



ANNUAL REPORT

www.aceserie.org

2021 - 2022

A Word From Our Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff of ACES, I wanted to say thank you to Val Laufenberg for her tremendous 36 years of dedicated service to the ACES Organization as she goes to enjoy retirement. Many of ACES' Donors, School Partners and Volunteers have known Val for many years as the Face of ACES. Her passion to provide the mission of ACES to thousands of students over her time with our organization is insurmountable. Val has always told her students that she found her Fish with ACES and the many people that have worked with Val know ACES was her Fish. We all would like to thank Val again for everything she has done and to wish her a very happy and prosperous retirement.

ACES has continued to grow and impact more students each and every year. We are pleased to have a fantastic new school partner, Union City High School, as an addition to our annual programming lineup. The small staff of ACES can't bring these invaluable lessons to our young adult's minds without the support of our generous donors, valuable volunteers, and partnership with our many schools and districts. The ACES Board of Directors and myself would like to thank everyone that helps make an impact on our Entrepreneurs and Workforce of the future.

Nathan Ross, Chairman



*Wishing Val Laufenberg
A Happy Retirement!*



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ACES Mission

ACES is a nonprofit, non political educational organization promoting the understanding of free market economics to students, teachers, and the general public through partnerships between the business and education communities.

Business Week is Back!

ACES is excited to announce that Pennsylvania Business Week has returned to schools for the 2021-2022 school year! We received overwhelmingly positive feedback for our return, and we are thrilled to share the following results with you.

OF STUDENTS RATED THEIR EXPERIENCE AS EXCELLENT OR GOOD	94%	96%	OF STUDENTS SAID THEY NOW HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY
OF STUDENTS SAID THEY ARE NOW MORE AWARE OF AVAILABLE LOCAL CAREERS	87%	71%	OF STUDENTS SAID THAT PBW INFLUENCED THEIR THOUGHTS ON FURTHER EDUCATION

*based on 978 completed student evaluations

\$10,300 in Top Company prize money was awarded to winning student teams in the 2021 - 2022 Pennsylvania Business Week programming year.



"This week was a new and exciting experience for me. This was an amazing little sneak peek of the business world. I enjoyed working with new people, listening to the presentations, representing the junior class, and so much more. I'm thankful we are lucky enough as a school to be involved in such an eye-opening organization."

– PBW Graduate at Saegertown High School

Want to Bring PBW to Your School?

For information on how to bring PBW to your school, visit our website, aceserie.org, or contact ACES Executive Director, Stacy Bartholomew, at 814-456-7007 or stacy@aceserie.org.

Current PBW Programs

ACES would like to thank all of the participating 2022-2023 high schools and their districts for continuing their effort of enriching the lives and education of their students with their ongoing support of the Pennsylvania Business Week program.

New Castle High School

Senior Class

Principal: Rich Litrenta

*Coordinators: Stephanie Gibson &
Kim Camerot*

Greenville High School

Senior Class

Principal: Jeff Keeling

Coordinator: Jennifer Hawthorne

Union City High School

Junior Class

Principal: Dan Keefer

Coordinator: Anne Conte

Corry Area High School

Junior Class

Principal: Andrew Passinger

Coordinator: Susan Bogert

Hickory High School

Senior Class

Principal: Chris Gill

Coordinator: Barb Knauff

Saegertown High School

Junior Class

Principals: Tom Baker &

Erica Howick

Coordinator: Tim Houck

Maplewood High School

Junior Class

Principal: Kenneth Wolfarth

Coordinator: Mark Eisert

Fort LeBoeuf High School

Junior Class

Principal: Martin Rimpa

Coordinator: Cara Gadley

Girard High School

Junior Class

Principal: Eric Louis

Coordinator: Antonella Spinelli

Cambridge Springs High School

Junior Class

Principal: Kylene Koper

Coordinator: Vickie Schultz



“I believe that Business Week is extremely helpful to all the students who participate, and that it should be continued for many years to come.”

– PBW Graduate at Corry Area High School

Check out the results from our current programs by clicking or scanning the QR code!



ACES Financials

Financial Statement

REVENUE & SUPPORT	<u>May 31, 2022</u>	<u>May 31, 2021</u>
Contributed Services, Volunteers, & In-Kind	\$394,531	\$19,205*
PA Business Week Contributions	\$126,857	\$62,350
Corporate, Foundations, Associations & Individual Contributions	\$39,215	\$40,728
Other/Government Stimulus Support	\$18,393	\$139,073
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	<u>\$578,996</u>	<u>\$261,356</u>
EXPENSES		
Contributed Services, Volunteers, & In-Kind	\$394,531	\$19,205*
Instruction, Education & Programming	\$102,716	\$92,784
Administrative	\$43,779	\$55,797
Fundraising	\$15,029	\$29,961
Total Expenses	<u>\$556,055</u>	<u>\$197,747</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>\$22,941</u>	<u>\$63,609</u>

**Low contributed services 2020 -2021 due to lack of programing as a result of COVID-19*

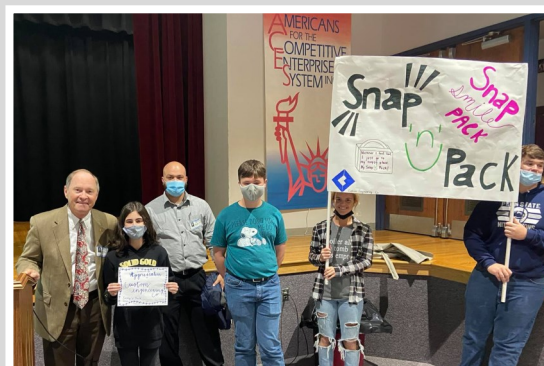
A Word From Our Treasurer

"The ACES financial statements for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2022 reflect an organization that was back at its full mission to educate and inspire both students and educators on the genius of the American free enterprise system. We continue to be blessed by a great team of employees as well as many loyal contributors as we will bring our week-long Pennsylvania Business Week program into 10 area high schools during this current school year. Hats off also to those who have contributed or will contribute their valuable time to serve as advisors, speakers and competition judges."

Jim Ohrn, ACES Treasurer

"The program was well thought out and a great challenge for the kids. I personally had a lot of fun and found it rewarding."

– PBW Advisor at Fort LeBoeuf High School



Thank You to our Sponsors and Volunteers

We would like to thank each of our donors and volunteers for helping to make our mission possible; we could not exist without you! ACES strives to recognize everyone who has helped make this past year a success. Please accept our apologies and let us know if we unintentionally missed your support.

Additionally, many local businesses in the regions we serve, have generously donated prizes for the student competitions. They are too numerous to list, but we thank them for their generosity.

ACES would also like to thank our anonymous donors.

Major Donors

**The Almira
Foundation**

**Arlene H. Smith
Foundation**



**May Emma Hoyt
Foundation**

**The Merwin
Foundation**



UPMC HEALTH PLAN



EITC Donors

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Plastikos, Inc.
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Waste Management



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Arlene H. Smith Charitable Foundation
The Community Foundation of W PA & E OH
Corry Community Foundation
Fort LeBoeuf Foundation

Girard School District Foundation
Lawrence County Learning Center
May Emma Hoyt Foundation
The Merwin Foundation
Wabtec Foundation

In-Kind Donors

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Erie Otters
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Manufacturer & Business Association
Maple Donuts

McCarty Printing
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Pizza Joe's—Saegertown
Saegertown Beverage
The Nutrition Group
Palace Center
Townville Family Ties
Vocelli's—Saegertown

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James Waldemarson
Carl & Jessica Wolfrom
Sean Wolfrom
Grant Yochim

***"I discovered that to get anything done in a business or team environment people have to work together and truly listen to each other without trying to disregard everyone else's ideas."
— PBW Graduate at New Castle High School***



Corporate Donors



“Students commented how they wish business week was longer than a week. An indication that they really enjoyed this experience.”
– PBW Advisor at Cambridge Springs High School

A. Caplan Company
Acutec Precision Aerospace, Inc.
Allegheny Outfitters
American Legion Fort LeBoeuf Post 285
Bayshore Homes
Betts Industries, Inc.
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Corry FCU
Corry Manufacturing Company
Corry Moose Lodge #98
Craig Newell Welding
Crawford Area Transportation Authority
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Hamot Health Foundation
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Smith Provision Co., Inc.
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St. Pauls Senior Living Community
Steadman Law Office, PC
Thiel College
Thomas Erie, Inc.
Townsville Lions Club
Uline
UPMC Health Plan
Urick Ductile Solutions
Van Air Systems
VFW Bruce Shorts Post 5859
Walmart
Wegmans
Widget Financial

Volunteer Business Advisors

Amy Allen
Carl Archacki
Shana Bailey
Robert Barton
Samantha Bengel
Georgette Bennett
Steve Bishop
Jim Black
Jeff Bobin
Mary Kay Borkowski
Clay Brocious
Shelby Brown
Paul Bucciarelli
Emilee Clayton
Tom Darby
Steve Drake
Mindy Fadden
Kerri Fleet
Denny Fortin
Jeff Frantz

Tina Freeman
Jeff Gibbens
Michael Graham
James Gulla
Gary Gulla
Delores Hale
Stacey Heiser
Paul Herrmann
Beth Ivanic
Aldo Jackson
Marlene Jenkins
Scott Jones
Emma Jones
Pat Jordan
Bill Koehle
Katie Krasa
Jake Krezmien
Case Kunick
Dave Leyde
Andrew Lincoln

Jeff Linn
Michael McConnell
Mike McCullough
Maryann Mennano
Chelsea Oliver
Sarah Palmer
Amanda Rhoades
Ben Schlipf
Lee Schmidt
Ella Smith
Jessica Snider
Justin Spierling
Jon Swank
Justin Terrill
Ryan Thomas
Tom Vaughn
Andrew Walkiewicz
Jake Wetzel
Adam Williams
Harry Zurasky



“Business Week helped the students to synthesize much of the learning they've done in the classroom in a more realistic scenario, increases communication, and builds confidence in students that might not always excel in the typical classroom.”

– PBW Advisor at Cambridge Springs High School

Volunteer Speakers

Morgan Bodnar
John Buchna
Peter Burton
Nick Cianci
George Couch
Amy Doolan
Shane Foster
Dennis Frantz
Joe Gabriel
Shawn Gross
Charles “Boo” Hagerty
Maggie Horne

Marlene Jenkins
Pat Johnson
Jacob Jones
Steve Kandray
Larry Kelly
Val Laufenberg
Dave Merritt
Jim Ohrn
Jenny Poff
Tom Roberts
Amy Wanchisn



“I really enjoyed the speakers; they helped me understand more about what it takes to run a company.”

– PBW Graduate at Hickory High School

Volunteer Competition Judges

Carmen Aiello
John Anderson
Debbie Anderson
Kelsey Barringer
Jeff Barron
Brian Bedow
Abraham Bigelow
Jeff Bobin
Morgan Bodnar
Ed Bogert
Marshall Bridger
Jennifer Brown
Tammy Case
Justin Cashdollar
Jamie Chiocco
Daniela Covert
Jeff Coy
Kelly Cragg
Ashley Crum
Joni Cugini
Clay Dawson
Jessica Donor
Matthew Fabian
Rocco Favorite
Erica Fenstermaker
Brandon Ferro
Scott Fogle
Dawn Fronce
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Linda Hajec

Tracie Harmon
Mike Hess
Nicole Hyatt
Lynda Jaworski-Rapone
Mandy Johnson
Emma Jones
Bruce Kibler
Joe Knorr
Ed Koppes
Anthony Kos
Ron Leeds
Tara Maciulewicz
Mike Mariano
Jayne Martin
Nicole Mateja
Dave Merritt
Amy Meyers
Ronilyn Mitcheltree
Sam Myers
Brian Nespore
Abbi Papale
Bob Paris
Carl Parkin
Karen Paszko
Bob Patterson
Jennifer Pontzer
Andy Pratt
Mary Beth Reynolds
Kristopher Ricker
Eric Robbins
Jennifer Rogers

Marcus Schlegel
Brad Schwab
Tricia Schweiss
Sabrina Seeley
Josh Sherretts
Susan Smith
Russell Smith
Kelly Soety
Matt Stearns
Stacey Stephens
Bill Taylor
Keith Taylor
Kevin Turner
Tina Warner
Kara Wasser
Bill West
Mike Williams



"I have not participated in a program like Business Week before, but I am so glad I had the opportunity to! I learned so much, and I know a lot of others did as well."

– PBW Graduate at Girard High School

Awards Luncheon

ACES Annual Luncheon returned to honor three crucial members of our Erie community. Philip Katen and Ryan Katen, the brothers of Plastikos, Plastikos Medical, and Micro Mold, were recognized as the 2022 Bob and Betty Merwin Outstanding Citizens. Antonella Spinelli of Girard School District was also recognized as the 2022 ACES Educator of the Year.

To see more about the event please visit the links below!



[Details](#)

[Pictures](#)

A Word From ACES

Your contributions have already made a significant impact on the lives of countless students, and with your continued support, we can continue to empower the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders.

Join us in our mission to provide students with the tools they need to succeed in today's rapidly changing economy and help us build a brighter future for generations to come.

Please consider making a monthly contribution to support our efforts to provide economic education to high school students.

[I Care!](#)

Your ongoing support will enable us to reach even more students and make a lasting impact on their lives.