



A Pennsylvania Local Development District

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Travis Siegel
Marketing Specialist
W: 814-297-7158, ext. 102
Email: traviss@nwcommission.org

April 20, 2011
For Immediate Release

Fifth Annual Connect 2 Communities Builds Partnerships and Awareness

The Northwest Commission will host the fifth annual Connect 2 Communities Conference at Cross Creek Resort in Titusville on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The FREE day-long event will run from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Connect 2 Communities has become an important point of reference and a resource for many in our northwestern 8-county area. C2C is integral to the continuing development of northwestern Pennsylvania in light of the continued challenging economic climate. It provides municipal and community leaders with the opportunity to network with representatives from key state agencies and organizations, visit with over 25 participating vendors and exhibitors, and attend pertinent educational sessions.

Networking begins during the continental breakfast, and continues through lunch and the beverage breaks offered during this free, day-long event which is fully sponsored by the participating vendor fees. The conference will provide a choice of 10 educational sessions to help spread awareness of municipal programs, receive program updates, and hear about funding opportunities that are available to assist the region's local governments and communities.

This year's keynote lunchtime speaker is Alex Graziani, Executive Director of the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County and President of the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association. State agency representatives from DCED, DEP, DCNR, PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and USDA Rural Development will also be present at the event. Participation by these agencies will offer the attendees an open forum to ask questions and gather information on the resources available to them.

In addition, this year the PA Historical & Museum Commission is bringing their Statewide Preservation Plan Public Forum to the venue. Key representatives from PHMC and Preservation PA will be leading an educational session in the morning



A Pennsylvania Local Development District

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Travis Siegel
Marketing Specialist
W: 814-297-7158, ext. 102
Email: traviss@nwcommission.org

and will be hosting the northwest Public Forum from 1:30 to 4:00PM. This forum is essential to ensure the preservation priorities of our communities are included in Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Plan.

C2C is a FREE event, but pre-registration is required. Registration and the Conference Agenda are available at www.nwcommission.org.

Northwest Pennsylvania community organizations and municipal leaders who are interested in attending and need additional information can contact Suzanne Gagliardo, CMSM, Manager of Community Development for the Northwest Commission at 814.677.4800 x122 or at suzanneg@nwcommission.org.

###

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.

Visit www.nwcommission.org/media.html to read the latest regional news!