



A Pennsylvania Local Development District

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Penn-Northwest Development Corporation Awarded at Northwest Commission's 2009 Annual Dinner

The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission celebrated 42 years of service to the region at the 2009 Annual Dinner held April 1, at Cross Creek Resort in Titusville. One hundred eighty-seven people attended the event. The night began with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner, a program, and an awards presentation. One of the awards given that evening was the 2008 Partner of the Year Award, which was presented to Penn-Northwest Development Corporation.

Penn-Northwest Development Corporation is an avid supporter of the Northwest Commission and demonstrates it in several ways. This partner agency assists with marketing the Commission's events by sending email blasts to their members and partners. They routinely refer clients to the Northwest Commission for assistance in business financing, international marketing, and government contracting programs.

Penn-Northwest's Executive Director, Larry Reichard, is an active member of the Northwest Commission's Economic Development Committee and attends many of the Commission's events. He has opened his door for the Northwest Commission staff to participate in the Ron Ehrett radio show in Mercer County.

The Northwest Commission has an outreach office that is housed within Penn-Northwest's office. This has enabled the Commission to more effectively promote and provide services in Mercer and Lawrence counties. In addition to the office space, the Commission has access to office equipment and conference rooms for meetings and training events.

Denise McCloskey, Executive Director for the Northwest Commission, said, "This all highlights the true definition of partnership: sharing resources, providing strong support, sharing staff efforts, and ensuring a combined commitment to providing the most comprehensive and best services to our clients."

Other nominees in this category included Affinity Technology Consultants and Central Electric Cooperative. The Commission also recognized three other awards at the Annual Dinner, including: Clarion County Commissioner Donna Hartle as Board Member of the Year, Optical Filters located in Meadville as Business of the year, and the city of Oil City as Local Government of the Year.

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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



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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.

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