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**The Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
Receives \$134,315 Grant**

(Wilkes-Barre, PA) - The Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, Inc. has received \$134,315 in grant money from the PA Department of Labor & Industry to implement the PA Career Pathway Pilot Project. The funding provides the next element of focus for the Northeast PA Logistics & Transportation Industry Partnership's Career Pathway Model. The Northeast PA Logistics & Transportation Industry Partnership has been awarded one of only five PA Career Pathway Pilot Projects in the State by the PA Department of Labor & Industry.

The PA Career Pathway Pilot Project was developed in response to Governor Rendell's administration's efforts to transform Pennsylvania's workforce. The goal is to place current employees or dislocated workers in a program that has been specifically designed to implement, or test, the Career Pathways Model as it relates to improving employment opportunities for several In-Demand Occupations.

Educational Offerings included in the PA Career Pathway Pilot Project include:

- Supervision Essentials - composed of 16 three-hour training sessions. Participants will earn a certificate from Penn State University in Supervision Essentials and can opt to take a final exam for three undergraduate credits in Supervisory Management.
- Customer Relations - designed for individuals who are new or existing customer service professionals or those aspiring to a leadership role in customer service. Participants will learn why customer relationships are critical to business success and develop skills to act in a timely and confident manner to solve customer problems.
- Warehouse Management Distribution - a 30 credit program that prepares the career-oriented individual with the entry-level skills necessary to succeed as a business professional in the Warehousing and Distribution industry.
- Diesel Engine Technician Training Program - designed to assist those workers who are already employed in the field as Diesel Mechanics but who need to advance their technical skills or those who possess mechanical skills and are looking to learn the basic skills and competencies necessary to become a diesel mechanic.

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Benefits of participating in the PA Career Pathway Pilot Project include:

- Participants are assessed using WorkKeys to determine job skills and workplace competencies
- Career Coaches assist participants through the program, helping to balance work and school priorities
- Industry knowledge is gained through a newly developed Supply Chain Fundamentals training course
- College credit can be earned by program completion, and can be "stepped-up" to numerous associate and baccalaureate degree programs
- Participants completing the program will have the opportunity for employment, career advancement and/or wage gain.

For more information on career, education and training opportunities within the logistics and transportation industry, visit www.nepapeopleonthemove.org or call Patti Lenahan, Planner, Luzerne/Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, Inc. at 570-822-1101 or patricia.lenahan@luzernecounty.org or Jane Ashton, Director of Workforce Development, Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry 570-823-2101 or jashton@wilkes-barre.org.

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