



*A Pennsylvania Local Development District*

## PRESS RELEASE

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**June 10, 2011**  
**For Immediate Release**

### **NORTHWEST COMMISSION ANNOUNCES A NEW BUSINESS OUTREACH PROGRAM IN THE EIGHT COUNTIES OF NORTHWEST PA INCLUDING CLARION, CRAWFORD, ERIE, FOREST, LAWRENCE, MERCER, VENANGO AND WARREN**

A Press Conference will be held at 9:30 a.m. next Tuesday, June 14, 2011 to formally launch the new Business Outreach Program for the region in the offices of the NW PA Regional Planning & Development Commission, 395 Seneca Street, Oil City, PA. A partnership has formed among the eight counties of NW PA and regional economic development partners around a newly developed business outreach program being launched today in the region.

In July, 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) made the decision to cease involvement with the Business Retention & Expansion Program (BREP). The 8 counties of NW PA decided they wanted to explore opportunities to continue a program in the region because of the value it brings. The outreach tool provides an understanding of the needs of regional businesses and provides a method to connect the businesses to public and private resources to help them, grow, retain jobs and create jobs.

The Erie Regional Chamber provided leadership and resources to create the new outreach tool on behalf of the region. Individual counties are working with Executive Pulse an international business retention software leader that has developed the platform. Executive Pulse is headquartered in Erie, PA. The "new" outreach tool is customer centric, comprehensive, measurable, and flexible. These qualities will lead to better information gathering by each county and will aid in policy and program development.

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development Commission  
395 Seneca Street  
Oil City, PA 16301  
(814)677-4800

Available to Comment to Media at 10:00 a.m.

Jake Rouch, Vice President Economic Development, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership  
Jim Decker, President & CEO, Warren County Chamber of Business & Industry  
Randy Seitz, President, Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism  
Brad Ehrhart, Executive Director, Clarion County Economic Development Corporation  
Linda Nitch, Director, Lawrence County Economic Development Corporation  
Larry Reichard, Executive Director, Penn-Northwest Development Corporation  
Mark Turner, Executive Director, Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County  
Janet Anderson, Executive Director, Northwest PA Regional Planning & Development Commission



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Established in 1967, the Northwest Commission is a regional resource for business and economic development as well as community development and planning. The non-profit agency is composed of a team of skilled professionals dedicated to sustaining economic vitality and growth in the northwest Pennsylvania region by fostering local, state, and federal partnerships across public and private sector lines.

The Northwest Commission provides programs such as business financing, government contracting, international marketing, grants, transportation, and technology assistance to eight counties in northwest Pennsylvania including: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren.