry Area School District Foundation, Corry Industrial Benefit Association, Corry Salvation Army, County of Erie, Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Daimark Dance Theater, Dan Rice Days (Girard Borough), Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Festival, Downtown North East Inc., Eagle's Nest Leadership Corporation, Early Connections, East Erie Suburban Recreation & Conservation Authority, Edinboro Area Historical Society, Edinboro Arts & Music Festival, Edinboro Highland Games, Edinboro University Foundation, EmeryCare, Emma's Footprints, Empower Erie, Enterprise Development Fund, Erie Area Council of Governments, Erie Art Museum, Erie Art & Music Festival, Erie Arts Fest (Erie Summer Festival of the Arts), Erie Arts & Culture, Erie Asian Pacific Association, Erie City Mission, Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre, Erie County CASA, Erie County Fair at Wattsburg, Erie County Historical Society, Erie County Lead Assets Endowment, Erie County Recreation Authority, Erie County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Erie DAWN, Erie Downtown Partnership, Erie Drum Corps Association, Erie Homes for Children & Adults (EHCA), Erie Opera Theatre, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Playhouse, Erie Police Athletic League (PAL), Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, Erie Salvation Army, Erie Together, Erie-Western PA Port Authority, Erie Yesterday, Erie Zoological Society, Erie's Public Schools, expERIENCE Children's Museum, Fairview Area Historical Society, Fairview Presbyterian Church, Fairview School Foundation, Fairview Township, Film Society of Northwestern PA, Flagship Niagara League, Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society, Fort LeBoeuf School District Foundation, Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Foundation, Gannon University: Go College, Gannon University: Erie Chamber Orchestra, Gannon SBDC, Gannondale, Gaudenzia Erie, General School District Foundation, Goodell Gardens Baptist Church, Greater Erie Area Habitat

On behalf of the 1,000 initiatives you've funded using gaming revenue,

McLane Foundation, Girard Township, & Homestead, Greater Calvary Full Gospel for Humanity, Greater Erie Community Action

# THANK YOU ECGRA!

Committee, Greater Erie Youth Symphony Foundation, Harbor Creek Little League, Township, Harborcreek Youth Services, Place, Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, (HANDS), Humane Society of MWPA, Impact District Foundation, JC Martin Golf Course, Erie Arboretum at Frontier (LEAF), Lake Medicine, Lake Erie Fanfare Inc., Lake Erie Region Conservancy (LERC), Lake Shore Railway Historical Society, Lawrence Park Historical Society, Lawrence Park Township, LeBoeuf Little League, LifeWorks Erie, Living in Fulfilled Excellence, McDowell Band Aides, McKean Borough, McKean Community Development Group, McKean Township, McLane Little League Association, Mead Park Association, Meals on Wheels, Medical Associates of Erie, Mercy Center for Women, Mercy Hilltop Center, Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture, Mercyhurst University: Downtown Erie Innovation District, Millcreek Education Foundation, Millcreek Township, Miller Worldwide Ministries, Mothers Against Teen Violence, Multicultural Community Resource Center, Multi-Cultural Health Evaluation Delivery System (MHEDS), My Father's House of Erie, The Nonprofit Partnership, North East Community Fair Association, North East Historical Society, North East Little League, Northwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, Northwestern Community Educational Foundation, Nurturing Hearts, Opportunities Unlimited, Orphan Angels Cat Sanctuary, Parade Street Community Center, Penn State Behrend, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA), Platea Borough, Preservation Erie, Presque Isle Partnership, Primary Health Network - Sarah Reed Children's Center, Purple Martin Conservation Association, Roar on the Shore Inc., Robbins Blass Neighborhood Watch, Russian Orthodox Church of the Nativity, SafeNet, Saint Boniface Players, Saint Joseph Church, Saint Luke School, Saint Patrick Church, Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church, Sarah Reed Children's Center, Sarah Reed Senior Living, The Sight Center of Northwest Pennsylvania, Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, SMOOPS Neighborhood Association, Stairways Behavioral Health - Center City Arts, STARTup, Incubator, Inc., Summit Township, Sunshine Group of Erie, Tickets for Kids Charities, Twilight Wish Foundation, Union City Area School District Foundation, Union City Community House Association, Union City Family Support Center, Union City Pride Inc., United Way of Erie County, The Upper Room, Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, Venango Training & Development Center, Inc., Veterans Miracle Center of Erie, Voices for Independence, WQLN, Washington Township, Waterford Borough, Waterford Community Fair Association, Waterford Township, Wattsburg Cemetery Association, Wayne Township, West Erie County Emergency Management Agency, Women's Care Center of Erie County, Inc., YMCA of Greater Erie County, Young Artists Debut Orchestra, Young People's Chorus of Erie, Youth Leadership Institute of Erie

Orchestra, Greene Township, Hamot Health Harborcreek Historical Society, Harborcreek Healthcare Ventures Alliance, Highmark Caring Housing And Neighborhood Development Service Corry, Inter Church Ministries, Iroquois School JFK Center, Jefferson Educational Society, Lake Erie Ballet, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic

We're proud to be part of the ECGRA family and play our role in improving the Erie economy. Call your local representative to stop changes to ECGRA's grant-making model today!

Find local representative contact information at [ECGRA.org/calltoaction](http://ECGRA.org/calltoaction)



Funded in part by supporters of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's grant investing model.

Erie Reader | ErieReader.com June 21, 2017





# Erie City Council seeks gambling funds promise

By Kevin Flowers  
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Pending state legislation that would give Erie County government sole authorization over the distribution of the multimillion-dollar local share of gambling money also carves out 500,000 annually for the city of Erie to fund emergency services and infrastructure projects.

Erie City Council is poised to ask State Sen. Dan Laughlin to make sure that yearly funding becomes a reality. City Council on Wednesday night could have agenda rules and vote on a resolution urging Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, -49th Dist., and the Pennsylvania Senate "to obtain the \$500,000 for city capital projects or emergency services in the gaming legislation," according to Councilman Bob Merski, who plans to sponsor the resolution. Merski said council

members want members of the state Senate to make sure the money earmarked for the city remains in the final version of the bill. House Bill 271 was approved by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on June 7 by a 102-89 vote.

The bill currently sits in a state Senate committee.

"As goes the city, so goes the region, so it makes sense to support capital projects and emergency services in the city," Merski said. "The region's lead assets are all in the city, and this is recognition that city taxpayers have been carrying the weight of these expenses for the whole region."

"I hope Senator Laughlin will support the city taxpayers with this emergency services revenue," Merski said.

The bill has sparked controversy because it would give Erie County government sole authorization over the distribution of a

local share of gambling money. Currently, the county splits an annual \$11 million allocation with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority for being the host county of Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township.

The bill, however, would remove the Gaming Revenue Authority from that process.

"Whatever they do with the county and ECGRA, we are asking for the \$500,000 in the House bill to remain in the final legislation," Merski said.

The bill also includes \$1.5 million annually for an Erie County land bank, set up to reduce blight.

City Council meets Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Bagnoni Council Chambers at City Hall, 626 State St.

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# Gambling bill could void settlement with county municipalities

By Nico Salvatore  
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Nonprofits and small businesses are not the only groups that stand to lose under proposed legislation that would defund the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and give Erie County government sole authorization in distributing a local share of gambling funds.

Five Erie County municipalities that receive annual allocations from a 2010 settlement with the authority and the county could be stripped of funds as well.

Erie lawyer Tom Talarico, who represented the county and the authority in the settlement, and Tim Wachter, the authority's solicitor, said Tuesday

that proposed changes to Pennsylvania's gambling law would invalidate the settlement.

The settlement was the result of efforts by Summit Township, where Presque Isle Downs & Casino is located, and contiguous municipalities to get a share of money made possible by the presence of the casino, which opened in 2007.

Under the terms of the settlement, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority is required to allocate 25 percent of its annual revenue to the parties involved in the settlement.

ECGRA receives about \$5.5 million annually from Presque Isle

See BILL, A5

## BILL

Continued from A1

Downs, and has paid out an average of roughly \$1.27 million each year to Summit, Millcreek, Greene, McKean, and Waterford townships between 2010 and 2016, with the largest share going to Summit Township. That figure does not include funds paid to other entities included in the agreement, such as local fire departments.

"The agreement and the obligation to pay the contiguous municipalities ... ends if the state legislature passes a law which changes or affects the existing distribution of the moneys," Talarico said, citing a clause in the agreement to that effect.

Local share funds were created to help communities address the impact of hosting a casino. A bill moving through the legislature, House Bill 271, largely preserves the region's share of gaming revenue — at \$10 million — but it would put the funds solely in the hands of county council and the county executive.

"That would invalidate the settlement agreement," Wachter said.

County officials would have no obligation, as ECGRA does, to make annual payments to the contiguous municipalities if the current version of the bill were to become law. HB 271, sweeping legislation designed to expand gambling and address local share assessments in Pennsylvania, passed the

House in recent weeks. It now awaits further consideration in the Senate.

State House legislators from Erie County, who support defunding ECGRA because of what they say are its high overhead costs, were looking into the potential settlement ramifications on Tuesday when it was brought to their attention.

State Rep. Pat Harkins, of Erie, D-1st Dist., said a legal opinion he sought disagreed that the bill would void the agreement. Harkins did not immediately return a request for details.

State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, of Millcreek, D-3rd Dist., said the contiguous municipalities could still receive gaming funds.

"I believe the county can come to a new agreement or readopt a form of the existing one," Bizzarro said.

Perry Wood, ECGRA's executive director, said the agreement is tied to ECGRA revenue.

"If there is no ECGRA revenue, there is no settlement payout," he said, "which means all payments to contiguous municipalities would cease."

Summit Township Supervisor Nancy Agostine said no one had confirmed with the township what could happen with the settlement under HB 271.

"We've been waiting for somebody to clarify that for us," she said. "I was waiting for a call on the legislators. We really have just been sitting in limbo."

State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, R-49th

District., has said the Senate will likely take up HB 271 this week. He could not be reached for comment on Tuesday.

County officials have said it is too soon to say how they might allocate additional casino money. Like ECGRA, the county gets about \$5.5 million annually, but uses the money to fund projects and pay off bond debt.

Wood has said he does not believe the county would invest in economic development as aggressively as ECGRA has. The authority has administered millions of dollars in grants for small businesses and nonprofit organizations, but has come under scrutiny of late for its operating costs.

Bizzarro reiterated those concerns on Tuesday. He said ECGRA's expenses make up a higher percentage of its annual budget when not accounting for the settlement funds, which do not need to undergo a grant review process.

"ECGRA's overhead is actually much worse when you remove the settlement funds," Bizzarro said. "Their true budget is more like \$3.5 to \$3.75 million, not \$5.5 million."

Wood has said the authority is willing to address lawmakers' concerns.

"Our commitment to running a lean, impact-investing organization is a top priority," Wood wrote Tuesday in a guest column in the Erie Times-News.

Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/ETNsalvatore](#).



**ANOTHER VIEW**

**GUEST VIEWPOINT**

*ECGRA prepared to address concerns about its overhead costs*



**Perry Wood**

**O**n Friday, I had the opportunity to sit down with members of Erie County Council, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority board of directors, and state Sen. Dan Laughlin. Members of the state House were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts. It was a valuable opportunity to air concerns about ECGRA's overhead.

Three things were apparent. First, the elected officials would like ECGRA to sharpen our pencils on the budget overall. Of course, the board and staff are amenable and will begin reviewing costs.

Second, elected officials are put off at how the ECGRA education and training budget is dispersed; in particular, that funds pay for a practitioner's doctorate. As a

result, I am voluntarily and immediately withdrawing from future reimbursements toward the practitioner's doctorate.

Third, those in the room were pleased with the ECGRA grant-making process and results. That last bit of encouraging news was the fuel to press on and immediately address the overhead concerns.

Some members of the House have been critical over our use of lobbying fees. I want to remind everyone that ECGRA's initial strategic goal in hiring Ridge Policy Group was to better leverage the region's gaming funds. In other words, we wanted to explore how we could use local share to attract more federal and state dollars toward economic development.

Weeks after hiring them, a state Supreme Court decision declared the local share gaming revenue clause to be unconstitutional and provided time for the Legislature to fix the law. Immediately, our direction changed. Our full focus turned to

fixing the local share provision so that Erie County, Summit Township and ECGRA could be made whole by a legislative fix. That decision to pursue government relations was timely and has been critical in the fight to maintain the region's share of local gaming revenue.

In the past five years, the costs to operate ECGRA have been stable. A five-year average reveals an operations cost of 6.4 percent. That puts ECGRA's costs below the average for grant-makers and local nonprofits. The most recent fiscal year saw increases due to a one-time cost for an economic impact study that quantified the economic development outcomes for Erie County, Summit Township and ECGRA.

In addition, new fees for lobbying expenses drove the budget up by about 2 percent. ECGRA staff will work diligently with the board of directors in the coming weeks to address all concerns that have been raised about overhead and act swiftly

on them. Our commitment to running a lean, impact investing organization is a top priority.

I hope this is taken as a sign of the significance that I and members of the board place upon the judgment of the policymakers supporting Erie County. It was clear in the meeting with local officials that they don't wish to throw the baby out with the bath water.

ECGRA has been recognized as a unique creature on the economic development landscape. James Fellows wrote in The Atlantic, "The system ECGRA has evolved might look unfamiliar to many gaming-revenue authorities, but it would be immediately recognizable to many of the economic-development and civic-rebuilding strategists we've seen in places from Fresno and Riverside in California, to Bend, Oregon, to Greenville, South Carolina. That is, Erie has matched a familiar source of money (gambling) with a widespread civic goal (economic and technical renewal),

in a novel and apparently successful way."

The Brookings Institution's Mark Muro has recognized several of ECGRA's funding streams as crucial to Rust Belt activism, stating, "The region's energetic Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority — an interesting philanthropic story in its own right — has been flooding the zone with grants instigating or supporting technical education and training of all sorts (along with regional economic development)."

The chairman of the state House Gaming Oversight Committee, Scott Petri, of Bucks County, after holding a public hearing in Erie on the future of gaming revenue distribution, called ECGRA and Team Erie County the model for the commonwealth. We agree with that sentiment, having worked diligently over the last six years to make it such. We hope that the Senate will vote this week to restore ECGRA.

*Perry Wood is executive director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.*



# CITY & REGION

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## ECGRA costs under fire from reps

By Nico Salvatori  
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Operating expenses at the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority have been the main target of attacks by local lawmakers who want to defund the authority and give Erie County government sole authorization to distribute a local share of gambling money.

The majority of Erie County's state delegation have said the cost of doing business at the authority

is too great, while singling out expenses they said were never intended for the economic development agency when it was created nearly a decade ago.

Expenses include a monthly retainer for a firm hired to lobby state legislators, as well as funds for the authority's executive director to obtain a doctoral degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

"This type of thing was never envisioned," said state Rep. Pat Harkins, of Erie, D-1st Dist.

State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, of Millcreek Township, D-3rd Dist., said he believes the Gaming Revenue Authority is the only "local share entity" in Pennsylvania with a lobbying firm.

Since September, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has paid about \$5,000 monthly to Ridge Policy Group. The firm was hired in large part to lobby Harrisburg in the wake of a state Supreme Court ruling that threatened the roughly \$11 million of gambling funds

split each year between the authority and Erie County government.

The money, made possible by Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township, has helped nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and community programs. It has also become a fixture of municipal budgets in Erie County.

"When the court ruling came down, it was a good sign that we needed to hire

*"When the court ruling came down, it was a good sign that we needed to hire a lobbyist. We gave them one directive: save gaming revenue for Erie County, for Summit Township, and for ECGRA."*

Perry Wood, executive director of the Gaming Revenue Authority

See ECGRA, B4

### ECGRA

Continued from B1

lobbyist," said Perry Wood, executive director of the Gaming Revenue Authority. "We gave them one directive: save gaming revenue for Erie County, for Summit Township, and for ECGRA."

Dave Sample, chairman of ECGRA's board of directors, said the authority was initially praised for its efforts to protect the region's share of gaming funds. A sweeping gambling expansion bill moving through the legislature largely preserves local share money — for the Erie region and for others around the state — even if it restructures how it is distributed.

"Now, I find it ironic they are trying to criticize us," Sample said.

Lawmakers have also scrutinized the authority's professional development policy, which is the basis for funding Wood's education and other employee activities.

In the authority's 2016-17 fiscal year, which ended in March, the authority spent \$16,908 on training and education, according to budget documents Wood provided to the Erie Times-News. It was not immediately clear what percentage of those funds were allocated for Wood's schooling expenses.

Wood, who is paid \$91,529 annually, had said previously that he believed his education made up most of the training and education line item in the authority's budget.

The Gaming Revenue



Laughlin



Harkins



Wood



Sonney

Authority has three full-time employees: an executive director, a grant manager and an executive assistant.

Wood said ECGRA's professional development policy was based on a similar policy use by Erie County government. Sample said having such a policy came at the recommendation of the Jefferson Educational Society and members of the Erie Community Foundation.

"They recommended that a lot of this education would become important to ECGRA as we moved on," Sample said.

Wood said he is enrolled in a program that appeals to people in public administration, leadership and policy-making roles. He expects to complete the program in a year.

"I am getting a degree that helps me do my job," he said.

Asked about Erie County's professional development policy, County Councilman Flore Leone rejected the parallel with ECGRA.

"I don't know of anybody in Erie County that ever went for a Ph.D.," Leone said. "I feel it's a ripoff."

ECGRA's annual operating expenses from the 2012-13 fiscal year to 2016-17 year average out to \$380,500. In 2016-17, expenses amounted to \$495,909, and reflected an increase in costs associated with the lobbying firm and a one-time economic

impact study.

Those figures do not account for special projects outside the scope of the authority's standard grant-making process. The authority will often administer grants to organizations whose requests may not fit an existing grant program. Wood said the Erie County Summer Jobs and More Program was budgeted as a special project in its first year.

Accounting for special projects, the authority's 2016-17 expenses were \$575,606, or about 10.7 percent of the authority's roughly \$5.4 million in revenue.

Lawmakers consider this the more accurate number, and said they believe they were misled when they were told annual operating costs were closer to \$400,000.

"I was stunned when I saw that," Harkins said.

Wood said the authority's overhead is "average for a grantmaker," and that its budget documents are available to the public. He objected to charges the authority is not transparent.

Wood said financial reports are available on the authority's website, as are board meeting agendas, detailed minutes from those meetings, grant recipients, guidelines and more. Board meetings are advertised and open to the public. The authority is required to be audited annually, with the

audit being submitted to Erie County government upon completion.

But \$400,000 in expenses is still too much for local lawmakers, they said. They believe the authority's share of gaming revenue could just as easily be administered by elected officials on Erie County Council. That would save money — on payroll, rent, professional services and other authority expenses — and allow the public to hold accountable the people distributing taxpayer dollars.

"If somebody is giving away taxpayer dollars, it should be dispersed by elected officials," said state Rep. Curt Sonney, of Harborcreek Township, R-4th Dist. "That way citizens have some say in it."

Wood said the public already has influence over how gaming revenue is spent. Erie County Council appoints people to the Gaming Revenue Authority's board, which reviews and approves the grants.

"We have gone to great lengths to be accountable to the community," he said.

The dispute over the Gaming Revenue Authority is playing out against a larger drama over proposals to dramatically expand gambling in Pennsylvania with one piece of legislation. House Bill 271 now sits in a state Senate committee after passing the House last week.

State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, R-49th Dist., said Senate leaders told him it was up to him if he wants to remove language from the bill that defunds the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

or keep it in. If taken out, the language could be reinserted if the bill returns to the House.

"I guess I have that kind of power," Laughlin said.

Laughlin called a meeting of local elected officials and authority officials on Friday to discuss the issue, although the entire House Delegation was unable to attend because of conflicting appointments. Laughlin said the meeting was "set up last minute."

He said the meeting was informative for him and that he has not committed one way or the other on the future of the Gaming Revenue Authority.

"We discussed some of the overhead issues brought up over the last few days," Laughlin said immediately after the meeting. "I know that I have a better understanding of some of their costs. I have to think about that."

He added that the Senate is likely to vote on HB 271 this week.

"We're going to try and make sure we get the local share," he said. "We can always try and figure out how to spend it later."

In the event that the Gaming Revenue Authority is defunded, Wood said it would devastate nonprofits and small businesses. He believes Erie County government would not invest in economic development as aggressively as the authority has.

"This is their last form of funding," he said.

*Nico Salvatori can be reached at 870-1714 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/ETNSalvatori.*



**Erie delegation agrees  
ECGRA should be eliminated**

No votes were made during the "wee hours Wednesday" as was stated in the June 11 editorial. Our House Rules prohibit the House or Committees voting after 11 p.m. unless a two-thirds majority votes to suspend that rule.

The Rules Committee amended the gambling bill at about 3 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon.

The debate on the House Floor started at about 5:15 p.m. and the vote was at 9:21 p.m.

There were no votes in the wee hours.

There is bipartisan cooperation among the Erie delegation in the state House of Representatives to benefit our constituents by \$415,000 a year more by eliminating the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

ECGRA board members, who are not elected, currently spend about \$415,000 a year to run ECGRA to pass out roughly \$5 million a year of local share gaming funds.

Paying an executive director a \$100,000 salary that is comparable to that of a small school district superintendent is outrageous. The executive director of ECGRA is paid a higher salary to manage a \$5 million budget and two employees than the Erie County executive is paid to manage a \$200 million budget and hundreds of employees. That is silly.

It should not take three full-time employees with salary and benefits working in expensive premium office space to pass out \$5 million each year.

Because Erie County Council is elected by district, all portions of the county are guaranteed to be represented. All legislators can make sure that our constituents have a say in how the local share is distributed by having local elected officials who are accountable to the voters distribute the money without needlessly wasting \$415,000. Each year \$415,000 more will be available for the zoo, economic development, food pantries, playgrounds, etc.

At this point, if people want to keep ECGRA or eliminate ECGRA they should contact Sen. Dan Laughlin of Erie, R-49th Dist., and Sen. Michele Brooks of Mercer County, R-50th Dist., since the Senate will be voting on the legislation soon.  
— Rep. Brad Ross, of East Mead Township, R-6th Dist.

**YOUR VIEW**

**County councilman supports  
Gaming Revenue Authority**

I am writing to express my displeasure at the passage of House Bill 271 that makes the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority obsolete. Erie County's gaming revenue distribution model has been hailed across the state because it has worked well and has infused local gaming revenue into every corner of the county through a fair and transparent application process. I'm further shocked that our local elected leaders think politicians ought to disburse the cash.

If passed into law, I fear House Bill 271 will do nothing more than to create a local slush fund that funnels money to pet projects while ignoring transformational initiatives, small and large, across our region. As a local elected leader, I will do all I can to make sure that doesn't happen. In addition, it legalizes video gaming terminals that will, over time, greatly reduce the local share resulting from casinos.

Putting this money in the hands of politicians under the guise of accountability is also suspect.

There is accountability of authorities through the board appointment process, with the added benefit that the distribution of money is taken out of the immediate political process. If this process is not accountable to the taxpayers, then our local state leaders ought to immediately pass legislation that eliminates all public authorities. What's good for the goose ought to be good for the gander.

I hope this bill goes nowhere in the Senate. As I have done already, I urge every taxpayer in Erie County to contact all of our local state leaders and the governor's office and ask them to reconsider this unfortunate turn of events.

— Kyle Foust, Erie County Council

**GOOD MORNING**

*Backroom  
politics  
erode  
public trust*



**Nico Salvatore**

**M**y first impression of state politics came shortly after Gov. Tom Wolf was elected.

I was working for a different publication then and had recently been assigned to the political beat.

One of my initial assignments was to go to Harrisburg and cover Wolf's first budget address, the immediate rejection of which, by the Republican-controlled legislature, gave a strong indication of how the next few months would transpire.

Dysfunction in the state Capitol came to resemble congressional gridlock, as lawmakers failed to agree on a state budget for months after the deadline.

The legislature is operating in a more bipartisan fashion in 2017, but recent events, in Harrisburg and in Washington, have revealed further parallels, especially as they relate to transparency in government.

A sprawling bill to expand gambling in Pennsylvania came to the state House floor for a vote with little notice last week, featuring provisions that even took some lawmakers by surprise.

Few legislators had time

**See SALVATORI, B4**

**SALVATORI**

*Continued from B1*

to read the whole thing in the hours between when the bill was unveiled and when it was time to vote on it.

In a news story about the legislation, The Associated Press quoted Democratic state Rep. Madeleine Dean, of Montgomery County. "If you've all had the

chance to read it, I don't know how you did it," Dean told colleagues.

Now, a group of U.S. senators, including Republican Pat Toomey, of Pennsylvania, are working on health care legislation behind closed doors.

Toomey has said a draft version of the bill, which would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, could be unveiled next week and that a vote could soon follow.

Toomey's remarks came on Tuesday, the same day a U.S. Senate committee sought to limit press access to lawmakers.

Reporters were told they could no longer film legislators in the Senate hallway without advance permission — a break from historical precedent and a troubling development in a country with a constitutional right to a free press.

The backlash was

swift and the standard procedure was reinstated later in the day.

Still, public trust in government — at the state and federal level — would be a lot stronger if elected officials made it easier, not harder, to hold them to account.

*Erie Times-News staff writers share personal stories. Nico Salvatore can be reached at 870-1714. Send email to nico.salvatori@timesnews.com.*





# Commentary

## Philadelphia legislators look to divert casino funds

### Viewing Harrisburg

BY MARC LEVY

A group of Philadelphia senators is championing language inserted into a state gambling bill that would divert about \$2 million in casino revenues for city economic development and revitalization projects instead of sending it directly to schools or the city's general fund.

Its supporters argue it is smart public policy that will allow Philadelphia, like other cities that host casinos, to spread some of those funds to community groups for public interest projects.

Critics call it another form of "around money" — the long-assailed and largely obsolete practice of doling out tax dollars, with little or no accountability, to nonprofits, community groups, and other entities that legislators favor.

At the heart of the issue is how millions in gambling revenues are distributed every year in counties and municipalities that have casinos.

Under state law, casinos are required to kick back a portion of their slots revenues to their host community. In Philadelphia, that money, known as the local share assessment, is earmarked for the school district and the city's general fund.

But as legislators rush to cobble together budget-related legislation to expand gambling, as well as make a court-ordered fix to how much casinos pay in local share assessments, some in Philadelphia's Senate delegation have seized the opportunity to change how the city's take is distributed.

Under a bill approved last

wish lists are ignored, according to one former state official familiar with the process who asked not to be identified.

"I think a lot of the programs at DCED are viewed as the most acceptable version of WAMs that can exist in today's culture," the state official said. The city has taken a cautious approach to the proposed bill.

"The administration is obviously aware of this legislation," said Philadelphia spokesman Mike Dunn. "We are monitoring its progress as it moves through both chambers, and we continue to be interested in working with members on both sides of the aisle toward a resolution that will be positive for the city and school district."

Philadelphia School District officials did not respond to a request for comment. The Senate-passed bill is now in the GOP-controlled House of Representatives, where its fate is unclear. But some key Philadelphia Democrats are signaling support.

Rep. Ed Neilson, D-Philadelphia, who sits on the House Gaming Oversight Committee, said he can back the change as long as the school district and the city continue to receive at least the same amount of money that they do now.

"I'm OK with it as long as the city doesn't lose out on the deal and the school district stays whole," he said. Asked whether the change would allow legislators to effectively hand out WAMs, he said: "We haven't had WAMs in Harrisburg for years. I don't even know what they are any more."

## ECCGRA at risk following House vote on gaming revenue

BY KIM LUX kim@thecorryjournal.com

Local that the dismantling of ECCGRA seemed to be snuck in at the eleventh hour," said Ed DiMatteo, Erie County Council member. "ECCGRA has been very generous to my district and it's a little disheartening that we were not given any notice on this."

DiMatteo represents the 6th District in Erie County including Corry, Elgin, Union City and other municipalities. ECCGRA gives out hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the grants are split into three categories: the Mission, Main Street grants, the Special Events grants and the Community Assets grants.

ECCGRA currently provides grant money to many Corry nonprofits including the Corry Area Historical Society, the Corry Area Chamber of Commerce, the Corry Community Foundation and Impact Corry.

Under the house's proposed bill, Erie County Council would be responsible for distributing nearly the entire local share of gaming revenue. "I don't disagree that County Council could manage the money, but I am sleep-

See ECCGRA, P2

(Continued from front page)

on May 23. In September 2016, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided it was unconstitutional for casinos to pay millions in host fees to their local communities. Since then, ECCGRA and local government officials have been working to save revenue, and ECCGRA's share,

gaming revenue, whose impact is felt countywide. The House's bill passed with a 102-89 vote and is now headed back to the Senate. The new bill would also expand gambling and bring casino-like gaming to airports, bars, bowling alleys and simi-

lar venues. In its 2016-17 annual report ECCGRA gave or \$6,145,539.27 to municipalities and nonprofits in Erie County. Since 2009, ECCGRA has given out nearly 700 grants and loans and created 573 jobs within the county.



# Erie Times-News

## Why a community college?

### Plan raises questions about finances, curriculum

Special meeting

Erie County Council will convene a special meeting to vote on Erie County being the local sponsor of a community college. The meeting — scheduled for 9 a.m. June 27 in council chambers at the Erie County Courthouse, 140 W. Sixth St. — was called because council believes the subject deserves its own meeting. The public is encouraged to attend.

By Kevin Flowers  
kevin.flowers@timesnews.com

The proposal to launch a community college in Erie County was a polarizing, contentious political issue in 2010. A new community college plan is again raising questions in the region about finances, curriculum and whether the

school is necessary. The 2010 community college proposal ultimately failed because no entity was willing to be the school's state-required local sponsor. But with this new effort, led by nonprofit Empower Erie, that appears to have changed, and a majority of Erie County Council's seven members

seem ready to commit county government to a portion of the school's financial responsibility if the college becomes a reality. County Council is scheduled to vote on community college sponsorship at a special meeting June 27. At least four members of the panel — Council Chairman Jay

Breneman, Councilwoman Kathy Fatca and Councilmen Andre Horton and Fiore Leone — have told the Erie Times-News they will vote in favor of sponsorship. Councilwoman Carol Loll is opposed, Councilman Ed DiMattio is undecided and

## COLLEGE

Continued from A1

Councilman Kyle Foust, a Mercyhurst University employee, has indicated he will abstain because the new school could compete with his employer. Empower Erie commissioned a feasibility study that it says shows strong support and need for a local community college. In addition, a team of experts working with Empower Erie authored a community plan that concludes the college can be funded via private donations and county gambling revenues for its first five years.

Unlike 2010, Empower Erie's plan has major financial support behind it already, before a sponsorship vote.

The Erie Community Foundation, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Susan Hirt Hagen Fund for Transformational Philanthropy collectively have contributed \$300,000 toward the effort. The Hagen Fund and Gaming Revenue Authority have promised an additional \$3.7 million if Erie County Council ultimately votes to create a community college.

There are 14 community colleges in Pennsylvania. They are funded by a combination of state monies, local dollars and student tuition.

With County Council's vote approaching, here are some questions, and answers, that provide context regarding the issue.

**What are the arguments for and against a community college in terms of need?**

### Endorsements

These are the groups that have come out in support of the community college plan. Members of Erie County Council said more could be on the way. Endorsements will help the county make its case when the plan is submitted to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education for approval.

- Erie City Mission
- Corry Higher Education Council
- Erie Community Foundation
- Greater Erie Community Action Committee
- Mercy Center for Women
- Erie City Council
- United Way of Erie County
- Erie Regional Manufacturer Partnership
- Erie City School District Board of School Directors
- Northwestern School District
- PSEA Northwest Region
- AFSCME Local 13
- Erie-Crawford Central Labor Council
- Great Lakes Building Trades
- IBEW Local 56
- U.E. Local 506
- Fort LeBoeuf School District

Empower Erie officials and other supporters say a community college would help Erie build a skilled workforce and provide a more affordable educational option for many area residents than the region's four-year colleges and for-profit trade schools.

The school's target population would likely include, but not be limited to, students who did not go to college immediately after high school, for whatever reason; displaced workers looking to be retrained for a new occupation; and college-educated adults who want to further their education

to help advance their careers.

Erie lawyer Ron DiNicola, Empower Erie's chairman and co-founder, has said a community college can provide "a gateway to our future," and he has cited the fact that the Erie region is the largest area in Pennsylvania without direct access to a community college.

Opponents say the school is unnecessary when local colleges and trade schools provide similar courses. Some local officials and residents are also concerned about escalating costs.

"The colleges that we have are more than capable of handling what needs to be done," said Loll, the Erie County councilwoman. "We have to protect the taxpayers from having to pay a big bill."

**Is county government obligated financially if county sponsorship is approved?**

County Council approval of sponsorship means that the county agrees to pay the local share of the community college's costs. But the community college plan must be submitted to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, and the state would have to approve the new school before the county officially would assume any financial responsibility.

According to Empower Erie's plan, the school would see annual operating expenses and revenues of nearly \$7 million in its first year, with each of those numbers increasing to roughly \$14 million annually by its fifth year.

Student tuition at the school would start at \$2,400, increasing to \$2,800 over the same time frame. In addition,

See COLLEGE, A10

## COLLEGE

Continued from A9

The school hopes to privately raise millions of additional dollars to pay for capital improvements and equipment over its first 10 years.

The community college plan forecasts a county funding obligation of \$2.2 million the school's first year, increasing to \$1.5 million in its fifth year. The plan suggests that in a few years the county can redirect almost \$4 million now earmarked for annual long-term debt payments to cover the local share of funding.

Erie accountant Joe Maloney, who advises County Council on financial matters, was not comfortable with the financial projections related to the 2010 community college proposal.

However, Maloney has been working with Empower Erie officials on the new plan, and he believes the financial projections are more solid this time around.

"This is a very conservative look at the finance end," Maloney said. "The long-term projections I talked on a lot of in-kind contributions, government grants and contributions from outside entities. We put none of that into the projection. And we have commitments for local support that we need to live with, we need as far as the state is concerned," Maloney said.

**Who benefits or could be hurt by a community college?**

Supporters of the college plan believe local employers and students who struggle to afford an education at a four-year college or trade school are among those who would benefit most from a community college.

"As business leaders in Erie County and as manufacturers, we understand how important an educated workforce is to our businesses," Jim Rutkowski Jr., chairman of the Erie Regional Manufacturing Partnership, said this past week.

Rutkowski is the general manager of Industrial Sales & Manufacturing Inc., a contract manufacturer whose customers include GE Transportation. The organization has formally endorsed Empower Erie's plan and is urging County Council to approve county sponsorship.

"We collectively hope that a community college makes affordable education opportunities

available to our residents," Rutkowski said in a statement. "A community college will give the business community an additional competitive advantage by providing a workforce prepared to meet the needs we require to help both our businesses and our community grow."

Erie businessman Rick Griffith said he has no issue with the concept of a traditional community college. However, Griffith suggests the establishment of a new school could have negative effects in the community.

Griffith is the owner of two for-profit trade schools — Great Lakes Institute of Technology and the Erie Institute of Technology — that would have to compete with a local community college.

"The for-profit sector is flexible and it will be fine," Griffith said. However, he is concerned about "some of the secondary education options that exist now, aimed at making it affordable for students."

Griffith mentioned that Edinboro University of Pennsylvania's Portico College in Millersburg Township was created to fill the community college void in Erie County, offering lower-level courses than a traditional four-year school. In addition, Mercyhurst University has offered freshman-level courses at Erie's Booker T. Washington Center at low or no cost to inner-city students, and the school's North East campus since 1991 has provided a curriculum similar to community college offerings.

"If one, two or three of those go away because of a community college, have we really gained?" Griffith said. Griffith also said that the region "has a basic problem with public education where many students are graduating and aren't ready for college periods." And he mentioned that if the county commits millions of dollars a year to a community college, county government might not have available funds "when the next big transformational project comes along."

**What courses might a community college offer Erie County?**

According to Empower Erie's feasibility study, the new school could offer curriculum that includes engineering, welding, computer security, accounting, journalism, fitness and marketing instruction.

The school would offer one- and two-year programs, including associate degrees and certificates.

Much of the curriculum would also be designed as a pathway to a degree at a four-year college or university. Further, "remedial education" students need to succeed in a four-year degree program would be offered.

Via formal articulation agreements with other four-year institutions, according to the study, student credits earned at a community college would transfer to a four-year school.

In addition, the school would offer continuing education courses for students interested in improving job skills, achieving a special certification or simply to "enjoy the experience of learning something new," according to the feasibility study.

The school could also offer specific workforce training programs designed to meet the needs

of specific employers. "Employers in the area, in all the industrial parks, believe that we need to be concerned about developing training for our workforce for the future," said Barbara Chaffee, chief executive of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, which endorses Empower Erie's community college plan.

What is the difference between the proposed community college and the new Rural Regional College?

The most obvious difference will be brick and mortar. An Erie County community college would have a campus, or at least a building with classrooms, career labs, administrative offices and basic student services, plus room for expansion from there.

Empower Erie's plan

looked at 35 potential sites, including the Robinson-Cousor building at West Eighth and Sassafras streets and Erie's Emerson-Gedley School. Other schools closed at the end of the 2016-17 academic year by the Erie School District and Catholic Diocese of Erie could also be considered.

Classes also are expected to be offered at satellite sites throughout the county.

The Rural Regional College of Northern Pennsylvania has no campus. Start-up classes for the Rural Regional College this summer meet in schools, training centers, libraries and other public facilities in nine counties, including the Erie County Technical School and Genesee University.

Students interact via the internet with instructors who are often miles away. "It's very sophisticated

equipment student in ask a guest a two-way forth with Erie, and we don't," said a retired instructor who presides over the Erie offices are vice president instructors — Erie.

Genesee programs Regional CC accredited to The college full academic

Staff writers Mary and N contribute Erie News reached at 8 or by email. On Twitter a.com/27V16



# VIEWPOINT

## OUR VIEW

### Lawmakers' gambling vote lacked transparency

**The issue:** House abruptly amends gaming bill  
**Our view:** Public should vet ECGRA changes

**W**e will leave aside, for now, the question of whether the legalization of slots-like video gambling machines in taverns, bowling alleys, truck stops, golf courses and clubs is an advisable strategy to resolve Pennsylvania's budgetary crisis.

Of more immediate concern is the portion of an early morning, surprise amendment to House Bill 271 that could radically alter the manner in which Erie County has been distributing the millions it receives annually from Presque Isle Downs & Casino.

The state Senate had passed legislation in May that dramatically expanded gaming and, critically, for Erie County, fixed language governing the local share of gaming revenues for casino host communities that the state Supreme Court had deemed unconstitutional.

The House of Representatives took up the bill and in the wee morning hours Wednesday jammed in an amendment that further expanded legalized gambling by permitting video gambling terminals to be littered across the state. Lawmakers also, to the surprise of many here, added language that could lead to the dismantling of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, and designated carve-outs specific to Erie County: \$500,000 a year to the city of Erie to fund emergency services and infrastructure projects and \$1.5 million to fund blight reduction throughout the county. Under the House bill, Erie County government, not ECGRA, will decide how to spend the remaining \$8 million of the county's \$10 million local gaming share.

Rep. Curt Sonney, of Harborcreek Township, R-4th Dist., said he pushed for the blight reduction carve-out and voted for the bill. Citizens will have more say over the casino money disbursements if elected officials are in charge, he said.

Others who voted against the measure, including Pat Harkins, of Erie, D-1st Dist., and Ryan Bizzarro, of Millcreek, D-3rd Dist., did so only because of concerns the video gambling expansion would harm casinos.

Prior to Thursday, the local delegation gave no sign we know of that they had any aim other than to restore the local share of the county's gaming revenues.

It is possible the disbursement of gaming revenues through ECGRA should be revisited — but never like this. Legislators had a duty to inform constituents they were inclined to tinker with the mechanism to distribute this vital revenue stream. ECGRA's board is selected by Erie County Council and its grants — \$44 million since 2009 — are distributed throughout the county to impact key needs. It has been held up as a possible model for the state.

If local lawmakers think that needs to change, they must explain clearly why and give the public the opportunity to respond, especially since they say they are motivated by a desire to improve accountability.

Fortunately, there will be time to do that before the Senate takes up the amended House bill. Start talking.



## Gambling bill creates uncertainty for county, authority

By Nico Salvatore  
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Erie County elected officials were still reacting on Friday to legislation that would give county government sole authorization over the distribution of a local share of gambling money. County government now splits an annual allocation with the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority for being the host county of Presque Isle Downs & Casino in Summit Township. A gambling expansion bill moving through the state Legislature would remove the Gaming Revenue Authority from the process.

The bill was rushed through the House on Wednesday night shortly after being unveiled, taking members of Erie County Council by

surprise. Council members and Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper said on Friday it was too soon to say how they would distribute additional casino money, or if they would establish a grant-making system modeled after the Gaming Revenue Authority, which has invested millions of dollars of gambling funds to spur economic development and help nonprofits.

"There hasn't been any discussion because we don't know exactly what's going to happen as far as legislation is concerned," Erie County Councilman Flore Leone said.

House Bill 271 passed the House by a 102-89 vote and faces an uncertain future. Changes to the bill made in the House could prove unpopular

See GAMBLING, A5

## GAMBLING

Continued from A1

when it returns to the Senate, which passed an earlier version in May.

Erie County's delegation in Harrisburg largely supports putting local share gambling funds entirely in the hands of county government. Lawmakers said distribution should be up to elected officials, and some said removing the Gaming Revenue Authority would save on overhead costs.

"Acting as a middle-man removes \$400,000 a year that could go to the Erie Zoo, economic development programs, the food pantries or dozens of other good things that ECGRA distributes local share funds to," said state Rep. Brad Rose, a Republican from Crawford County whose 6th District includes parts of Erie County.

Perry Wood, executive director of the Gaming Revenue Authority, said the authority's 2016-17 budget includes \$412,930 for salaries, legal costs of operating an authority, administrative oversight and for measuring the outcomes of nearly 1,000 investments.

Wood said the figure is "average for a grant-maker" and includes "outreach dollars to ensure every nonprofit in every corner of Erie County knows how to access gaming revenue." Rose said he made a request to include language in HB 271 that would give county government sole control of the funds. He and other local lawmakers, including state Rep. Pat Harkins, of Erie, had talked about the idea at some point before Wednesday's vote, but

market-wire.com attributed to

money. Authority was established in part to keep local share money out of the hands of politicians.

"ECGRA was set up as an economic development organization under the oversight of County Council to pursue projects that were outside the whims of shortsighted political decisions," Breneman said.

Erie County is unique in the way it distributes gaming funds, which lawmakers said complicates their ability to advocate for the region. "It puts us in a tough position to ask our caucus leaders for additional dollars for various projects in the region when they see and comment on how we're not spending what we have appropriately," Bizzarro said.

"With that said, at this point, it is more important that Erie has its local share and that Pennsylvania has a healthy gaming industry moving forward."

Harkins, D-1st Dist., said removing the Gaming Revenue Authority helps the bill pass legal muster. The Legislature was forced to revisit the local share assessment of Pennsylvania's original 2004 gambling law because of a state Supreme Court ruling from September

in place. Let that person handle all of the paperwork and present the requests to council for its approval. Use space in the Erie County Courthouse for his or her office and have an additional \$300,000 to \$400,000 to put back into the community?

The authority has served its purpose. They have done a great job, but with budget problems ahead it's time to look really hard at additional moneys. I am surprised that the county executive has not put this forward to council.

— Ron "Whitey" Cleaver, Erie

that said the formula was unconstitutional.

Erie County government and the Gaming Revenue Authority have split roughly \$11 million annually under the original law.

House Bill 271 reduces the allocation, but not by much. The local share would be \$10 million, most of which — \$8 million — could be used at county government's discretion.

The bill carves out two state-required allocations: \$500,000 annually for the city of Erie to fund emergency services and infrastructure projects, as well as \$15 million annually for an Erie County land bank set up to reduce blight.

Wood said the authority's next step will be to lobby the Senate to amend HB 271 so that the authority can continue to receive and distribute gaming revenue is solely distributed by county government."

State Sen. Dan Laughlin, of Millcreek Township, R-49th Dist., said he believes the issue needs further scrutiny.

"I have to sit down and look at it," Laughlin said. "It wasn't even on my radar."

He added: "The bigger issue, rather than who gets to decide how to spend the money, is whether we get the money in the first place."

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## Ex-councilman suggests ending Gaming Authority

Now that the casino revenue situation seems to be settled, I'd like to make a suggestion. Erie County Council created the Gaming Revenue Authority and its members have the power to abolish it. I was a strong advocate of this authority when I served on County Council, and as council chairman I served as the first chairman until officers were elected and a chief executive appointed.

The time has come for a change. I do not believe the county needs an authority to distribute money from gaming. We have seven County Council members who represent all of the areas in the county. The authority has the same number of board members that are appointed by each council member. The budget for the authority is close to \$400,000 — rent, payroll, etc. Does it not make sense to eliminate the authority, hire an individual at \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year?

All of the criteria are in place. Let that person handle all of the paperwork and present the requests to council for its approval. Use space in the Erie County Courthouse for his or her office and have an additional \$300,000 to \$400,000 to put back into the community?

The authority has served its purpose. They have done a great job, but with budget problems ahead it's time to look really hard at additional moneys. I am surprised that the county executive has not put this forward to council.

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