

2024
ANNUAL
MEETING

— CELEBRATING NEW HORIZONS —

ORDER OF EVENT

BREAKFAST

Upon Arrival

WELCOME & RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

Matthew Fox
Master of Ceremonies

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Ron McConnell
Operation Our Town

CHAMBER ANNUAL REPORT

Joe Hurd
President/CEO
Blair County Chamber of Commerce

ABCD ANNUAL REPORT & INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER

Stephen McKnight
President/CEO
ABCD Corporation

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Winona Dimeo-Ediger
Co-founder/Chief Creative Officer
Rolecall.pro

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Winona Dimeo-Ediger

Co-founder/Chief Creative Officer
rolecall.pro

Winona has been a digital content creator for nearly a decade, writing about culture, travel, and politics for publications like National Geographic, Rolling Stone, and NPR. For the past few years, she's been able to dig into her love of place marketing and talent attraction content as the editor-in-chief of Livability.com. She's a lover of bookstores, vintage boots, dive bars, and bad jokes.



THE MESSAGE

The characteristics that have made the Blair County Chamber a successful organization for more than 130 years will continue to be “front-and-center” as the Chamber rolls into the Alliance for Business Growth and Economic Development in 2024.



Joe Hurd
President/CEO
Blair County
Chamber of Commerce

Really good ideas sometimes take a little longer to come to fruition. So it isn't at all surprising that two organizations like the Blair County Chamber of Commerce and the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation finally figured out what it takes to be the best of both worlds.

In business, mergers happen all the time. Too often, it's a strong business propping-up a struggling one. Ideally, when both partners are at the top of their games, the strong get even stronger. That was the thought process in the

creation of the Alliance for Business Growth and Economic Development.

For more than two decades, the Chamber and ABCD have been neighbors in the Devorris Center for Business Development. The Chamber has participated in ABCD events; ABCD staff has served on Chamber committees and supported Chamber programs as corporate sponsors. It's worked well but there has always been a sense that more could be done to benefit the local business community.

The merger should help

make that happen. As one organization with a drastically improved system of communication and business promotion, the Alliance will have more viable ways to meet some of the needs that may have fallen through the cracks, particularly related to business growth and grant funding.

Expect to be impressed!

The more things change...the more they remain. No doubt the formation of the Alliance is a big change in many ways. But that change will help us double down on proven strategies and programs; those that help our community weather economic storms and benefit from the new opportunities they create.



Steve McKnight
President/CEO
ABCD Corporation

Blair County's productivity is at an all-time high. Businesses are investing in new technologies like never before. The result is higher skill, higher wage job opportunities across industry sectors. Attracting our next generation residents and investors to the First Frontier Blair County remains our focus. For the next few months, we want you to take part in our strategic planning process. Help us identify what is working and what can

be done better. All is on the table!

2023 was a big year. While the merger took time, business expansions continued unabated. The Altoona Blair County Development Corporation financed 51 expansion projects totaling more than \$29 million in new investment. That helped to create 157 new jobs while retaining more than 320 existing positions.

Several ground breakings and site development work

rounded out a robust year. The fundamentals remain in place for 2024. We look forward to hearing from you; helping us to make our community the best it can be. Keep thinking big. Let's make great things happen.

2023 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS



**157 NEW JOBS COMMITTED
323 JOBS RETAINED**



**\$29.1 MILLION
CAPITAL INVESTMENT**



**39 PROJECTS CLOSED
50 APPLICATIONS APPROVED**



DELGROSSO FOODS

DelGrosso Foods completed the renovation of their new sauce plant in Tipton, PA. The 166,000 sq/ft manufacturing facility is among the largest single business expansions in Blair County history. ABCD Corp. partnered with DelGrosso Foods on the \$60 million purchase and renovation project.

JJ KELLER FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

The JJ Keller Family Limited Partnership purchased the former United Methodist Church in the heart of Downtown Hollidaysburg. The building will be renovated into a community hub. ABCD Corp. provided loan and tax credit financing for the project.



RELIANCE BANK

Reliance Bank announced that it will be relocating their corporate headquarters into The Mill. This represents the first tenant for the building and Reliance Bank will occupy 20,000 sq/ft over three floors. ABCD worked closely with the building owners and Reliance Bank on the site selection project.

A BETTER ADDRESS

A Better Address Altoona, LLC is constructing a new modular-built apartment complex on a former blighted property in the City of Altoona. The complex will include 12 market-rate units with 10 one-bedroom, 1 two-bedroom and 1 efficiency unit. ABCD Corp. secured financing and Enterprise Zone Tax Credits for the project.



2023 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS



BIDDLE'S BREWING

Biddle's Brewing is Williamsburg's first gourmet coffee shop and represents a renovation and repurposing of a former bank building. The owners are Central PA natives who grew their business from a mobile coffee trailer to a permanent location. ABCD Corp. was proud to assist in the financing for the purchase and renovation.

SYLVAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Sylvan Veterinary Hospital purchased the former Calvin House property and will renovate the building into their new location. This is the second project that ABCD Corp. has worked on with Sylvan Veterinary Hospital. The new property will provide ample parking and room for growth.



ORGANIC SNACK COMPANY

The Organic Snack Company, makers of Kate's Real Food Bars, located in Bedford, PA began a 30,000 sq/ft expansion project at their current location. The project represents a \$13.4 million construction and equipment investment. ABCD Corp. secured a \$2.25 million PIDA real estate loan for the project.

PARK PLACE ALTOONA REALTY

Park Place Altoona Realty, LLC secured a \$500,000 Altoona Investment Fund loan through ABCD Corp. for the construction of new market-rate housing within the City of Altoona. The building will consist of 10 units with eight 1-bedroom units and two 2-bedroom units. The \$1.175 million project will reflect a modern flair construction style both to the exterior and interior fixtures.



KB REVITALIZATION, LLC

KB Revitalization, LLC is redeveloping the former Kress Building in Downtown Altoona. The three-story building will contain office/retail space as well as five market-rate apartments on the top floor. ABCD Corp. secured \$1.5 million in financing across several funding programs for the \$4 million project.

BY THE NUMBERS

2023 WAS A BUSY YEAR AT THE BLAIR COUNTY CHAMBER. HERE ARE JUST A FEW THINGS WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON FOR YOUR CONTINUED BUSINESS SUCCESS.



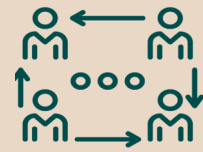
600

FEET OF RIBBON WAS CUT AT THIRTY RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES



1,004

BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS MADE AN INVESTMENT IN CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP



20,000

PEOPLE WERE REACHED EACH WEEK THROUGH THE CHAMBER'S FACEBOOK PAGE



106

YEARS OF CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATED BY FIVE CHAMBER MEMBER BUSINESSES

\$1,500,000

IN FUNDS RAISED FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS THROUGH THE CHAMBER FOUNDATION, SINCE ITS INCEPTION



1,200

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES PARTICIPATED IN THE BASICS CAREER FAIR, HELD IN COLLABORATION WITH BLAIR COUNTY ROTARY CLUBS



118

STUDENTS HAVE GRADUATED AS CEO'S WITH IRS-REGISTERED BUSINESSES THROUGH THE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM



1,175

SERVANT LEADERS, BOTH ADULT AND YOUTH, HAVE GRADUATED FROM THE CHAMBER'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS SINCE THEIR INCEPTION



3,000

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS AND BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE REGION

SPECIAL THANKS

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
AND SUPPORT

1st Summit Bank

Altoona Curve

Altoona First Savings Bank

Altoona-Blair County Airport

Benzel's Bretzel Bakery Inc.

Blair Companies/
American Eagle Paper Mills

CNB Bank

Curry Supply Holdings

DelGrosso Family of Companies

Explore Altoona

Everett Railroad Company

First National Bank of PA

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

Imler's Poultry, Inc.

Keller Engineers, Inc.

Kish Bank

KIZ Resources LLC

Kunzler & Company, Inc.

Lawruk Real Estate

Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.

M&T Bank

Mountain Research, LLC

New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.

New Pig

NPC, Inc.

Okonak Lechner & Co.

Penelec - A FirstEnergy Company

Pennsylvania Highlands
Community College

PennStress

PNC

Reliance Bank

Roaring Spring Family of Businesses

Roberts Oxygen Company Inc.

S&T Bank

Sheetz, Inc.

Stiffler McGraw

Stuckey Automotive

The Warren A. Gingrich Agency

United Datacom Networks, Inc.

UPMC Altoona

Ward Transport & Logistics

Yeager & Eberhardt

Young, Oakes, Brown & Company P.C.

BLAIR ALLIANCE Executive Committee

Ron McConnell, Chair

Ann Benzel, 1st Vice Chair

Mark Ritchey, 2nd Vice Chair

Mike Settimio, Secretary

Philip Freeman, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Hoover, Assistant Treasurer/Secretary

Joseph Sheetz, Assistant Treasurer/Secretary

Clark Stapelfeld, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Troy Campbell, Treasurer

J. Benjamin Yeager, Esquire, Solicitor

ABCD CORPORATION STAFF

Stephen McKnight, President/CEO

Tom Seasoltz, VP Finance/CFO

Matthew Fox, VP Business Retention/Expansion

Rachel Prosser, Accounting Manager

Renaey Lynn, Economic Development Program Manager

Marcus Edwards, SBA Program Administrator/Lender

Colleen Carruthers, Executive Assistant

Board of Directors

Josh Baker

Kris Baronner

Bob Bilger

Andrea Cohen

Derek Coughenour

Dr. Ron Darbeau

Bruno DeGol, III

Michael DelGrosso

Joe Diamond

Richard Fiore, Jr.

Bryan Fisher

Jan Fisher

Nicholas Gates

John Horell

Brian Irwin

Dr. Frank Montecalvo

Matt Pacifico

Eric Palmer

Bo Pratt

John Russell

Kirsten Stratton

Adam Ward

BLAIR COUNTY CHAMBER STAFF

Joe Hurd, President/CEO

Jessie Covert, Membership Development Manager

Jennifer Fleck, Director of Chamber Operations

Brittany Mayer, Digital Media Manager

Laurie Mayer, Accounting Specialist

Megan Rossman, Membership Engagement Manager

Linda Stotler, Marketing & Communications Manager



BLAIR COUNTY ALLIANCE
FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMIC GROWTH



**ALTOONA BLAIR COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
FIRST FRONTIER - BLAIR COUNTY, PA



**BLAIR COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
FIRST FRONTIER - BLAIR COUNTY, PA

DEVORRIS CENTER FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
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