

# Workforce Connections

Your weekly digest of resources, events, and all things  
Workforce Development in Lancaster County



June 5, 2020 | Issue II

## In the News

[Lancaster County's unemployment rate soars to 15.3% in April](#)

[Over \\$12.2 billion in unemployment benefits paid out in Pennsylvania](#)

[Free Covid-19 Printable Signage for your Workplace](#)

[In case you missed last week's email!](#)

## Lancaster County Workforce Development Board implements aggressive Five-Year Strategic Plan

In October 2019, the Board of Directors approved a five-year Strategic Plan that identifies **four** strategic priorities:

1. **Effectively Convene and Collaborate with Workforce Partners**
2. **Innovative Resourcing for Workforce Development in Lancaster County**
3. **Intentional Outreach and Communication**
4. **Organizational Integrity, Sustainability, and Business Operations**

To read the entire plan, click [here](#).



Pictured is Career Counselor Kirsten Bain and students from Pequea Valley School District attending a live surgery career exposure event in Harrisburg.

## LCWDB Pilots Program Supporting Career Counselors in Schools

*Career Counselors, funded through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Youth Development Program, work with high school seniors and juniors to develop a post-secondary career plan. Hear what the counselors have to say about their [experience!](#)*

Read Pilot  
Evaluation

Contact Us



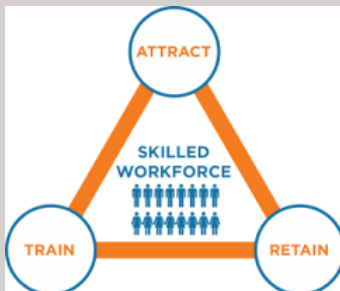
Executive Director: [Cathy Rychalsky](#)  
Chief Operating Officer: [Anna Ramos](#)



Strategic Innovation Officer: [Valerie Hatfield](#)  
Fiscal Manager: [Anibal Aponte](#)  
Administrative Assistant: [Rae Miller](#)  
Business-Education Partnership Intern:  
[Samantha Bretz](#)  
Quality Assurance Specialist: [We're Hiring!](#)  
P/T Fiscal Analyst: [We're Hiring!](#)

## What resources are available to assist employers in retaining a skilled workforce?

*As Lancaster County prepares to move to the yellow phase of re-opening, employers are faced with evaluating how their business will operate in the new "normal"*



Learn More:  
Overview of  
Workforce  
Training  
Funds

The Lancaster County Workforce Development Board (LCWDB), and PA CareerLink Lancaster County are committed to assisting Lancaster County employers retain and develop a skilled workforce.

Some of the services we offer include:

- **Enhancing your Human Resource Capacity** by assisting in recruiting, hiring, training or upskilling your workforce
- **Upskilling and Diversifying** your workforce to meet new demands through funding that supports on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, youth paid internships, and registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships
- **Engaging in Regional and Local long-term workforce planning** by participating in [Next Gen Industry Partnerships](#), local committees, and engagement with the board

We are eager to assist with your recruitment and retention needs. To schedule a personalized consultation on how we can best assist you, please [contact us today!](#)

### Board Member Spotlight

**A few words from our incoming Vice Chair**

When asked about one of his goals as incoming vice chair, Carl said, "My primary focus will be to support our Chair, Dave Sload, foster engagement and lead in the realization of the 5 year strategic plan we recently developed."

Here are some fun facts about Carl:

**Q:** What piece of advice were you given that has helped



Carl Freeman is the Site Director at the Elizabethtown location of Mars Wrigley and is the incoming Vice Chair of the Lancaster County Workforce Development Board of Directors. Carl is the youngest of 7 children. He and his wife Gazelle share a son, Anthony. Carl assumes his role as Vice Chair on July 1, 2020.

you become successful over the years ?

**A:** Leave the right legacy – Be the example you wish you had

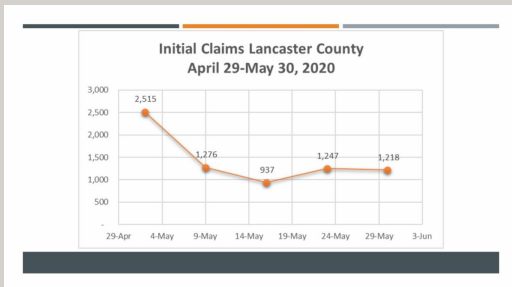
**Q:** In your free time, what do you like to do?

**A:** I enjoy traveling, sports and reading.

**Q:** What is something our readers should know about you?

**A:** People and community are both important to me.

### Real Time Unemployment Data for Lancaster County - May Update



The Lancaster County Workforce Development Board tracks daily, weekly and monthly unemployment claims. After a peak of 19,234 initial claims reported in Lancaster week ending April 4, we have continued to trend downwards for initial claims. Last year at this time, Lancaster indicated 275 initial claims week ending May 30, 2019 vs. 1,127 claims this past week in 2020.

[download chart](#)

Continued Unemployment Claims are the bi-weekly claims that eligible participants submit to continue their initial claim. This is a leading indicator, along with reduced initial claims, that people are returning to work.

[download chart](#)



### Did You Know?

The Lancaster County Workforce Development Board is your *premier* source for Labor Market Information.

We can provide resources and links for self-service access to local, state, and federal labor market information, as well as customized reports for your business, at no charge!

Check out the NEW Weekly  
Unemployment Claims Interactive  
Dashboard to see up-to-date local  
information

To discuss your Labor Market needs, please  
contact [Valerie Hatfield](#).

Just released: [Lancaster County April  
Economic Profile](#)

## Cathy's Corner

*A note from desk of the Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board*

### Shared Insight of What the Board Does

Many people are just not sure what exciting work the Lancaster County Workforce Development Board does. I am excited to share with you a few highlights of our organization.

Under the direction of our Board of Directors, our team serves as:

**Conveners:** bringing businesses, community partners, training providers and jobseekers together to identify workforce needs and strategies.

**Informer:** providing local labor market data on unemployment, sector growth, wage details, occupational demand and more!

**Promoter:** working closely with our local delegation, we communicate the need for adequate funding and flexible policies to meet the workforce needs of Lancaster County.

**Funder:** procuring innovative and quality workforce services that support the labor market needs for today and the future, remediation, skill development, work experience, and much more.

These last few months have changed the way our economy looks. Many businesses and families have suffered tremendous loss. Now more than ever, we need to pull together to ensure a quick and successful economic recovery. Will you be part of this movement?

To learn more about our organization or to get involved, please visit our [website](#). To find out more about recovery efforts, please click [here](#).

Cathy



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Lancaster County Workforce Development Board |  
[www.lancastercountywib.com](http://www.lancastercountywib.com)



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.  
Auxiliary aids and services available to those with disabilities upon request.