

PRESS RELEASE

Fay-Penn Announces New Fayette Manufacturing Consortium

Fay-Penn Economic Development Council, in conjunction with the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, Connellsville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Mon Valley Alliance, announced the launch of the Fayette Manufacturing Consortium. The Consortium will connect Fayette County manufacturers and offer assistance resources for them to be competitive in a global marketplace, collaborate on enhancing local supply chains, share challenges and best practices, and heighten public awareness of the industry in Fayette County.

A kickoff workshop will be held on August 4th from 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Representatives from Catalyst Connection, Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) and Steel Valley Authority (SVA) will speak on a variety of topics, including talent attraction and retention, internships, energy savings assessments, energy project grants, marketing, exporting, product development, six sigma, training, quality, technology development, competitive strategy, financial resources, and lean manufacturing.

Fay-Penn executive director Bob Shark explained the benefit of creating the Consortium. "This association will strengthen alliances among our manufacturers and the organizations that can help them. It's the best way to provide our local manufacturing industry every resource that's available to them, and to ensure they have value-added opportunities to collaborate."

Steve Hranec, owner of Hranec Sheet Metal in Uniontown, said having something like the Fayette Manufacturing Consortium is beneficial for businesses to help with pre-training employees or vocational school students. "Hranec Corp. continues to expand its product line, and these resources have helped the company to grow and to become more competitive. Besides, manufacturing provides very good jobs for our area. It's important for residents and business owners of Fayette County to see that," he said. Ted Stilgenbauer, president and chief operating officer of Heartland Fabrication in Brownsville, agreed. "I'm looking forward to engaging with the Fayette Manufacturing Consortium to enhance our supply chain and to stimulate the growth of manufacturing in Southwestern Pennsylvania."

Terri Campbell of Catalyst Connection said, "This Consortium not only will provide the opportunity to share best practices and increase usage of resources to support company success, but also provide a vehicle to express needs so those needs can be addressed."

The workshop is open to any manufacturing business in Fayette County and can be attended either in-person at the FNB Business Event Center (1040 Eberly Way, Lemont Furnace) or virtually. There is no cost. Register by contacting Sandy McClelland at sandym@faypenn.org or 724.437.7913.

Fay-Penn is a non-profit organization dedicated to the economic growth of Fayette County. For additional information regarding the above projects, or to receive information on how Fay-Penn's loan fund can help YOU and your business, please contact us at 724-437-7913.

