

# Westmoreland County K-12 Workforce Forum

November 14, 2017



# A County Wide Partnership

- Mission
  - To connect business and education through coordinated opportunities which will improve workforce quality and economic development.
- Goals
  - GOAL 1 – Change the regional culture to support Career Education and Work Standards.
  - GOAL 2 – Create a sustainable infrastructure that aligns educational resources to respond to economic and community opportunities.
  - GOAL 3 -Develop a replicable county model based on the Pennsylvania Career Education and Work Standards.

# A County Wide Partnership

- Started in 2014 by the Economic Growth Connection, Industrial Development Corporation and County Chamber
- Today includes:
  - Most of the 17 school districts in Westmoreland County and a few in Fayette County
  - Community college and local universities
  - Workforce investment board

# A County Wide Partnership

- Small membership fee charged to help operate
- School superintendent chairs the group and this rotates
- Director just hired to help facilitate plans

# A County Wide Partnership

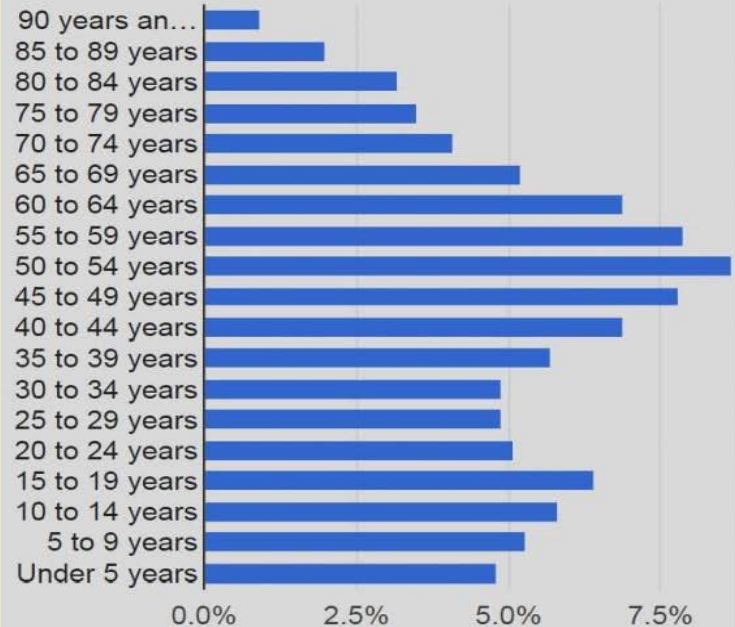
- Three subcommittees with plans for the year
  - Career exploration
    - Early access and exposure for K-12 kids to career events and conversation
  - Career pathways
    - Initial focus on advanced manufacturing and healthcare – existing markets with need and family sustaining careers
    - Align career “clusters” from high school to higher education
  - Apprenticeships/internships
    - Early exposure to high demand career fields to determine interest
    - Create a “hub” so legal and proprietary issues are minimized

# Why is This Partnership Important?

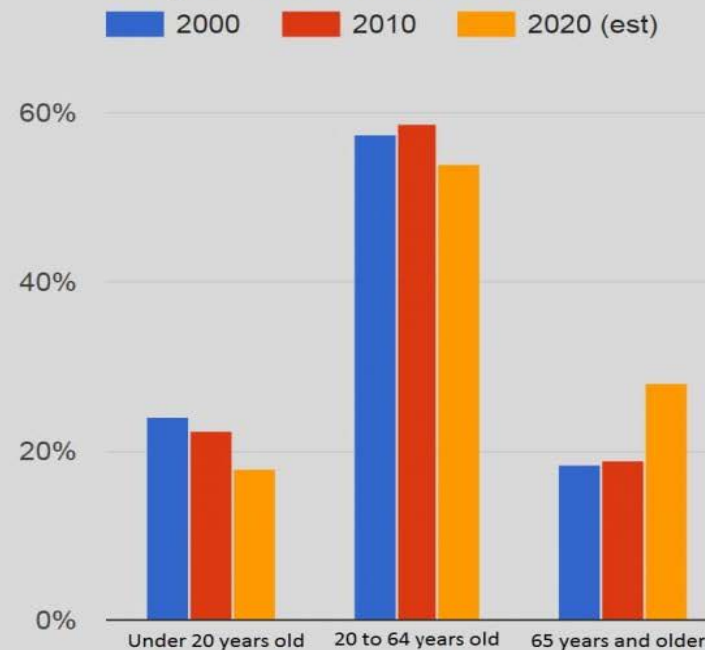
## Statistics by Recognizing Our Westmoreland (ROW)

*recognizingourwestmoreland.wordpress.com*

### Westmoreland Population by Age 2010



### Westmoreland Workforce Projection 2000 to 2020\*



# Why is This Partnership Important?

- Westmoreland is aging with little to no in-migration, thus the population is declining
- Employers are asking for a trained workforce to fill pending and current retirements
- There is a misalignment between what students are studying and the family sustaining careers in southwestern PA
- Careers and perceptions about those careers do not match

# Why is This Program Important



In 2012, that number  
fell 10% to 49,129  
children





# Why is This Program Important?



# K-12 Workforce Forum

- Accomplishments:
  - Collaboration between K-12 and K-12 and higher education
  - Education taking place with parents and students about high demand, high wage careers
  - Focus identified on advanced manufacturing and healthcare to fulfill existing needs in region
  - Hub RFP issued
  - Director hired
  - Career pathways identified for K-12 and higher education and mapping across entities underway



# A County Wide Partnership

Questions?