



**FIRST
FRONTIER**
BLAIR COUNTY, PA



**ALTOONA BLAIR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
2023 ANNUAL MEETING | MAY 26, 2023
BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER**

Agenda

BREAKFAST

(Upon Arrival)

INVOCATION

Fr. Malachi Van Tassell - St. Francis University

WELCOME & RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

Matthew Fox, Master of Ceremonies

BOARD CHAIR REPORT & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Ron McConnell - Operation Our Town

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Stephen McKnight, President & CEO - ABCD Corp.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Nathan Reigner - PA Director of Outdoor Recreation

"The Impact of an Active Economy"

How Outdoor Recreation Touches all Aspects of Community and Economic Development

BENEDICTION

Fr. Malachi Van Tassell - St. Francis University

Keynote Speaker

NATHAN REIGNER

Pennsylvania's Director of Outdoor Recreation



Nathan is a PhD social scientist with extensive experience analyzing, planning for, managing, and building collaboration to support outdoor recreation at every level from the local to the international.

Throughout his career he has served as a policy analyst, consultant, business owner, university professor, conservation commissioner, and trail club leader, all with a focus on helping communities, parks, trails, and tourism destinations deliver outstanding experiences.

Reigner has worked in and with more than 100 parks, forests, trails, historic sites, and heritage areas in the United States and overseas in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

A native of Pennsylvania, Reigner has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Sociology from Gettysburg College, a Master of Science in Forestry from Virginia Tech, and a Doctorate in Natural Resource Management from the University of Vermont.

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- Altoona Airport
- Altoona Curve
- Altoona First Savings Bank
- American Eagle Paper Mill
- Appalachian Running Company
- Benzel's
- Blair Image Elements
- CNB Bank
- Mr. James Crawford
- Casa Bella at The Grande Palazzo
- Curry Supply Holdings
- DeGol Organization
- DelGrosso's Amusement Park
- DelGrosso Foods
- Everett Railroad
- Explore Altoona
- First National Bank
- Imler's Poultry
- Keller Engineers
- Kish Bank
- KIZ Resources
- Kunzler
- Lawruk Real Estate
- Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.
- Mountain Research
- New Pig Corp.
- NPC
- P. Joseph Lehman Engineers
- Penelec
- Pennsy Properties
- PNC Bank
- Reliance Bank
- S&T Bank
- Sheetz, Inc.
- Spring Cove Container
- St. Francis University
- UPMC Altoona
- Ward Transport & Logistics Corp.
- Warren A. Gingrich Agency
- Yeager and Eberhardt
- Young, Oakes, Brown & Company

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A People First Approach



I started a presentation recently saying, “I’ve never seen a business walk into a coffee shop, a brewery, ride on a trail, or enjoy a concert in a park. People do those things. People start businesses. People invest in and enjoy their communities.”

That seems like a basic point, but too often we economic developers overlook it. Our narrative is focused

on jobs, businesses, and industry sector trends as if it’s all driven by faceless AI, data dumps and market access needs alone. That may have worked in the past, but not now.

Big cities and small towns alike are adopting development strategies that put people first. It’s an approach that recognizes when people love where they live and work, they will stay, invest, and become advocates for their communities. They will help to attract more people, who will invest, and create more businesses.

While human-centric development strategies have been around for a while, their relevancy and impact are growing as a more mobile workforce, amplified by the pandemic, is bringing more flexible earning options for people. People are raising their anchors from traditional employment centers, choosing where they want to live and work rather than where they must.

And when that happens, this happens: *Area Development Magazine’s* national survey of business leaders revealed that “Quality of life” landed the #2 priority spot in their 2023 rankings – a jump from 11th place the previous year. Talent availability was #1.

The magazine reported that “as workers took stock of their lives during the pandemic, they placed greater emphasis on work/life balance, resigning from unfulfilling jobs or opting to continue working remotely, demanding greater flexibility in schedules. Quality of life thereby gained in importance among the site selection factors corporate executives consider when planning their expansion or location moves.”

This is a big move and is why ABCD Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce are doubling down on our place-based strategies and messaging. Our trails, parks, and all active outdoor assets are of equal importance to our roads, water, and broadband infrastructure.

It’s all about attracting people. To do that well we need to continue with a people first approach, turning visitors into permanent residents, investors, a talented workforce, and advocates for our First Frontier Blair County community.

With Best Personal Regards,

OUTDOOR RECREATION VENDOR APPRECIATION

We want to thank the companies and groups listed below that joined us for our annual meeting promoting a sample of the products, experiences, groups and events that the First Frontier Blair County, PA offers visitors and residents to enjoy the outdoors.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



**127 NEW JOBS COMMITTED
267 JOBS RETAINED**



**\$30.3 MILLION
CAPITAL INVESTMENT**



**31 PROJECTS CLOSED
52 APPLICATIONS APPROVED**



CURRY INNOVATION CENTER

Curry Companies completed the renovation of a historic retail complex into the Curry Innovation Center housing their corporate offices and the newly established St. Francis University Chemistry and Engineering advanced degree programs. ABCD Corp. partnered with Curry Companies on the \$4 million purchase and renovation project.

GRAYSTONE CASA BELLA

Groundbreaking officially commenced on the Graystone Casa Bella project which represents a \$35.5 million investment. The new construction will include 190 luxury units for residents 55+, a 220 car parking structure, indoor/outdoor rooftop fitness center with pickleball courts and a halfcourt basketball court.



LEVITY BREWING CO. ALTOONA

Levity Brewing opened its 2,400 sq/ft taproom, kitchen and brewery in a historic building that first opened in 1921. The space has been repurposed into seating for 150 people, 24 taps and a 5-barrel brewhouse. ABCD worked closely with the building owners and Levity partners to bring this unique experience to Downtown Altoona.

BLAIR COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE

ABCD Corp. worked with the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development to create one of the largest concentrations of Enterprise Zones (EZ) in the state. ABCD extended their existing EZ's in the City of Altoona and Logan Township and added new zones in the boroughs of Hollidaysburg, Roaring Spring, Tyrone, and Williamsburg.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



COFFEE ON 3RD

Coffee on 3rd is the borough of Duncansville's first gourmet coffee shop and represents a renovation and repurposing of a former car garage. The business' owner is a third generation entrepreneur on 3rd Avenue in Duncansville and ABCD Corp. was proud to assist in the financing for the purchase and renovation.

ROCKLAND MANUFACTURING - CLAYSBURG

Rockland Manufacturing purchased the 44 acre former Harbison Walker International site in Claysburg to grow their company headquartered in Bedford county, PA. Rockland will utilize and upgrade the rail service to the site as well as renovating some of the existing structures. Rockland offers over 200 products and produces products for OEMs and construction machinery dealers globally.



THE COLUMNS BANQUET CENTER

The Columns Banquet Center in Downtown Altoona completed their comprehensive restoration project and re-opened the historic building for events and office rental space. Skillful craftsmanship by the building owners preserved the architectural and artistic details as they would have been when the building opened in 1924. ABCD Corp. secured Enterprise Zone Tax Credits for the project.

ABCD CORP. ALLOCATED \$4 MILLION IN SSBCI FUNDING

ABCD Corp. was allocated \$4 million through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) to support small businesses. ABCD Corp. was awarded a \$2 million allocation in 2012 under the first round of SSBCI funding. That program was overwhelmingly successful, resulting in private investment match of over \$50 million, the creation of 130 jobs and the retention of another 247 jobs.



ALTOONA INVESTMENT FUND

The Altoona Investment Fund was established through a partnership with the City of Altoona and ABCD Corp. A \$4 million ARPA allocation seeded a revolving loan fund for projects located within the city boundaries. To date, 16 projects have been approved resulting in over \$9 million in private match.

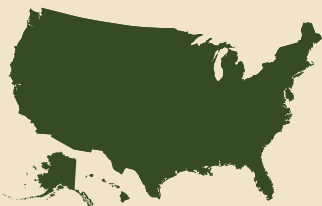


PA's Outdoor Recreation Economy

A \$14 BILLION SECRET

Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation industry drives innovation, incubates entrepreneurs, improves our health and the health of our communities, and turns happy visitors into future Pennsylvanians.

Nationally, outdoor recreation is an economic powerhouse:

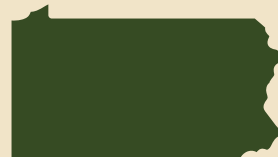


\$862 billion
Gross Economic Output

1.9%
Gross Domestic Product

4.5 million
Jobs in 2021

In Pennsylvania, outdoor recreation contributed nearly:



\$14 billion
to PA's Economy

1.6%
PA's Gross Domestic Product

152,000
Jobs in 2021

The economic output of outdoor recreation surpasses industries such as mining, utilities, farming and ranching, and chemical products manufacturing.

PA RANKS IN THE TOP TEN IN THE NATION IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FOR:



BICYCLING



RVING



CLIMBING



HIKING



TENT
CAMPING



SNOW
ACTIVITIES



EQUESTRIAN
ACTIVITIES



HUNTING



PENNSYLVANIA RANKS

6th

in the nation in outdoor recreation economy size and total employment

PENNSYLVANIA OUTDOOR RECREATION

supports more than

152,000

full time jobs



and adds more to PA's gross domestic product than oil and gas extraction, mining, and quarrying combined.



PA's outdoor recreation manufacturing economy makes snowboards, bicycles, climbing equipment, energy bars and more.



To learn more about Pennsylvania's outdoor economy, contact Nathan Reigner at nreigner@pa.gov

All data sourced from US Bureau of Economic Analysis - Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

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Renae Lynn, Economic Development Loan Specialist
Marcus Edwards, Economic Development Lender
Colleen Carruthers, Executive Assistant



Steve



Tom



Matt



Rachel



Renae



Marcus



Colleen



ALTOONA BLAIR COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

FIRST FRONTIER, PA

YOUR BUSINESS FINANCING PARTNER

LEARN ALL ABOUT US

(HINT: WE'RE ALL ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY)

LOAN PROGRAMS MADE FOR YOU

PIDA

Start with a great rate, that is historically below market. Low fees and easy to apply. Program administered by PA DCED.

FIRST FRONTIER 504 PROGRAM

Low money down! Fixed asset financing with competitive interest rates fixed for up to 25 years. Program administered by the SBA.

INTERNAL FUNDS

Whether it's Enterprise Zone, IRP, Innovate PA or Micro, we have you covered with low rates and low money down. Programs administered by ABCD.

GRANTS & TAX CREDITS

Our trusted team of professionals will help you obtain any grant or tax credit incentives available for your project.

FINANCE WHAT YOU WANT

REAL ESTATE

Acquisition of land and building, renovations, new construction and associated costs eligible.

EQUIPMENT

If you're in need of new or used equipment, you've come to the right place. Terms offered to match the useful life.

WORKING CAPITAL

Need to free up cash flow for your business? We provide short term working capital loans at low rates.

CONTACT ABCD CORP



WEB

Simply visit our website at abcdcorp.org/financing to explore options and programs today.



PHONE

Call 814-944-6113 today to talk with Tom, Renae or Marcus about our financing programs.



IN-PERSON

Stop in to our office at 3900 Industrial Park Drive in Altoona to meet one-on-one with our experienced financing professionals.