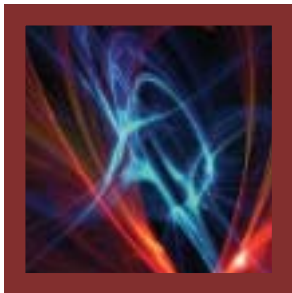


2007 Annual Report

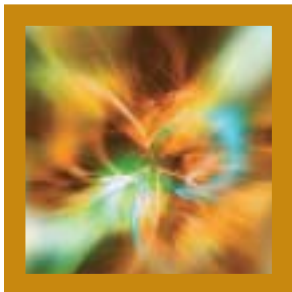


Annual Report 2007



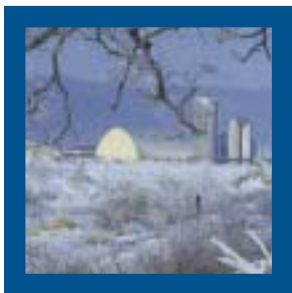
Our Mission

To help businesses expand their markets, generate employment, improve the local economy, and plan for the future development of the Northern Tier Region.



Our Vision

To be a leader in developing people, businesses, and communities for a globally competitive region.



About the Cover

Cover photograph of a farm in Sheshequin, Bradford County, by Dick Allyn. Dick is a full-time professional nature photographer from Sheshequin, Pennsylvania, who specializes in wildlife and landscapes. His work concentrates on the birds, animals, and landscapes of Pennsylvania.



Full Commission



Bradford

Brian Canfield
Janet Lewis
William Farley
Sharon Kaminsky
Doug McLinko
Fred Robinson
Nancy Schrader
Ray Stolinas
Paul Sweitzer

Sullivan

Pamela Arthur
Fred Fiester
Wayne Gavitt
Craig Harting
Paul Beaver
Norm Miller
Betty Reibson
James Rogers
Philip Snyder

Susquehanna

Roberta Kelly
Jeff Loomis
William Ord
Dennis Phelps
Tom Swan
Robert Templeton
Maryann Warren

Tioga

Bob Blair
Erick Coolidge
Mark Hamilton
Fred LaVancher
Lindsey Sikorski
Sue Vogler
George Wheeler
Jeff Wilson

Wyoming

Stark Bartron
Peter Butler
Mike Castellano
Anthony Litwin
Thomas McCullough
Judy Mead
Richard Schwoebel
Paul Weilage
Bill Miner

Advisory Committees



Economic Development

Pamela Arthur	Robert Blair
Eric Brown	Brian Canfield
Dan Close	Fred Fiester
Mike Hufnagel	Sharon Kaminsky
Jacqueline Lawrence	Jeff Loomis
Alex Fried	Jack Ord
Betty Reibson	Lindsey Sikorski
Chris Smith	Robert Templeton
Anthony Ventello	Mary Worthington
Maureen Dispenza	

Rural Area Transportation

Mike Castellano	Betty Reibson
Mark Hamilton	Michael Hufnagel
Roberta Kelly	Fred LaVancher
Anthony Litwin	Norman Miller
William Ord	Don Abrey
Nancy Schrader	Raymond Stolinas, Jr.
Tom Swan	James Weaver
Paul Weilage	

Local Loan Review

David Morris	Robert Blair
Carl Chambers	Bob Champion
Thomas Chesnick	Fred Fiester
Max Little	Stark Bartron
Thomas McCullough	Sheryl Potocek
James Rogers	Richard Schwoebel
Richard Soden	Mary Ann Waddington
Jeffery Wilson	

Workforce Investment

Brenda Abplanalp	Sam Anderson
Robert Blair	Lori Bogadin
Peter Butler	Judy Cooper
Vance Coover	Karen Cosner
William Farley	Craig Harting
Chip Cummings	Fred Jackson
Sandy Voda	Paul Kreischer
Tom Kurosky	Janet Kovalich
Josh McGroarty	Jody Neary
Brenda Roberts	Fred Robinson
Karen Russell	Gerald Schaffer
Richard Stetz	Loren Stone
Charles Stringham	Sherry Spencer
Terri Zimmerman	
Brad Oman	



NTRPDC's Annual Golf tournament, held on August 30th, raised \$540 for the Jordan Wilcox Endowment Fund, which helps families in Bradford County who have children being treated for cancer.

A Report to the Region



Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to present the 2007 Annual Report for the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission. This has been a challenging year for the national and state economy and while typically our region does not suffer the same impact, we have also been affected by the energy crises, industry decline, and other challenges.

As the regional economic development agency, we are striving to evolve with the times to help meet those challenges. We have added six private sector members to our board. In addition, we welcomed seven new county commissioners. We look forward to their expertise and leadership and we thank the commissioners who provided many years of service to our organization. Together, we will look for ways to improve our programs to help the entrepreneurs, existing businesses, and communities in our five county region.

We also embarked on an integrated Land Use, Transportation, and Economic Development planning process in 2007. This plan is a combination of strategic plans that would have been prepared separately in the past. Thanks to everyone who has participated in this process so far, because this isn't a plan for NTRPDC, it is a plan for the region and we will look to your guidance to help us implement it.

In conclusion, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the NTRPDC staff, executive and advisory committees and to each of you who continue to increase the prosperity of the Northern Tier Region through your efforts.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Abrams
Executive Director

Janet Lewis
Chairperson



2007 Funding Sources

Federal

Appalachian Regional Commission	
Enterprise Development	\$285,000
Local Development District	87,000
U.S. Department of Commerce	
Economic Development Administration	60,000
U.S. Department of Defense	
Procurement Technical Assistance	56,000
U.S. Department of Transportation	
Federal Highway Administration	144,000
U.S. Department of Labor	
Workforce Investment Act	2,498,000
PA National Emergency Grant	1,050,000
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	<u>2,035,000</u>
Total	\$6,215,000

State

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	
Rural Transportation Program	13,000
Department of Community and Economic Development	
Enterprise Development	890,000
Business Retention and Expansion Program	60,000
Export Development	52,000
KOEZ	35,000
Department of Labor and Industry	<u>368,000</u>
Total	\$1,418,000

Local

County Contributions	<u>\$60,000</u>
Total	\$60,000

Total Program Funds **\$7,693,000**

Loan Impact



Borrower	Retained Jobs	Created Jobs	Loan Amount	Leveraged Amount
Bloss Auto Supply and Lawrenceville NAPA	3	0	\$57,000	\$107,000
Holdren's Precision Machining	9	3	106,092	159,138
Bolles Dairy Farm	2	0	98,000	200,000
Wheeland Elliott and Brown Partnership	12	4	86,500	86,500
ABC Montrose Corp.	62	0	25,000	0
Metalkraft Industries, Inc.	43	0	90,000	0
Bulldogge Disposal	0	1	25,000	79,184
Dr. Frederick Teribury Jr.	0	5	100,000	173,000
Snake Creek Lasers, LLC	15	15	25,000	0
Wyalusing Family Chiropractic	4	1	25,000	0
Farr Mfg. Services, LLC	0	8	25,000	120,000
Antler Inn	0	22	25,000	652,500
Antler Ridge Winery	2	1	100,000	98,000
Scott and Carrie Walrath	1	0	87,000	200,000
Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman	1	0	88,000	357,000
Maple Knoll Farm	3	2	111,000	111,000
Genesis Salon	0	10	45,000	55,000
Oak Hill Veneer	65	17	100,000	100,000
Jacquelyn Buckheit Funeral	2	2	45,000	59,000
S & D Lumber	7	0	20,000	20,000
JLRB, Inc.	35	7	25,000	0
Black Creek Enterprises	3	0	17,000	0
Vin-Deb Dairy	1	1	152,000	280,500
Barnes and Hipple, Inc.	14	0	50,000	100,000
Total Jobs Retained and Created	284	84		
Total Loans Closed and Amount	24		\$1,527,592	



After a devastating fire, the newly restored Antler Inn in Rexford was re-opened in May 2007.

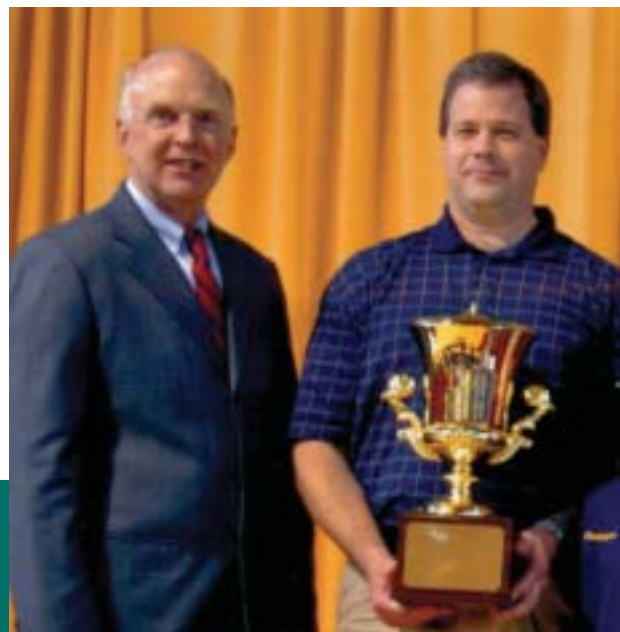
A Formula for Business Success



What does it take for a business to be successful? The people who run them. What makes an entrepreneur exceptional? Determination. All of our loan clients have shown a drive for success: to expand existing businesses in a volatile economy, to add on to the dairy herd and buy farm equipment when agriculture futures are uncertain, or to start up a business in a struggling small downtown. We get to see the businesses as a vital part of the rural landscape, but indeed it is in getting to know the people that we can express the greatest pride in the region.

Sandi Lundgren saw her family business, The Antler Inn burn to the ground. With unyielding determination, one year to the day of the devastation, in May 2007 the restaurant along Pine Creek in Tioga County reopened its doors. The destruction by fire of a business might be enough to break the spirit of an entrepreneur. The loss of her husband and partner of over thirty years, or having to raise a child with a disability, or losing another child at birth, would most certainly be ample discouragement for the strongest soul. Notwithstanding the struggles of her past, she forged ahead. The Antler Inn in Rexford, with its wildlife theme sports bar and cozy fireplace stands as a memorial to her late husband, with much of his art and taxidermy work on the walls. It also stands as a monument to the determination of a strong woman and successful entrepreneur.

Steve Unis has been making wines for twenty years, spending much of the time studying the industry and the chemistry of production. With determination and enthusiasm, the Antler Ridge Winery was



Steve Unis, owner of Antler Ridge Winery receives the Governor's Award at the Pennsylvania Farm Show from Dennis Wolff, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

started. In a relaxed country setting, wine tastings are served on a deck overlooking the Endless Mountains. He purchased an abundant supply of fruits from all over Pennsylvania and began wine production in September 2005, with product available for sale in May 2006. In the wine industry, production occurs eight to twenty four months prior to any sale, thus the need for determination and patience. At the end of that time he had several thousand gallons ready for marketing. His determination paid off. Along with the 31 international medals in the first year of competition, Antler Ridge won the 2007 Gold Medal at the Finger Lakes International Competition. And recently, Steve and his supportive family traveled to Harrisburg to receive the Governor's Award at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman, a retired surgeon, learned determination and dedication from years of preserving the health and lives of his countless patients. Now there is a new chapter for him as a start-up dairy farmer. In an industry struggling with rising overhead costs, he studied the dairy markets and issues such as the high demand and shortage of farm labor. He found a way to efficiently run his new operation. With the purchase of a robotic milking machine, he brought a new level of automation to the agricultural



community of rural Bradford County. Within days of the installation of the equipment, sixty cows were in line for milking. The hands free process allows the farmer to tend to the crops and other labor intensive chores while the cows and the robot handle the milking. The computer system that controls the robotics provides critical data to the farmer. Currently there are only twelve robotic milking farms in the United States, with Pennsylvania leading the nation with six in operation.

Fostering Existing Businesses



Locally owned businesses usually have a long-term commitment to their community. They relate to their community's lifestyle, and they have a vested interest in their community's quality of life. They are there because they want to be.

Equally important, existing businesses are major contributors to the community's economy and tax base. Cumulatively, they employ the greatest numbers and as they grow and expand they can generate up to 80 percent of their community's new jobs. In economic development efforts, existing, successful business owners are precious resources. Their presence as community ambassadors also makes a very positive statement in new business recruitment.

The Pennsylvania Business Retention Program (BREP) was established in 1997 to forge better working relationships and stronger collaboration among various public, private, state and local economic development organizations, with the goal of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to retain and grow existing Pennsylvania businesses. The Pennsylvania Business Retention and Expansion Program is the most aggressive job

retention program in the country. Since its inception, representatives of the BREP have completed over 68,000 visits.

Locally, a total of 1,366 business visits have been conducted. Referrals have resulted in industry-specific equipment trainings, web page development, computer training, marketing skills, as well as assistance from NTRPDC's business financing and other assistance programs.

Success is measured by the results of these referrals. For example, a business liaison met with Gehman Ornamental Iron of Knoxville, and revealed their interest in training for a few employees. A referral was made to NTRPDC, who met with the business to discuss their training needs. After informing the company of the Metals Worker Training Grant, two employees received machine training.

With businesses stretching their budgets to the limits these days, the Business Retention and Expansion Program visit process helps them save time and money by making them aware of technical assistance, training dollars and business financing programs.

CareerGates



Pennsylvania's economic future will depend on the development of a workforce able to compete in the global economy. Preparing youth for the workforce of tomorrow requires innovative strategies.

CareerGates is a statewide workforce development series that focuses on industry clusters and career advice provided by business and industry leaders in each local workforce investment area in the state. This Emmy-nominated CD series guides high school students about career paths and work opportunities.

Made possible through funding provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, and produced by WVLT, Channel 39 out of Bethlehem, the 8 minute DVD highlights manufacturing career opportunities in our region. Employees from Procter and Gambal in Mehoopany, WardFlex in Blossburg, and the DuPont facility in Towanda provide high school students with a glimpse of the many different career opportunities in manufacturing and the skills that are needed to perform these jobs.

A total of twenty three CareerGates segments featuring different careers within Pennsylvania's targeted industry clusters were produced throughout the state and compiled onto a 3-disc set. Each CareerGates segment is accompanied by a lesson plan for teachers, featuring activities and discussion questions that link the segment to Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Career Education and Work. To view the CareerGates video visit our website at www.northerntier.org.

Northern Tier Exporters Find Opportunities in Asia



The large and growing markets in Asia continue to grow in importance for companies in the region. Sales to China and India far surpassed the combined exports to European countries in 2007. The best prospects for success have been in the hardwood industry, but are expanding to include education services and industrial machinery.

In 2007, NTRPDC worked with American Log Export of Forksville and Deer Park Lumber of Tunkhannock to attend the Vietnam Wood Trade Fair in Ho Chi Minh City. The event permitted both companies to meet potential customers from throughout Vietnam and Southeast Asia. In addition, market access grant funding assisted Deer Park Lumber to meet with potential business partners in Malaysia and Thailand by coordinating with Pennsylvania's trade offices in Vietnam and Singapore.

Market access grant funding also supported Hoffman-New Yorker of Dushore to participate in

two leading trade shows in China: Tex Care 2007 and the China International Sewing Machinery & Accessories Show. Both events are helping the company to further build on its successes in exporting to China.



Joe Zona and Matt Andrews attend the Vietnam Wood Trade Fair.

With the assistance of Pennsylvania's trade offices in China and India, Mansfield University attended leading study abroad fairs in both markets. At the same time, the University received itineraries of appointments to meet with local high schools and potential agents in Beijing, China, and six cities across India. These efforts will help to better prepare Mansfield University students to be successful in a global business environment while also benefiting our region's economy.

Where Do Northern Tier Export Clients Do Business?

In 2007, Northern Tier Export clients reported sales successes to 22 countries, including four markets that purchased a million dollars or more in manufactured goods from our region. In addition to these leading markets, substantial sales were also reported to Mexico, Brazil, Thailand, and Germany. The combined total exports for Northern Tier clients in 2007 reached \$12.6 million.

1. Canada \$4.5 million
2. Saudi Arabia \$3.5 million
3. China \$3.0 million
4. India \$1.1 million



Northern PA Hardwoods group visits a furniture factory in Ho Chi Minh City.

Helping Businesses Grow and Municipal Governments Improve
Information Technology Assistance



The Information Technology Program augments both local government and small businesses through grants, training, and technical assistance. In 2007, 96 local governments received grants totaling \$49,714 and 52 small businesses received website grants totaling \$38,842. Out of 166 municipalities, 149 (90%) have received some sort of assistance since the programs inception.

www.claudiasshop.com
www.shabbyrue.com
www.northbranchoutfitters.com
www.jana-s.com
www.twinoakspersonalcarehome.com
www.thevacationinn.com
www.emihshomecare.com
www.briankeeler.com
www.yorkshiremeadows.com
www.straddler.com
www.bulasjewelers.com
www.garrisonsmensshop.com
www.sandhlodging.com
www.berryfieldsfarm.net
www.auto-dist.com
www.builtrightwoodcrafters.com
www.howamazing.us
www.pattersonlumber.com
www.thesignshoppa.com
www.perezdbr.com
www.thecabincountrystore.com
www.familyrock.net
www.gannonassociates.com
www.cbionline.com

www.twigscafe.com
www.deerparklumberinc.com
www.knoteworthykards.com
www.73volts.com
www.blanchlegalvideo.com
www.timeframemedia.us
www.bigcopies.com
www.raysshursave.com
www.nestorsinc.com
www.naturequestadventures.com
www.coachingthatworks.com
www.hawkeyehomeinventory.com
www.griffislumber.com
www.tesg.biz
www.artbymarilynbok.com
www.quad-k.com
www.apluswater007.com
www.artisansshoppe.com
www.hillview.com
www.internoscoaching.com
www.mountainhomemag.com
www.breuermastiffkennel.com
www.nepawinecountry.com
www.mulliganprinting.com
www.realfreshchristmastrees.com

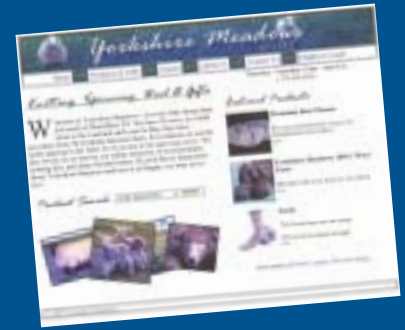
Business clients are saying...

"Amazingly fast and efficient response. Makes the lives of small business owners just getting started so much easier. We appreciate it immensely."
Artisan's Shoppe

"Very satisfied with NTRPDC. They were very informative and helpful with questions and needs. Great people to work with." Nestor's Service Center

"NTRPDC has helped me keep my family's business up to date. Their help with education and technology has made possible the computerization of our inventory and a website that I would not have been able to do myself."
Robert T. Griffis & Sons, Inc.

"What a great opportunity to get a website that I needed but couldn't afford as a new business." Claudia's Collection



Municipal clients are saying...

"Love this grant program, it sure has helped our municipality purchase things normally we would not be able to." Laporte Township

"Your financial support has been invaluable as we have built an up-to-date community presence, but the advice and guidance we have consistently received has been just as important to us." Eagles Mere Borough

"Thanks to these grants our small township can stay up to date with multifunction copiers, digital cameras, and QuickBooks program. Without these, life for rural townships would be so much harder and a financial impossibility in some regards." Middletown Township

"As a result of NTRPDC's assistance, Oakland Township is now able to keep pace with new technology and allowed new and up to date administrative processes." Oakland Township



Industry Partnership Worker Training Grants



Pennsylvania is at the leading edge of the U.S. movement to build a workforce system that is responsive and can meet the skill needs of employers and boost the competitive position of the business community.

An Industry Partnership is a multi-employer collaborative that brings together management and employees to improve the competitiveness of a cluster of companies. The companies may produce similar products or services, or they may share similar supply chains, critical human resource needs, infrastructure requirements and business services. These partnerships serve as the foundation to identify the training needs of an industry sector and develop effective and responsive training solutions that will enhance the cluster's competitive edge.

To meet growing and critical needs for workforce excellence in Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth has developed a \$15 million Industry Partnership Worker Training Grant program to further support targeted industries as part of the Governor's Job Ready Pennsylvania initiative. These funds are targeted to the common high skill training needs of multiple employers within an industry cluster.

The Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board is working together with three Workforce Investment Boards that serve the Lackawanna, Luzerne/Schuylkill and Pocono areas in order to reach out into a twelve county area. This consortium is involved in seven areas of industry including electronics, early education, metals, healthcare, food processing, logistics/transportation, and energy. Trainings must be for advanced processes that would take the company and/or employee to the next level. The company must contribute monetarily for the training so most grants require a 25% match.

The intent of the Worker Training Grant program is to encourage initiatives that are tailored to meet the needs of an industry cluster and its workforce. The long-term goal of the program is to enhance the skills of incumbent workers, raise the earnings of workers and the revenues of businesses by increasing productivity and the quality of services within Pennsylvania.

Worker Training Grant Participants

Golis Machine, Inc.

Nickels Tool & Model Shop

The Ronco Group

ACP Manufacturing Company, LLC

Ashton Healthcare

Smith's Personal Care Home

CareGivers America

Hoffman New Yorker

Penn-Troy Machine Company, Inc.

Gehman's Ornamental Iron

Ward Manufacturing

Memorial Hospital

Guthrie Clinic

Martha Lloyd Community Services

Holdren Precision Machine

R&T Technologies, Inc.

MetalKraft Industries, Inc.

HN Automotive, Inc.

Bayada Nurses

Guthrie Healthcare System

Helping Small Business with Training Needs



The Small Business Training Grant program provides a \$1,500 matching grant to employers with 100 employees or less. There are many companies that require continuing education and yearly certifications. The training grant helps to offset these necessary costs.

The matching grant can help cover the cost of registration and tuition fees, lodging, airfare and transportation. Since the program began, it has provided 305 grants to businesses totaling \$230,377. Grantees are reimbursed after submitting appropriate receipts.

In 2007, 77 training grants were awarded totaling \$57,462.

“Thanks so much, this really helps us finance and educate our employees. It’s greatly appreciated.”

Tyler Petroleum Services, Inc.

“Your staff is most helpful and provides personal attention. The grants for additional viticulture training enabled me to attend sessions that I couldn’t afford on my own – Thanks!”

Endless Mountains Vineyards

“NTRPDC has been wonderfully helpful with information and grant assistance for my business. Laurie Lentz is never too busy to answer questions, and I appreciate the tools they provide to business owners.”

Kathleen Pohlman Special Instruction Teacher

Procurement Program Impact

We provide technical assistance to businesses trying to sell their goods and services to the government, the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world.

NTRPDC’s Procurement Program Clients attained awards of \$21,216,547 235 contracts awarded in calendar year 2007.

Procurement clients awarded contracts during the year include:

Gladding Braided Products, LLC

Mark Whitehead Electrical Contractor, Inc.

Montrose Publishing Co., Inc.

Osram Sylvania Inc.

Spectrum Electrical Services, Inc.

Staver Hydraulics Co., Inc.

2007 Equipment Shows

Each year NTRPDC hosts equipment shows so that municipal officials can get a first hand look at the latest equipment available for maintaining their territories. It is also an opportunity for networking and discussion between neighboring township officials and NTRPDC staff.

In 2007, equipment shows were held at Lazy Brook Park in Wyoming County and the Troy Fairgrounds in Bradford County. Eighty five vendors participated with over 700 municipal officials and employees attending.



Municipal Officials from the equipment show held at Lazy Brook Park hold a plow saw, the grand prize from a drawing held during the event.

Local Technical Assistance Program



The Federal Highway Administration created the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) in 1982 to provide local agencies with information and training programs to address the maintenance of local roadways and bridges.

In Pennsylvania, PennDOT uses it as a state-of-the-art tool for road maintenance and managing transportation issues because it empowers local officials with the latest techniques to help them deal with everything from asphalt issues to worksite safety.



NTRPDC serves as a partner to manage training for the region. Last year, sixteen workshops were held which trained 205 municipal officials and employees. Training included posting and bonding of roads, unpaved roads, bridge maintenance, equipment and worker safety, asphalt roads maintenance, signage and work zone rules, traffic signs, winter maintenance, tractor mower safety, changing role of public works, and QuickBooks.

Community Development Projects



It is difficult for rural communities to find the time and staff needed to research and apply for public financing to help with their improvement needs. We provide assistance by assessing each project and targeting the appropriate funding source to help. Many of our communities needed money this year to assist with their infrastructure improvement needs as well as to help purchase equipment, and to fund renovation projects.

Recipient	Use of Funds	Source	Amount
Susquehanna Co. COG	Office Equipment	DCED	\$8,000
Bridgewater Township	Salt/Cinder Shed	DEP	\$87,975
Lawrenceville Township	Truck	DCED loan	\$127,930
Borough of Towanda	Purchase and Demolition	DCED	\$500,000
Borough of Towanda	Improved sewer line	PennStep	\$10,000
Borough of Laporte	Improved sewer line	PennStep	\$10,000
Borough of Eagles Mere	Historic Preservation	DCED	\$50,000
Hallstead-Great Bend Jt Sewer Auth	Improved sewer line rehabilitation	PennStep	\$10,000
Thompson Hose Company	New ambulance	PEMA loan	\$131,961
Silver Lake Township	Police car	DCED	\$10,000
Jessup Township	Grader	DCED	\$10,000
Westfield Borough	Improved sewer lines	PennStep	\$10,000
Township of Hamilton	New water system	CDBG	\$70,000
Blossburg Coal Festival	New stage	DCED	\$5,000
Knoxville Library	New roof	DCED	\$10,000
Tunkhannock Borough	New police car	DCED	\$17,500
Falls Township	Brush mower	DCED loan	\$29,500
Borough of Laceyville	Police equipment	DCED	\$5,000
Tunkhannock Municipal Authority	Improved water lines	PennStep	\$10,000
Wysox Volunteer Fire Company	Building	PEMA loan	\$107,000
Athens/Sayre Code Enforcement Dept	Code enforcement/equip supplies	DCED	\$3,316
Sullivan County COG	Sign machine and signs	DCED	\$42,766
Oakland Borough	Police Car	DCED	\$8,000
Township of Osceola	New water system	DCED	\$500,000
Knoxville Library	Building Roof	DCED	\$17,000
Tunkhannock Borough/Washington Twp Police Department	Police equipment	DCED	\$10,317
Borough of Towanda	YMCA building renovation	DCNR	\$135,000
Laporte Township	Truck	DCED	\$25,000
Elkland Township	Park	DCED	\$10,000
Bridgewater Township	Cinder Shed	DCED	\$70,000
Tri-Boro Municipal Authority	Sewer line replacement	PennStep	\$8,000
Delmar Township	High-Band Radios	DCED	\$11,000
Hamilton Township	Water System	DCED/CDBG	\$70,000
Township of Delmar	Backhoe	DCED	\$25,000
Richmond Township	High-Band Radios	DCED	\$10,000
Wyoming Cty Ind Development Auth	Local Economic Development Assistant Grant	DCED	\$23,015

Local Student Wins Statewide Essay Contest

Allie Olsen from Towanda Junior/Senior High School won first place in the state for her essay honoring her mother Linda Olsen, a registered nurse. Allie read her statewide winning essay during a ceremony at the Zembo Shrine in Harrisburg on November 5th. Her essay expressed her thoughts about a nursing shortage and how her mother is dedicated to her work. “There is a projected shortage of at least one million nurses by the year 2020,” her essay read. She then goes on to explain her mother’s thoughts on her chosen career, “Nurses, like my mom, are still optimistic about the future and believe the rewards in nursing are worth the effort.”

Her local award included a \$250 Wal-Mart Gift Card and a certificate of recognition from State Representative Tina Pickett. She also received \$500 for earning top honors in the state competition.

Other Northern Tier region winners were recognized by the Northeast Regional Health Care Industry Partnership at a breakfast at the Riverstone Inn on October 31st. Second place honors went to Anthony Ventello, James Guffey took third place, Ryan Hotaling fourth place and Chance Cook fifth place. All winners were 10th grade students from Towanda Junior/Senior High School. The contest was sponsored by the Northern Tier Workforce Investment Board, the Northeast Regional Health Care Industry Partnership and the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers.

The contest was part of the sixth-annual Pennsylvania Health Careers Week celebration that included health career fairs held in Towanda, Dimock, and Wellsboro schools. Over 500 students from the Northern Tier Region were able to interact with health care professionals and participate in varied hands-on activities. All aimed at raising awareness and interest in Pennsylvania’s high-demand health care careers.



Allie Olsen receives a certificate of recognition from State Representative Tina Pickett for her winning essay about her mother Linda Olsen, pictured on the left.



ARC Funding Helps Develop Infrastructure and Entrepreneurship

Infrastructure can be hard to define, however you know it when you don't have it. One of the biggest weaknesses in the Northern Tier Region is a lack of infrastructure, whether it is water, sewer, roads, or telecommunications. Many of our recent projects have dealt with the establishment or improvement of infrastructure systems in growing communities. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) plays an important role in providing funding for those projects.

ARC's investment is decided upon at the regional level. Each year NTRPDC works with local economic development agencies and municipalities to determine priority projects for the region. Funding is competitive. We work with each applicant to carefully prepare the application and then present them at the state level on their behalf for review. Final funding decisions are made at the federal level.

Grants for water and sewer infrastructure are the most common. Typically these are large projects and ARC dollars help leverage large amounts of other public and private investment. The Hallstead Great Bend Joint Sewer Authority received \$300,000 in ARC funding to help with the expansion of their

public sewer service. This was part of an overall four million dollar project. ARC funds helped to reduce the amount of a USDA loan and relieve the ultimate debt to the residential and commercial users.

The Susquehanna County Housing and Redevelopment Authority received \$300,000 in ARC Access Road funds to help with the improvement of Oliver Road (or Exit 29) off of Interstate 81. The road which is located near the Flying J Travel Plaza was in need of reconstruction to accommodate current traffic patterns and future planned development off of the interchange. ARC's Access Road program helps to facilitate growth along the highway systems by providing easy and safe access to industrial and commercial areas.

The University of Scranton Small Business Development Center received \$94,888 in ARC funds to help provide management, technical and marketing assistance to agribusinesses and clients seeking the development of organic, natural and specialty food products in the Northern Tier Region. This project supports entrepreneurship and also impacts Pennsylvania's largest growing industries – agriculture and tourism.

Staff

KEVIN D. ABRAMS
Executive Director
abrams@northerntier.org

KIM BARNES
Deputy Director
barnes@northerntier.org

BRIAN BAKER
Regional Planning Assistant
baker@northerntier.org

HEATHER BARTHOLOWMEW
Receptionist
bartholowmew@northerntier.org

RICK BIERY
Regional Planning Program Manager
biery@northerntier.org

SUSAN COATES
Assistant Finance Director
coates@northerntier.org

THERESA CORA
Executive Secretary
cora@northerntier.org

GRETCHEN ELWELL
GIS Coordinator
elwell@northerntier.org

SHERRY FELTEN
Workforce Program Manager
felten@northerntier.org

JEFF FIELD
Network/Maintenance Manager
field@northerntier.org

MELISSA FLEMING
Workforce Program Manager
fleming@northerntier.org

JILL KOSKI
Economic Development Program Mgr
koski@northerntier.org

CYNTHIA KRISE
Information Technology Program Mgr
krise@northerntier.org

LAURIE LENTZ
Business Development Assistant
lentz@northerntier.org

CINDY LUNDY
Workforce Program Manager
lundy@northerntier.org

DEBBIE MATHERS
Special Projects Program Manager
mathers@northerntier.org

KERRY MEEHAN
Procurement Program Manager
meehan@northerntier.org

PAULETTE POTTER
Loan Program Manager
potter@northerntier.org

KEN REEVES
Finance Director
reeves@northerntier.org

CHAD RIMBEY
Export Development Program Mgr
rimbey@northerntier.org

TOM SCHILL
Community Development Program Mgr
schill@northerntier.org

FRANK THOMPSON
Deputy Director
thompson@northerntier.org

KAREN VAUGHN
Fiscal Analyst
vaughn@northerntier.org

BONNIE WARNER
Administrative Assistant
warner@northerntier.org

2007 Executive Board

Chairperson
Janet Lewis
Bradford County Commissioner

First Vice Chairperson
Erick Coolidge
Tioga County Commissioner

Second Vice Chairperson
Wayne Gavitt
Sullivan County Commissioner

Secretary
Roberta Kelly
Susquehanna County Commissioner

Treasurer
Stark Bartron, Wyoming County
Commissioner

Nancy Schrader
Bradford County Commissioner

Doug McLinko
Bradford County Commissioner

Betty Reibson
Sullivan County Commissioner

Pam Arthur
Sullivan County Commissioner

Jeff Loomis
Susquehanna County Commissioner

MaryAnn Warren
Susquehanna County Commissioner

Sue Vogler
Tioga County Commissioner

Mark Hamilton
Tioga County Commissioner

Judy Kraft Mead
Wyoming County Commissioner

Anthony Litwin
Wyoming County Commissioner

Jody Place, Area Manager
Penelec (A First Energy Company)

Craig Harting, CEO
*Sullivan County Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.*

Tom Freeman, Resident Manager
Blue Ridge Communications

Alex Fried, Public Relations Manager
Procter & Gamble

Rick Soden, Vice President
Pennstar Bank

Hank Pliske, Vice President,
Resource Development
Guthrie Health