



"MAKE THE CLARION CALL"

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Clarion County Economic Development Corporation  
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## CORPORATION NEWS

### **I-80 Tolling Impact Study Rollout Event, October 12, 2009**

*I-80 Tolling Impact Study*, which was prepared by [Dr. Tracy C. Miller](#) who is an Associate Professor of Economics at Grove City College, was presented to the public on October 12, 2009 at rollout events at Lamar and Grove City. This report examines the consequences of implementing tolls on Interstate 80 as proposed by Act 44 of 2007. It critically evaluates arguments for tolling I-80 in light of economic theory and evidence and presents data on the various costs that will result, and who will bear those costs. Copies of the study and presentation can be access by clicking on the following hyperlinks:

[Executive Summary](#)

[Complete I-80 Tolling Impact Study](#)

[I-80 Presentation](#)

### **Eggs & Answers 23, December 3, 2009 Economic Review of 2009 and Economic Forecast for 2010**

Clarion, PA – The 23<sup>rd</sup> Eggs & Answers will feature a panel to discuss the economic events of 2009 and offer a forecast of 2010 economy followed by questions and answers. The program starts at 7:30 am on Thursday, December 3, 2009.

This event will take place at the Holiday Inn Clarion located at 45 Holiday Inn Road, Clarion, PA 16214. The event starts at 7:30 am with breakfast, and the panel presentation starts at 8 am. Tickets for the event are \$10 per person if pre-paid before November 25, 2009. Tickets are \$15 after November 25. To register, please e-mail your contact information along with the number of requested tickets to [info@callclarionpa.com](mailto:info@callclarionpa.com) or call Mary Jo Ford at (814) 226-9045. Checks payable to the Clarion County Economic Development Corporation should be sent to 21 North 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Clarion, PA 16214.

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## FEATURED RESOURCE PARTNER



### [Regional Center for Workforce Excellence](#)

The Regional Center for Workforce Excellence (RCWE) serves as direct staff and fiscal agent to the Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The Workforce Investment Board is a state mandated group (in response to a Federal legislative Act) the composition of which is primarily private sector individuals responsible for the system by which employers and job seekers come together. This includes ensuring the quality and focus of training is aligned with the knowledge, skills and abilities of the occupations within the industry sectors in the regional economy, especially those reflecting high growth or emerging as such.

To accomplish this, it's necessary to rely upon Business Service Representatives who act as liaisons between employers and the CareerLinks providing referrals between the two; Industry Partnerships who bring together employers within an industry sector to identify shared needs and create synergies; County Level Workforce Development Teams who address workforce development issues shared across industry sectors and Regional Workforce Development Teams who address workforce development issues shared across the six counties that comprise the Northwest Regional Workforce Development Area. Each of these groups is assisted by the Northwest PA Workforce Development Network, a network of educational providers, economic development organizations, government and Chambers of Commerce with whom the RCWE partners.

Very basically, the Regional Center for Workforce Excellence is responsible for analyzing the regional labor market in order to ensure federal and state workforce development funding is used so as to create a return on each dollar so invested far greater than the \$1.00 value of currency. Human capital is the most important component of a region's ability to remain consistently sustainable, as life-long learning is key to the economic, environmental and social viability necessary for generations of individuals to continuously meet one another's needs.

Therefore, knowledge and understanding of the actual characteristics and attributes of the regional workforce, together with a thorough understanding of the skills, knowledge and abilities necessary to successfully accomplish those occupations within industries experiencing sustainable high growth (or emerging as such) within our economy, are imperative to our region's ability to compete in a tremendously competitive world economy.

If we're not investing our training dollars in support of providing the type of education that lends itself to the need for ever increasing amounts of knowledge; we're not fulfilling our mission within the Workforce Investment Act which requires that we facilitate the process that allows employers and employees to come together for the creation of the synergy necessary to be a viable regional community.

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Here's an example of how it works: In collaboration with economic development, analysis reflects that due to an existing older demographic, which will increase significantly now the earliest of the "babyboomer" generations has reached age 65, the healthcare industry within our regional economy will experience significant growth to accommodate their needs. Historically, the healthcare industry has experienced difficulty in recruiting individuals to employment especially within direct care. As economic conditions have worsened, there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals who haven't lost a position, seeking employment. In other words, individuals who haven't been in the job market previously, are entering; i.e., homemakers, retired individuals, etc. Also, directly correlative to the loss of employment, individuals having no experience in the healthcare industry, but possessing transferable skills are seeking employment.

The Healthcare Industry Partnership has completed an analysis of the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the high priority occupations within their industry (regionally) funded by Industry Partnership Development funds. They, in conjunction with the Erie CareerLink and its partnering organization GECAC (Greater Erie Community Action Committee), the Northwest PA Area Health Education Center and the Regional Center for Workforce Excellence have come together to utilize a PA Funds for Workforce Solution grant to run a Pilot program providing assessment of job seekers to ascertain: those with the aptitude to perform in the healthcare industry, but lacking basic educational skills and therefore needing to obtain a GED; those with the aptitude to perform in the healthcare industry, but needing work-readiness skills; those with the aptitude to perform in the healthcare industry, but needing industry recognized work-readiness skills; and finally those with the aptitude to perform in the healthcare industry, but needing a Certificate or Associate Degree.

The completion of these assessments, allows quicker entry by a greater number of job seekers to the healthcare industry. Many former manufacturing employees are gaining employment in the healthcare field because of the ability of their existing knowledge, skills and abilities to be matched to occupations within the healthcare industry. As they work within their new industry, they bring fresh ideas and innovation to bear based upon their previous occupations.

Yet another aspect of this project, a direct result of economic development's Business Retention and Expansion Calling Program working in concert with workforce development's Business Service Representatives is On the Job Training which allows for longer term, more comprehensive training to substantively upgrade employee skill levels, it creates opportunities for new hires as upgraded employees are promoted into more highly skilled positions or those with more responsibility. The educational programs are often developed and delivered by the educational providers within the Northwest PA Workforce Development Network supported by entities such as the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center.

Other partners within the "network" are also helping to connect jobseekers with these healthcare industry positions through the RCWE's affiliation with faith based organizations providing public assistance clients with the most basic workforce skills and resume preparation.

The successful completion of this Pilot Project will see this system be rolled out across all industry sectors throughout the Northwest Region. It's the epitome of career ladders and lattices and how they work not just within industry, but also across industry as well.

Without the collaborative effort afforded by the Northwest PA Workforce Development Network, projects like this would not be possible. This is only one example from one industry sector. There are many more. If you've got a project in mind, please contact Ray Fryan or Brad Ehrhart at (814) 226-9045 to put this network to work for you.

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## FEATURED CLARION COUNTY AVAILABLE SITE

### [Trinity Point at Monroe](#)



Clarion Trinity Development Co. (CTDC) continues progress on the development of "Trinity Point at Monroe," this mixed-use business park development is located directly on Interstate 80 at Exit 62. The development contains 98.32 developed acres designated as a Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ) providing state and local tax relief benefits to qualified occupants for ten years from date of occupancy in the park. Further incentives are now available through the newly formed Northwest PA Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ). The KIZ includes Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny College, Thiel College, and University of Pittsburgh Titusville. Incentives through the KIZ will support business related to advanced manufacturing, information technology, clean technology, and biotech/life sciences.

All infrastructure and utilities are available and provided throughout the development including two service providers of high-speed broadband communications. Over 5,000 feet of on-site access roads and utilities have been completed, including park entrance turning lanes and signalization at the intersection of Trinity Drive and State Route 68.

The Barnes Center at Clarion University opens this month; current tenants include the Small Business Development Center, Clarion Trinity Development Co., Clarion Research Group and Nanoblox. This 23,000 square foot LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building features 13,000 square feet of incubator space and the facility is expandable to 80,000 square feet.

Trinity Point has been selected for one of the five new State Police Communication and Dispatch Centers being constructed across the state. The site was selected because of dual grid electric supply and its two separate fiber optic telecommunications lines.

Clarion Trinity Development Co. is currently offering parcels for sale with flexible-size lots, land leases, and build-to-suit options available. The site is suitable for retail; type A office space, light manufacturing, research, and medical facilities, hotels, and professional housing.

For more information please visit their web site at [www.clarionbiz.com](http://www.clarionbiz.com) or contact: Tim Reddinger at CTDC (814) 227-8263; FAX at (814) 764-5652; or E-mail at [tim@clarionbiz.com](mailto:tim@clarionbiz.com).

### Newsletter Links!

Center for eBusiness and Advanced IT - <http://www.ebizitpa.org> (Click on Program Events)

Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry - <http://www.clarionpa.com/events/index.php>

The Clarion Career Link Center - <http://www.clarioncareerlink.org>

CUP Continuing Education Events/Classes - <http://www.clarion.edu/ce>

CUP SBDC Events/Classes/Workshops - [www.clarion.edu/SBDC/Classes.asp](http://www.clarion.edu/SBDC/Classes.asp)

Keystone Community Education Council - <http://www.keystonecec.org/newsletter.htm>

Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce - <http://newbethlehemarea.com/events>

The Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, Inc. - <http://www.nwirc.org>

Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission  
<http://www.nwcommission.org/northwest.html>

Northwest Pennsylvania Workforce Development - <http://www.nwpawib.org>

PA Department of Community and Economic Development Newsletter:  
<http://www.newpa.com/default.aspx?id=266>

Penn State Cooperative Extension & Outreach - <http://www.extension.psu.edu>

PennTAP-Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program - <http://www.penntap.psu.edu>

Penn State University DuBois - Continuing Education - <http://www.ds.psu.edu/ce>