Altoona Blair County Development Corporation

Building for a Better Tomorrow in the Heart of the I-99 Corridor

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Altoona Blair County Development Corporation
2016 Annual Report
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

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Bruno DeGol, Jr., Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Steve Foreman, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Alan Krier, Esq. - Solicitor

Kathryn Richards, Esq. - Solicitor

2016 HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

Dedication of the Martin J. Marasco Business Park

Groundbreaking for Sheetz Store Operations, Learning Center and Daycare Complex

First Annual Agriculture Career Days

Penn State Altoona Penn Building

Groundbreaking for Central States Manufacturing, Inc.

Fairfield Inn & Suites and TownePlace Suites

Graystone Grande Palazzo

Pine Street Avenue Press Building

Granite Rock Palazzo

Dedication of the Martin J. Marasco Business Park

Groundbreaking for Sheetz Store Operations, Learning Center and Daycare Complex
A Look Back - A Plan Ahead

Annual meetings are a time to take stock, reenergize and plan ahead. We experienced big changes in 2016. A new and different set of national policy priorities were rolled out. Technological innovation is a constant change maker and last year was no exception. We also experienced a change in leadership at ABCD presenting the opportunity to build upon legacy accomplishments and set a course for next generation investment.

Changes like these make planning critical. Too often though, those plans produce no clear course for action. Worse yet, they can create lofty expectations based upon unobtainable goals. With that in mind, last year ABCD initiated five working group discussions focused on key pillars within ABCD’s overall operational plan. Those pillars include: 1) Housing; 2) Entrepreneurship; 3) Core Programs; 4) Reuse and Infill; and 5) Community Brand and Engagement.

Numerous stakeholders were engaged in these discussions bringing a variety of domain expertise and vision for future growth and development. The goal was to develop a series of specific action items and measures for tracking progress.

While new opportunities were identified, a central theme that connected them all was the need to attract new talent to our region. While there are new jobs and businesses being created locally, many more employment opportunities will result from future retirements. Without a robust talent pipeline to both backfill positions and fuel new business growth, communities like ours can be at risk. We must think big, plan and allocate the resources needed to bring talented individuals back to our community.

We are clearly well positioned to do so. Our mountain environment, higher education partners and proximity to major population centers are key assets that need to be further leveraged. In addition to the ABCD planning efforts, Blair County will also be updating its comprehensive plan. That makes 2017 a very unique time to set the course for the next decade and beyond.

Thomas Friedman, the author of The World is Flat, posed this question - “Are you a community with more memories than dreams, or more dreams than memories?” We should make no small plans. Let’s think Big. Dream Bold. And make it happen.

Message from the President

The Alexander A. Notopoulos Award was created as a tribute to Attorney Notopoulos for his many years of dedicated service to the Altoona/Blair County area. This award was designed to acknowledge outstanding business firms in Blair County. Potential recipients must meet the following criteria:}

- Substantial Business History in Blair County
- Provide Family Sustainable Income
- Expansion of Facilities in Blair County
- Demonstrate a Sense of Community Involvement
- Growth in Employment Levels at Blair County Operations

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Awards Recipients:

1992 Small Tube Products
1993 Penn Jacobson Fastener Corp
1995 Convall
1996 McLachlan Corporation
1997 Benner’s Avoca Oil
1998 Smith Transport
1999 Dettrigo Foods, Inc.
2000 Apelton Papers
2001 NWC, Inc.
2002 Roaring Spring Blank Book Co.
2003 Shefitz, Inc.
2004 Kurzler & Company, Inc.
2005 New Pig Corporation
2006 North American Communications
2007 The Decui Organization
2008 Blair Companies
2009 Imler’s Poultry
2010 Altoona Regional Health System
2011 General Cable
2012 Value Drug Company
2013 Albemarle Corporation
2014 Curry Supply Holdings, Inc.
2015 American Eagle Paper Mills

2016 Award Winner

Ward Transport and Logistics Corp.

Past Award Recipients:

1992 Small Tube Products
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1995 Convall
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1997 Benner’s Avoca Oil
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1999 Dettrigo Foods, Inc.
2000 Apelton Papers
2001 NWC, Inc.
2002 Roaring Spring Blank Book Co.
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With Best Personal Regards,
2016 in Review

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:
- Completion/Dedication of the Martin J. Marasco Park
- Groundbreaking for Sheetz Store Operations, Learning Center & Daycare Complex
- Groundbreaking for Central States Manufacturing’s First PA Production Facility
- Groundbreaking on Graystone Grande Palazzo at Bon Secours Campus
- Completion of Penn Building Project/PSU-Altoona
- Groundbreaking on Wyndham by Wingate
- Groundbreaking on Fairfield Inn & Suites and TownePlace Suites by Marriott

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:
- Back Vail Road Improvement
- Access Improvement to Convention Center Commons
- Access Improvement to Logan Medical Center

SIZE OF PROJECT FUNDING (2016)

10 YEAR IMPACT (2007-2016)

- Description
- Goal
- Result
- Projects Closed
- 33
- 41
- Clients Assisted
- 100
- 99
- Capital Investment
- $69 million
- $60 million
- Program Funding
- $37 million
- $25 million
- New Jobs Committed
- 200
- 162
- Jobs Retained
- 250
- 484

PLACEMAKING AND MARKETING:
- Formation of Ballpark Advisory Committee
- Agriculture Career Day
- Positively Altoona Articles
- Taste of Downtown Altoona Event
- Formation of Tri-Agency Coalition
- Public Access TV Working Group
- Site Selector Visits and Outreach
- Financial Programs Marketing
- POWER Grant Application
- Strategic Planning Working Groups
- Property Assessment and Appeals

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES:
- Staff Transition and Preparation
- IT Review and Upgrades
- Integration of Executive Pulse Software

QUANTITATIVE RESULTS: