

Northwest

Your Source for Everything **Northwest Commission!** **NEWS**

February

2018

We Are Hiring!

The Commission is seeking full-time **Loan Program Manager** knowledgeable in the area of Commercial Lending. Experience in underwriting, credit analysis and preparation of commercial loan documentation required. Must possess high level of attention to detail to ensure compliance with state/federal guidelines and lending requirements. High proficiency in Excel and ability to utilize loan portfolio client management software. Flexibility in scheduling with ability to travel and attend events/trainings, efficient time management, and excellent written/verbal communication skills required.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in business, finance or related field and a minimum of 3 years of small business lending experience. Excellent benefits. EOE. Submit cover letter with salary requirements, resume and references to: Northwest Commission, Attn: HR Dept., 395 Seneca Street, Oil City, PA 16301 or vondac@northwestpa.org.

Business Financing

The Northwest Commission provided the following financing:

- **Naesco, LLC d/b/a Fox's Pizza** of Venango County closed on a \$28,000 loan for renovations and equipment. The company will retain six employees.
- **Lake Tool, Inc.** of Venango County closed on a \$151,875 loan to purchase real estate. The company will retain twenty employees.

Loan Funds Available

The Business Financing Program currently has funds available for land and building acquisition, construction and renovation projects, as well as new or used machinery and equipment purchases and working capital. Loan interest rates are fixed for the term of

the loan and are currently as low as 3.19%. For more information, contact Amanda Slider, Loan Program Manager, at (814) 677-4800 x115 or amandas@northwestpa.org.

Government Contracting (PTAC)

Proposal Preparation Training Webinar

The webinar will take place on February 21st from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. EST. Learn how to read a federal government solicitation and prepare a proposal in a way that is both compliant and competitive. This free course will provide you with the knowledge of understanding the components of solicitations used by the government, steps on preparing a request for proposal (RFP), making a bid/no bid decision and importance of past performance.

This webinar is intended to be an introductory to intermediate level course and will be presented by Robyn Young, Government Contracting Manager at the Northwest Commission PTAC. The webinar is sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA) Pittsburgh District Office. Details & registration information can be found [here](#).

"Understanding OSHA Regulations & Recordkeeping Rules" – An OSHA Training Session Offered by Clarion University SBDC

What do you think OSHA would say if they reviewed your safety records today? Do you understand the language in the OSHA regulations? If either of these questions resulted in questions of your own, join OSHA & SBDC for this seminar! OSHA representatives will cover these topics, provide answers to your questions, and review the general duty clause. Topics to be covered include:

- OSHA's recordkeeping rules -- what is required & what has changed
- Understanding OSHA regulations -- workplace safety & health standards
- Temporary workers -- understanding each employer's role in protecting workers
- Consultation services -- provided by PA OSHA.

This event will take place on March 20th from 8:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. at the Venango College of Clarion University, 1801 West First Street, Montgomery Hall, Room 101, Oil City, PA 16301. Cost to attend is \$10 per person.

For more information & registration information, please contact the Clarion University SBDC office at 1-877-292-1843 or sbdc@clarion.edu. You can also sign-up via their [website](#).

SAVE THE DATE: Dynamic Networking for Small Business returns to Erie in

2018!

This event will take place on June 27, 2018 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center in Erie. The year's event will feature a keynote address by the U.S. Navy's Office of Small Business Programs.

Online registration is now open! To register, please click [here](#).

International Marketing

Deputy Secretary Joseph Burke Visits NW PA

On January 24th, DCED OIBD Deputy Secretary Joseph Burke visited Franklin Industries and Ron Jones Hardwood Sales, Inc. / Jones Hardwoods to learn about respective companies' export successes. Visiting delegation was accompanied by Venango County Commissioner Chip Abramovic, Kim Scott (PA House Representative R. Lee James), Jeremy Dias (Senator Don White), Debbie Eckelberger (FICDA), and international program staff of the Northwest Commission. – A special thanks goes out to Nathan Kovalchick & Ben Choffel, Franklin Industries and R. Steve Jones, Ron Jones Hardwood Sales, Inc. / Jones Hardwood for opening their doors to the group. From Rolled Rail Steel to Pennsylvania Hardwood Lumber – global markets desire Pennsylvania products!

Export Webinar Series

On February 20th, the Northwest Commission will host its second webinar in the Export Webinar Series. Mr. Seth J. Vogelmann (PA Authorized Trade Representative | Middle East Regional Office) will be presenting on the markets of Israel and Jordan along with making observations on Morocco. This webinar is part of a series aimed at providing an overview of the markets Pennsylvania's Authorized Trade Representatives serve throughout the world from the perspective of the representatives themselves.

The webinar will be held via GoTo Meeting at 9:00 am EST. Attendees will be sent a link to sign into the webinar a few minutes prior to the start. The webinar is free, however registration is required. To register, please click [here](#).

Export Compliance Conference slated for April 2018

Under the umbrella of the Ohio-Pennsylvania Stateline Export Initiative (OPEI), a two-day training event is being offered April 25th – 26th, 2018. The event will cover Export Controls under the International Traffic in Arms (ITAR) and the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) with a focus on the changes in 2018. The program aims to identify what has changed and the steps necessary to be in full compliance. Through a review of the regulations as they currently exist and specific examples, participants will gain an understanding of how to navigate ITAR & EAR, properly classify their exports and obtain the necessary licensing as well as permission to export. They will learn about the new license procedures as well as other changes.

Presenting for the two-day conference will be Mr. Robert P. Imbriani. Mr. Imbriani is currently the Executive Vice President, International for Team Worldwide & President of Team Ocean Services, Team International Trade Services and Team Canada. He is a well-known speaker and educator in the areas of trade compliance, contract negotiations, transportation, logistic/supply chain solutions, customs brokerage, trade development, and financial services.

This two-day training will be eligible for 10 CE credit hours through NASBITE. Certifications of Completion will be provided at the end of the program.

Further details including registration and agenda for the 2-day conference will soon be available.

2017-2018 Global Access Program Updates

The Pennsylvania Global Access Program (GAP) is designed to enhance the capability of small to mid-sized Pennsylvania companies to increase export sales. GAP is administered by the Pennsylvania Office of International Business (OIBD) and provides up to \$5,000 per award period to qualifying Pennsylvania companies to reimburse 75% of eligible expenses associated with specific export promotion activities. The program is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

As of February 8, 2018, six companies from the Northwest region have been approved for GAP funding, totaling \$25,399.

Funds are limited and subject to availability. Once submitted, applications are reviewed by a panel that convenes weekly. Funding decisions are rendered on a first-come, first-served basis.

As a reminder, companies must submit their applications for consideration 45 days prior to the event. Once GAP funding is approved, the approved amount will be held for a company even if the event is taking place later in the year.

For more information and guidelines to the GAP, please click [here](#).

Transportation

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) 2018 Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Northwest TAC is scheduled for 1:00 PM on March 27th at the PennDOT District 1-0 office in Oil City. The public is encouraged to attend. Anyone interested in being placed on the mailing list for the Transportation Committee meetings should contact Sue at sues@northwestpa.org or by phone at 814-677-4800 x131.

2019-2022 Draft TIP

A copy of the 2019-2022 Draft TIP project listing for both the Highway & Bridge and Transit projects may be viewed on the Northwest Commission's [website](#).

PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Award Announcement

Governor Tom Wolf announced that 45 highway, bridge, bike and pedestrian and ports and waterways projects will benefit communities in 22 counties through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Multimodal Transportation Fund. The \$41.5 million investment follows PennDOT's evaluation of 222 applications requesting more than \$241 million. Projects in the northwest region include:

- **Clarion County:** Millcreek Township -- \$157,500 for replacement of Asbury Bridge, a structurally deficient/weight limited bridge that currently restricts emergency, commercial, and recreational vehicles from utilizing a key portion of both Clarion and Millcreek townships.

- **Erie County:** City of Erie – nearly \$2.6 million for streetscape improvements to the West 8th Street corridor, including replacing the pavement; installing curbs, sidewalks, and LED lighting; improving bicycle and pedestrian accommodations; planting trees; and improving traffic signals.
- **Mercer County:** City of Sharon -- \$820,441 for the mill and overlay, curbs and ramps of 13 roads in the City of Sharon.

2018 Multimodal Transportation Fund – Call for Applications

PennDOT will open the next round of Multimodal Transportation Fund applications on February 26, 2018, with applications due on March 30, 2018. For more information about the program, including the application form, visit www.penndot.gov and click on Multimodal Transportation under the “Projects & Programs” button.

2018 LTAP Schedule with Brand New Classes

The Local Technical Assistance Program is underway with its Spring classes for 2018. This schedule includes two brand new classes that have never been held in NWPA so make sure to sign up for them today. The entire Spring schedule is:

- 3-01-18 | **Curves on Local Roads: Issues & Safety Tools (NEW CLASS)** | 8am-12pm | Erie, PA
- 3-13-18 | Posting & Bonding of Local Roads | 8am-12pm | Clarion, PA
- 3-29-18 | Equipment & Worker Safety | 8am-12pm | Erie, PA
- 4-03-18 | Workzone Temporary Traffic Control | 8am-12pm | Youngsville, PA
- 4-19-18 | Safe Driver | 8am-12pm | Hermitage, PA
- 5-04-18 | Traffic Safety Development Plan For Local Roads | 8am-3pm | Meadville, PA
- 5-17-18 | Engineering and Traffic Studies | 8am-3pm | Clarion, PA
- 5-24-18 | **Stop Signs and Intersection Traffic Control (NEW CLASS)** | 8am-12pm | Meadville, PA

As always, these classes are free of charge but pre-registration is required. To register, please contact Travis Siegel at traviss@northwestpa.org or by phone at 814.677.4800 x123.

Regional Planning

Regional Planners’ Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Planners’ is scheduled for 10:00 AM on Friday, March 16th, at the Northwest Commission office in Oil City.

2018 DCNR C2P2 Application Round

The 2018 DCNR grant round opened on 1/22/18 and will run to 4/11/18 at 4:00 PM. The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation provides technical and grant assistance for projects that help plan, acquire, and develop parks, recreation facilities, trails, and conserve critical conservation areas and watersheds. To learn more click [here](#).

Greenways, Trails Recreation Program

Applications are being accepted from February 1st to May 31st for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, parks and beautification projects. Click [here](#) for more information & to apply.



Politely take my address off your mailing list
Northwest Commission 395 Seneca Street , Oil City, PA, 16301, USA