WOW! The first quarter of 2017 was a whirlwind here at the Shippensburg Chamber of Commerce! In fact, it seems to always be our busiest time of the year. We began the year's events with our Annual Leadership Conference which attracts students, business leaders and many other diverse leaders from the region. This event provides an opportunity to gather together, meet and greet other leaders in attendance, enjoy a meal and listen to an identified keynote speaker who focuses on Leadership development. This year we were privileged to have Patrick W. O'Donnell, President/CEO of Summit Health, with us. His presentation was very encouraging and empowering. And, despite the weather, the 4th Annual Leadership Conference was pretty well attended.

The next event on the calendar was the Chamber Annual Business meeting. This meeting gives every member of the Chamber an opportunity to hear what our office and its partnering agencies (D.O.I.T. and SADCO) did on a broad and more focused basis throughout the past year. It is always encouraging to see where we have come from and all that has been accomplished.

The Annual Chamber Banquet followed shortly thereafter. It is the biggest event that the Chamber hosts and takes a lot of work, time, planning and organization to make it a success. We have a great team that works together very well to make sure that it goes flawlessly and the evening is memorable. At the banquet we celebrate, recognize, and award those businesses and leaders in the community that presently, and continue to, go above and beyond by providing great service to the Shippensburg Community. It is also a time for business leaders to socialize with a nice dinner provided and many participate in a silent auction where the proceeds benefit the Shippensburg Chamber. It was an amazing evening and the Chamber has received a lot of great feedback on that night.

We enjoy being an active Chamber of Commerce with our goal of connecting with our current members and also attracting new ones. Let me encourage you to take advantage of the website and social media outlet that the Chamber has available through the Shippensburg Chamber website and the Shippensburg Chamber social media. Continue to shop local! Let’s keep our town moving forward.

Scott Brown. President
Shippensburg Area Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement: The Mission of the Shippensburg Area Chamber of Commerce is to provide services with services that promote and support economic vitality as well as develop Shippensburg as a great place to live, work, play, visit and invest.

Vision Statement: To be recognized as the premier membership-based organization for professional networking, development, and stimulating economic growth in the vibrant and prospering business community of Shippensburg.

4th Annual
Shippensburg Bloom Festival
Saturday, May 6, 2017
9am - 3pm
Rain or Shine!
shippensburgbloomfestival.com

Children’s Activities & Much More!
Alphabet Soup: A Guide to Economic Development Acronyms

By Mary Kuna - Economic Development Manager
Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation

Every industry has its own set of acronyms that act as delightful abbreviation for overly long titles and as a method of distinguishing industry insiders from industry outsiders. This short breakdown of some of the commonly used economic development acronyms will help the next time you find yourself reading a newspaper article, township newsletter or watching the nightly news regarding government budgets.

EDA or U.S. Economic Development Administration - You probably heard about the EDA watching a nightly news program regarding the federal budget. The EDA is an agency in the US Department of Commerce. It is the only federal agency responsible solely for economic development. The EDA provides funding to communities and projects for economic development projects. The EDA focuses on innovation and regional collaboration when identifying projects for funding.

DCED or the PA Department of Community and Economic Development - Whether you are a small business or community, DCED is one of the main departments in the Commonwealth to provide funding and financing. The department works to attract businesses to Pennsylvania and improve quality of life for residents. Main street funding, sewer and water funding, small business financing, tax credits and many other types of programs are administered by DCED. To understand DCED programs, contact your local economic development agencies, such as, Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation.

HUD or U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - Most people have heard of HUD and associate the department with affordable housing, but HUD plays a major role in economic development policy. HUD is a Cabinet department that extends its reach into community development, neighborhood partnership and fair housing. The department provides funding and financing for community projects, small businesses and homeowners. Most of the funding extends from the federal level to state and local agencies. In fact, you have probably encountered a project or program that has its roots in HUD funding without even realizing it.

LERTA or Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance - A LERTA is an economic development tool that allows tax authorities to exempt real property taxes on improvements and new construction in an area to encourage economic growth and improvement of deteriorated properties. Each local taxing authority may participate at whatever tax exemption amount and time-period they see fit. LERTA programs vary from municipality to municipality. The legislation allows municipalities and other tax bodies’ autonomy in how they utilize the program with some specific restraints regarding the number of years the exemption may take place (not to exceed 10 years) and guidance for what constitutes an appropriate area for LERTA benefits.

CDBG or Community Development Block Grants - The CDBG program provides communities with resources to address community development needs. The program began in 1974 and runs through HUD. CDBG funds are used to improve housing, create jobs through business expansion and improve communities for all residents. Funds come directly from HUD to a local authority and then dispersed to projects and agencies throughout the community. Some examples of what CDBG funding has been used for includes communities and regions are funding code enforcement agents, streetscape improvements, small business financing, housing programs, nonprofit community based programs, and acquisitions of blighted sites.

These are only a handful of acronyms, but they are the starting place for understanding some of the major economic development discussions at the federal, state and local levels. If there are questions about economic development programs or acronyms please do not hesitate to send your questions to mary@cumberlandbusiness.com.
PA Chamber Educational Foundation Partners with mikeroweWORKS Foundation to Provide Scholarships to Pennsylvania Students

HARRISBURG - As part of its ongoing initiative to address the Commonwealth’s job skills gap, the PA Chamber Educational Foundation is proud to team up with Executive Producer and TV Host Mike Rowe to offer scholarships to Pennsylvanians interested in pursuing a career in the skilled trades as part of the mikeroweWORKS Foundation’s 2017 Work Ethic Scholarship Program.

“Pennsylvania has long been touted for its strong work ethic,” said PA Chamber President and CEO Gene Barr. “However, a lack of job readiness among candidates in critical growing industries has lead to a growing skills gap. We’re proud to join with Mike Rowe and the mikeroweWORKS Foundation to increase public awareness about the growing demand for workers in the skilled trades and help to ensure the next generation of workers is prepared to meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s evolving workforce.”

The mikeroweWORKS Foundation’s Work Ethic Scholarship Program gives scholarships to people getting trained for skilled jobs that are in high demand. The PA Chamber’s contribution to the 2017 Work Ethic Scholarship Program will go directly towards qualified Pennsylvanians. With the help of the Commonwealth’s business community, the PA Chamber will contribute more than $75,000 in scholarship funds. The 2017 Work Ethic Scholarship Program launched Monday, March 20, 2017.

This innovative collaboration developed as a follow-up to the PA Chamber’s 2016 Workforce Summit, in which Rowe was the keynote speaker. At the summit, the results of the PA Chamber’s 2016 Workforce Survey were unveiled to show that more than 50 percent of employers surveyed believe that recruiting qualified candidates is very or extremely difficult. Additionally, 57 percent said they think it will get more difficult within the next five years, and 56 percent said they are having difficulty filling technical/skilled trade jobs.

Those interested in applying for the 2017 Work Ethic Scholarship can find more information on the mikeroweWORKS Foundation’s website. Businesses that are interested in learning more about this initiative can find more information online.

The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry is the state’s largest broad-based business association, with its statewide membership comprising businesses of all sizes and across all industry sectors. The PA Chamber is The Statewide Voice of Business™.

Branch Creek Place
115 N. Fayette St., Shippensburg, PA 17257
(717) 300-3563

Lunches are nutritionally-balanced meals provided by the Cumberland County Office of Aging (CCOA) each day at 11:00 am. A secure box is available for optional donations to CCOA to help cover the cost of food preparation and allow more people to enjoy meals. 24-hour notice is required to reserve a meal. Activities and enrichment include Tai Chi and line dancing, to computer classes, games, quilting, book clubs, and card clubs, there is something for everyone.

Some additional services offered include:
- Free tax preparation by AARP
- Access to property tax/rent rebate forms
- Access to LIHEAP applications
- Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program
- Access to PACE and PACENet applications
- Flu shots
- Health screenings & wellness education

The Branch Creek Place relies on community support to help our seniors maintain an independent, meaningful, and productive lifestyle. Volunteer opportunities include:
- Receptionist
- Prepping and serving daily meals
- Leading center activities
- Landscaping
- Fundraising
- Participating in community service projects

For more information on activities or to tour the center, contact the Branch Creek Manager at (717) 300-3563 to learn more.
9th Annual
¡Feliz Cinco de Mayo!
Regional Fiesta Mixer
Thursday, May 4, 2017
4:30-7:00pm

Conference Center
at Shippensburg University
500 Newburg Road, Shippensburg
R.S.V.P. to 717.532.5509 or chamber@shippensburg.org

3rd Annual
BLOOM Festival
Craft & Food Vendors
Plant & Flower Sales
Local Produce
Saturday, May 6, 2017
9am - 3pm
Rain or Shine!

Children's Activities & Much More!

SHIPPENSBURG
Area Chamber of Commerce
SHIPPENSBURG, PA