

ALTOONA-BLAIR COUNTY

FIRST FRONTIER

N E T W O R K

SEED CAPITAL - MENTORSHIP - STRATEGIC PLANNING - RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



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WWW.FIRSTFRONTIERNETWORK.COM



“There is no better community to pursue your entrepreneurial passion than Blair County, PA. We are a great mountain town with vast resources and mentors.”

Donny Beaver, President, HalenHardy



> **THE FIRST FRONTIER NETWORK**

Altoona-Blair County has a strong history as a community of entrepreneurs. Our locally born businesses employ more than 9,000 local residents and contribute more than \$100 million in economic impact each year. We want to keep this track record going through the First Frontier Network.

The Altoona-Blair County First Frontier Network was formed with a simple goal: Connect those in Blair County with new business ideas with those who are willing and able to help them along. From someone with a vision for a mountain main street business to those offering that “eureka” invention that could change the world, the First Frontier Network can help get things rolling.

The Network has brought together local individuals with diverse experiences in business, investing, technology, construction, and community development to name just a few. These folks are interested in learning about new business ideas, inventions and products that could be developed right here in Blair County. Network members work together as a group or individually to provide entrepreneurs with seed capital, mentorship, resource development strategies, referrals or all of the above – really whatever it takes to either get to the next level or move on to something else.

> **HOW TO ENGAGE THE NETWORK**

So how do you plug in to the Network? It’s pretty simple.

First, submit an opportunity profile form. This will tell us what you have cooking at a high level. Next, our team will review and arrange a quick call or meeting with you to discuss the concept in a bit more detail. If things are still good after that, we will send the profile form to the network members for their review and feedback. The goal here is to secure a “Champion” or two for your opportunity. If that happens, a meeting will be arranged for you to meet with the Champion(s) and dive deeper into the nitty-gritty. These discussions can remain confidential. Next things can go in a variety of directions depending on your opportunity’s state-of-readiness and need. You may work together to identify and engage other “been there-done that” people to help increase the chances of success as you define it.

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> NETWORK PARTNERS

Penn State Altoona: PSU-Altoona has been expanding its entrepreneurial services and expertise to benefit students, faculty and the community. The Sheetz Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence provides formal training and a launch pad for new student led start-ups. Their engineering, business and research offer value propositions for the area and represent sources for new idea generation.

Ben Franklin Technology Partners: Ben Franklin is the leading seed stage capital provider for the region's technology sectors, investing in excess of \$175 million in more than 1,750 companies. Ben Franklin has also launched university/industry partnerships that have accelerated scientific discoveries into commercialization, and has seeded regional initiatives that strengthen our entrepreneurial community.

Penn State 1855 Capital: 1855 Capital is a seed and early stage venture capital fund investing in companies with an affinity to Penn State University. They develop investment opportunities by engaging with current faculty/staff and students involved in world-class research efforts as well as the 600,000+ alumni network. Sectors include information technology, advanced materials, healthcare/medical devices.

Small Business Development Center: The SBDC provides confidential and free business services. Generally, services provided by the SBDC include: Start-up Procedures, Financial Proposals, Business Plan Development, Accounting and Recordkeeping/Payroll Procedures, Financing, Cash Flow Development/Analysis, and Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP).

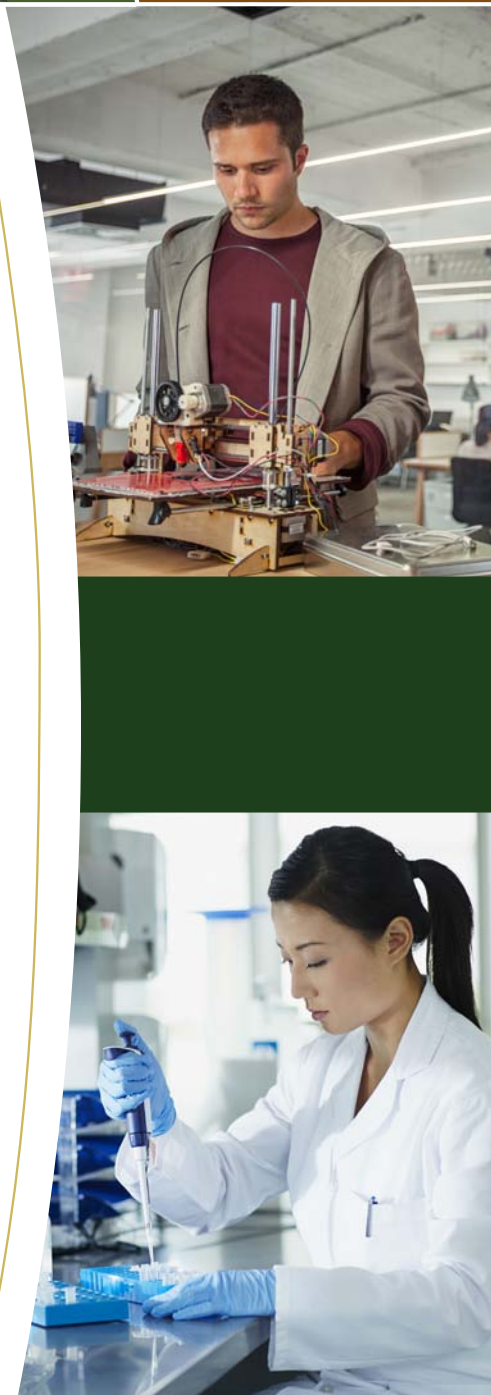
Catalyst Space: A unique makerspace in Downtown Altoona. Catalyst Space builds lasting partnerships with the most cutting edge businesses and educators at the top of their field. They offer state-of-the-art advanced (3D) manufacturing capabilities, unique educational experiences, and an environment where anything is possible if you can imagine it.

Altoona-Blair County Development Corp.: ABCD's mission is to retain, expand, grow and attract business investment and job growth in the Blair County region. ABCD coordinates the Network, hosts events, provides networking and introductions for entrepreneurs and members.

> CONTACT THE NETWORK

We formed the Network because we know it can be tough to get a business or invention started. Get advice and input from those who have walked that long entrepreneurial walk right here among the mountains of Blair County.

Contact your "First Frontier Network" Communication Manager Today!
Matthew Fox - 814-944-6113 - mattf@abcdcorp.org



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> **READY, SET, GO...**

The Altoona-Blair County First Frontier Network is committed towards assisting entrepreneurs and emerging companies in Blair County, Pennsylvania, or who are just setting up shop.

What's Next?

- Complete the online Intake Form
- We contact you to schedule a meeting
- Initial Meeting (1 hour): We will want to discuss your answers to the intake survey. You can bring a PowerPoint presentation and/or Business Plan for additional background information.
- Depending on the outcome, next steps may include connections with:
 - ♦ A First Frontier Network Mentor
 - ♦ St. Francis University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for Business Plan completion
 - ♦ Research and development resources at Penn State Altoona
 - ♦ Technical assistance through Ben Franklin Technology Partners or Catalyst Space

Note: All information shared with the Altoona-Blair County First Frontier Network via intake form or disclosed in meetings will be considered confidential unless otherwise directed.

> **GET STARTED TODAY**

Visit us online at www.FirstFrontierNetwork.com to access the Intake Survey as well as additional Network information.

You can also contact your "First Frontier Network" Communication Manager, Matthew Fox at 814-944-6113 or mattf@abcdcorp.org

DISCLAIMER: The Altoona Blair County First Frontier Network is for communication exchange purposes only. The Network does not solicit funding, provide financial or investing advice. There are no dedicated funds raised or managed by the Network. Individuals and partners affiliated with the Network who learn of opportunities through the Network elect to enter into their own stand-alone legal and financial relationships at their own cost and based on their own unique, qualifiers, terms, conditions and risk. The Altoona Blair County Development (ABCD) Corporation serves only as a communication manager and marketer of the Network. ABCD Corporation does not prequalify or evaluate the financial, market or technical viability of any project opportunity presented through the Network. Accordingly, communicating opportunities through the Network should not be construed as an endorsement by ABCD of any idea or opportunity. The parties who utilize the communication opportunities that the Network provides assume the risks (and/or benefits) of the business relationships developed thereby.

MANAGED BY:



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DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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