

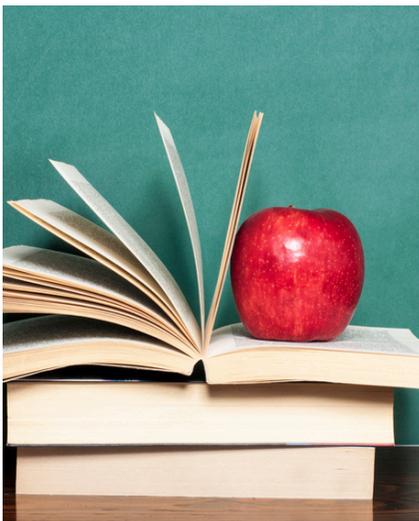
THE FOUNDATION

of The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce



Our Mission

We bring educators and employers together in Columbia and Montour Counties to empower lifelong learners with the knowledge, skills, and leadership needed to thrive in today's dynamic workforce



PROGRAM GUIDE 2025-2026

Adult Programs

Talent Pipeline Management
Leadership Central Penn
K12 Educator Summit
Manufacturers Council
Management and Leadership
Path to Careers

Youth Programs

SeaAirLand Challenge
BSA Learning For Life
with Guest Lecturers
What's So Cool About Manufacturing?
Skills That Pay
Foundation For Free Enterprise
Classroom on Main Street
Educator in the Workplace
Classroom in the Hospital
Tech Theater
Brighter Financial Futures
Personal Finance Lab
Stock Market Game

Who Are We?

STRONGER TOGETHER

THE FOUNDATION
of The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce



501(c)3 nonprofit, charitable organization
Develops programming for the community

"By uniting the Chamber's network of businesses with the Foundation's mission of education and leadership, we create a powerful partnership that strengthens our community, builds opportunity, and drives lasting impact—together, we are stronger."

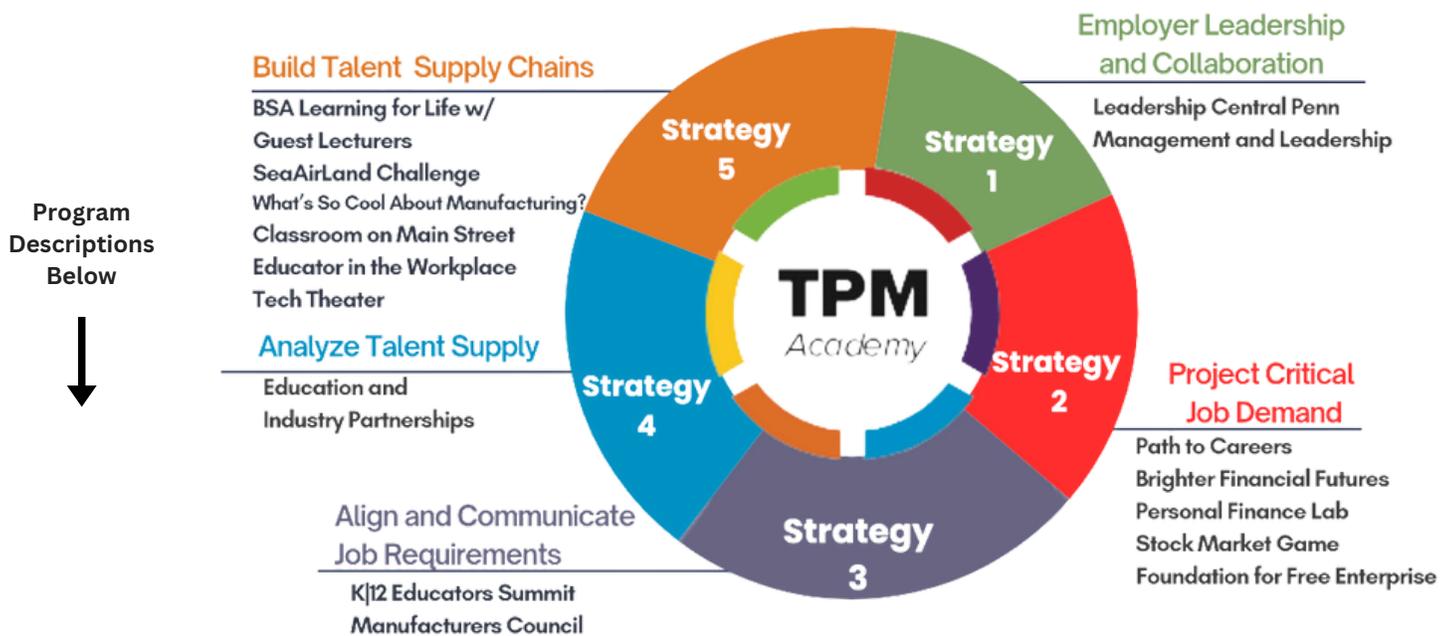
THE CHAMBER
The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

501(c)6 not-for-profit organization
Develops programming for the community
with member-driven focus



Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) is a data-driven framework addressing workforce challenges by aligning education with industry needs. A national initiative of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, TPM is locally led by the Foundation of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce, with a certified TPM practitioner. This approach ensures students and workers gain the skills needed for today's job market through targeted collaboration between schools, businesses, and workforce partners.

Programs and Strategies Supporting the Talent Pipeline



- **K-12 Educators Summit:** Connects educators and industry leaders to explore workforce trends and strategies for preparing students for future careers.
- **Manufacturers Council:** Brings together manufacturers, educators, and workforce partners to address skills gaps and strengthen the local talent pipeline.
- **Leadership Central Penn (LCP):** Develops leaders with skills, connections, and insights to tackle regional challenges and drive change in their organizations and communities.
- **Management and Leadership Certificate Program:** Helps new and emerging leaders develop essential management tools, enhancing workforce leadership across industries.
- **Path to Careers:** Bridges businesses, schools, and students by showcasing career pathways and facilitating meaningful connections.
- **Educator in the Workplace:** Partners educators with businesses for job shadowing and curriculum development, bringing real-world insights into classrooms.
- **Classroom on Main Street and Classroom in the Hospital:** Provide immersive career exploration in entrepreneurship and healthcare.
- **Skills That Pay and Foundation for Free Enterprise:** Focus on foundational skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship to prepare students for career success.
- **What's So Cool About Manufacturing?:** Engages students with creative projects showcasing manufacturing careers.
- **Personal Finance Lab and Stock Market Game:** Teach financial literacy and investment skills through hands-on, real-world applications.

Together, these programs ensure the Columbia Montour region develops a competitive, adaptable workforce ready for evolving challenges, driving local economic growth and opportunity.



LEADERSHIP CENTRAL PENN

OVERVIEW

Established in 1992, Leadership Central Penn (LCP) is the flagship program of the Foundation of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce, offering a nine-month leadership development experience that equips participants with the tools, connections, and insights needed to drive positive change in their workplaces and communities.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Leadership Central Penn program runs from September through May, beginning with a full-day Opening Retreat to establish leadership goals and foster connections among participants. Monthly sessions are held on topics such as Economic Development, Education & Workforce Development, Healthcare and Civic Engagement. Participants also work in teams throughout the program to develop Community Non Profit Projects, addressing real-world regional challenges. The program concludes with a formal Graduation Ceremony in May, where projects are presented, and participants are recognized for their accomplishments.



CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

Develops qualities like self-awareness, emotional intelligence, vision, and the ability to inspire and collaborate with others. The program emphasizes adaptability, strategic thinking, preparing individuals to lead with confidence and integrity in their organizations and communities.



LEADERSHIP CENTRAL PENN



EMPOWER THROUGH EDUCATION

Provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the Columbia and Montour region's economic, social, and cultural dynamics.

Encourages active engagement with local issues and inspires solutions that strengthen the community

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Builds meaningful connections among a diverse group of professionals, educators and civic leaders. Creates opportunities for collaboration that promotes regional growth and innovation



ALUMNI IMPACT

Leadership Central Penn alumni advance as leaders in their organizations and communities, serving on boards, volunteering, and driving local initiatives. Their strong network fosters collaboration, enhancing the region's economic and civic vitality.



The K-12 Educators Summit is all about connecting educators with local industry leaders to tackle workforce challenges together. This annual event, a cornerstone of the Foundation’s efforts to close the gap between education and industry needs, dives into key topics like job market trends, the skills students need for future careers, and how schools can better prepare kids for the real world. It's a space for open conversation, brainstorming, and creating practical solutions that can be applied in classrooms.

The summit highlights the importance of bridging the gap between education and the workplace. By bringing everyone to the table—teachers, business leaders, and workforce experts—it ensures that students are not only learning but also preparing for success in a competitive and ever-changing world. The ultimate goal? Helping schools and industries team up to empower the next generation of workers right here in our region.



The Manufacturers Council is a vital initiative addressing the region's manufacturing skills gap and ensuring the sustained growth of this critical industry. Comprised of industry leaders, educators, and workforce development professionals, the Council collaborates to design innovative strategies that meet the unique challenges of the manufacturing sector. By focusing on the development of technical and soft skills, the Council helps prepare a workforce that can thrive in the increasingly advanced and technology-driven world of manufacturing.

In addition to identifying skills gaps, the Council creates partnerships to implement training programs, connect students and job seekers to career pathways, and advocate for resources that support the manufacturing sector. Through these efforts, the Manufacturers Council plays a central role in strengthening the local economy, fostering innovation, and supporting a competitive regional manufacturing landscape. By uniting diverse stakeholders, the Council exemplifies the power of collaboration in building sustainable workforce solutions.



Path to Careers connects businesses, schools, and students to create meaningful career awareness opportunities. Businesses register to showcase who they are, what they do, and how they can engage with schools and students. Schools and educators gain access to local businesses, enabling students to explore career pathways and the skills needed for success. The platform simplifies the process for schools by centralizing information, while providing businesses with an efficient way to connect with students in customizable, impactful ways.



Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield
COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA



The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with **Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg**, offers a Management and Leadership Certificate Program designed to build essential leadership skills for today's workplace. This five-session program is ideal for new or emerging leaders and current managers or supervisors seeking foundational leadership training. Participants gain hands-on experience with practical management tools and strategies, tailored to meet the needs of professionals across all industries and business sizes.

Each session focuses on key leadership topics, including:

- The Role of the Supervisor and Effective Communication/Listening*
- Understanding Employee Motivation and Managing Change*
- Coaching, Feedback, and Performance Management*
- Navigating a Multigenerational and Diverse Workforce*
- Resolving Conflict and Reaching Agreement*

The program is delivered in person, with cohorts limited to 15-20 participants for a more personalized experience. Upon completion, participants receive a certificate from Commonwealth University along with individualized development goals to share with their employers. Funding assistance may also be available.

S.T.E.M. Programming

The Sea Air and Land Challenge is a STEM initiative in which teams of high school or middle school aged students learn about the engineering process through the design and build of a robotic system. The systems are then used to compete in challenges relevant to the Department of Defense which mimic missions encountered by the military, national security agencies and first responders. The Foundation hosts an annual event every year with scholarship opportunities available to winning teams.



BSA LEARNING FOR LIFE WITH GUEST LECTURERS



A partnership with the Columbia-Montour Boy Scouts of America to offer career exploration opportunities to local middle and high schoolers, and to pair local organizations and their career opportunities with students, through guest speakers.

The Foundation partners to host an online marketing contest for middle school students, where participants create a 2-minute marketing video for a partner manufacturing company. Students learn valuable skills such as shooting A and B roll footage, storyboarding, video editing, adding music, and producing a polished final product. Classroom activities also cover social media and digital marketing strategies. The contest culminates in a 48-hour online event where videos are showcased, and the public votes for their favorite through a viewer's-choice format.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Foundation offers scholarships to graduating seniors from eight local high schools for two key programs: the Skills that Pay program, which focuses on foundational skills development, and Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week (PFEW), an immersive program that teaches high school students about the American free enterprise system. Both programs connect motivated students with business professionals from across the state, providing valuable opportunities for learning and career exploration.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Classroom on Main Street

Educator in the Workplace – The goal of this program is to enhance high school and middle school curriculum development by partnering educators with businesses in Columbia and Montour Counties. Educators bring their experiences back into the classroom through job shadowing experiences and lesson plan development.

Student in the Workplace – The Student in the Workplace program brings students to a variety of on-site experiences for career exploration.

Classroom in the Hospital – Students from local schools explore health careers in partnership with local healthcare organizations.

Classroom on Main Street- Students from local high schools explore business and entrepreneurship, meeting with small business owners and entrepreneurship experts.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

TECH THEATER



In partnership with the Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble and Commonwealth University - Bloomsburg, this program merges STEM and theater curricula to appeal to students who may not see STEM as valuable to their future in the arts. Through this program, we've purchased high-end tech equipment for theater programs in all eight high schools to teach about light and sound in arts production.



Arts in Bloom
Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield
COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



PersonalFinanceLab™



Stock Market Game

***New* Personal Finance Lab:** The Foundation has partnered with Brighter Financial Futures and Journey Bank to offer interactive financial literacy programming to high school students in local school districts. This collaboration provides students with hands-on learning opportunities that teach essential financial skills, empowering them to make informed decisions about managing their personal finances. Through engaging, real-world applications, the program ensures students are equipped with the knowledge needed to navigate financial challenges both now and in the future.

Stock Market Game - This program allows students to experience the thrill of investing without all the risk of losing real money. With \$100,000 of virtual cash, students are in control of their fortune, and compete with other teams from their region and across the state. Teachers register their students in one of three grade-based divisions -: Elementary (Grades 4-5), Junior High/Middle School (Grades 6-8), and High School (Grades 9-12).



In Partnership With:



Thank you to our supporters. Together, we make a difference.

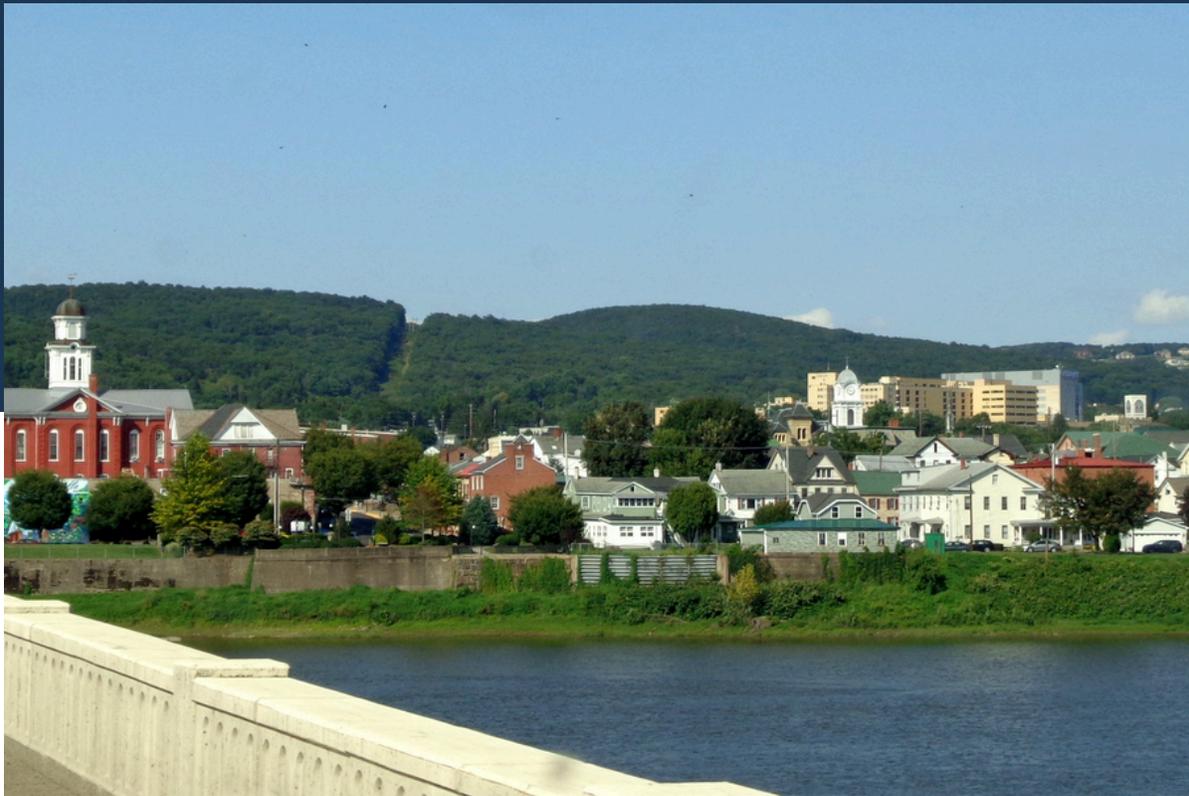
THE FOUNDATION

of The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce

Workforce Development

Leadership Training

Career Exploration



"The Foundation of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce empowers our community by fostering leadership, supporting education, and creating pathways to success—building a brighter future for all."

If you would like to know more about the Foundation of the Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce or have any questions, please contact the Foundation at foundation@columbiamontourchamber.com, by phone at 570.784.2522 or visit the Foundation of the Columbia Montour Chamber website at the QR Code below

