

PA Business Week Sponsors

Through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, corporate and foundation grants, and in-kind gifts, the following companies and organizations have generously donated to support all Pennsylvania Business Week programs for the 2025-2026 school year.

Custom Engineering	Ellwood Group	Erie Insurance Group
Lincoln Recycling	MacDonald Illig Jones & Britton LLP	Manufacturing & Business Association
Marquette Savings Bank	Mercer County State Bank	Plastikos, Inc.
Scott's Splash Lagoon, Inc.	UPMC Health Plan	Wabtec Foundation
		Waste Management

Contributing Sponsors

Many have donated supplies, prizes, and funds to the Business Week Program. The generosity and support from the community is appreciated. We would like to express our gratitude to the following:

Burger King	Buffalo Wild Wings	Dairy Queen
Hot Heads	Laurel Technical Institute	Subway

Competition Judges

Judging the student competitions is an extremely difficult task. The following individuals have kindly volunteered for this important endeavor. We would like to extend our appreciation to them.

Chris Becker <i>G.W. Becker, Inc.</i>	Bethany Becker <i>ElleBee's Entrance</i>	Natalie Bell <i>Liberty University School of Medicine</i>
Matthew Fabian <i>HBK CPAs & Consultants</i>	Nichole Hamelly <i>Stitch Fix</i>	Stefanie Bell <i>Hartford Insurance</i>
Monique Horvath <i>Hermitage School District</i>	Stephanie Schneider <i>Mercer County Career Center</i>	Lauren Delfratte <i>Sunbelt Solomon</i>
Brian Nespor <i>First National Bank</i>	Robert States <i>Laurel Technical Institute</i>	Frank Gargiulo <i>Penn State Shenango</i>

Staci Perman
Abbott Nutrition

PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS WEEK

A PROGRAM OF AMERICANS FOR THE COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM



Hickory High School

December 15-19, 2025

Presented by:



ACES • 2222 Filmore Avenue • Suite 600 • Erie, PA 16506
814-456-7007 • info@aceserie.org

Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System (ACES) is a non-profit, 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.

Hickory High School

Educating today's youth has become increasingly challenging. Innovative educators and school districts are always seeking new and better ways to accomplish their goals. We applaud Hickory High School for partnering with ACES to present this progressive program in economics education. Special thanks go out to the entire administration, faculty, and staff for their vision and commitment.

Business Advisors

The following individuals have generously donated their time as Business Advisors. Their dedication and commitment to young people serves as an example to all of us. We would like to extend our appreciation to them and to their companies and organizations.

Dan Bolena
Imparo Coaching, LLC

Blase Cindric
University of Mount Union

Tom Darby
Hermitage Municipal Authority

Lauren Garthwaite
Berkshire Hathaway

David Grande
First National Bank

Michael Graham
United Way of Mercer

Jennifer Hughes
First National Bank

Sarah Palmer
Mercer County State Bank

Abby Postlewaite
Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union

Jeff Simmons
Mercer County State Bank

Sgt. Matthew Taylor
US Army

Educator Advisors

The following educators have graciously volunteered to represent the educational community in this program. For their commitment to educate our youth, we extend our appreciation to them.

Anthony Barlow

Christina Cheffo

Pat Cindric

Marcus Fuller

Maria Hand

Joe Kulbacki

Duncan McCoy

Christina McGonigle

Kara Perry

Alicia Sciaretta

Business Week Coordinator, Barb Knauff

Guest Speakers

Speakers are a vital part of the Pennsylvania Business Week program. These experts in their respective fields present important topics that are not covered in the regular scope of the program. We would like to thank the following individuals for sharing their knowledge and experience.

Randy Beck
SCP Group

Daniel Bolena
Imparo Coaching, LLC

Christopher Harben
Black School of Business, PSB

President Bill Johnson
Youngstown State University

Val Laufenberg
ACES

Brent Ward
Integrated Fabrication

Rod Wilt
Penn-Northwest Development Corp.

Program Sponsors

The following company have generously donated majority funding for the program. Pennsylvania Business Week would not have been possible without their financial support.



CRONIMET
SPECIALTY METALS



Higher Education Sponsor

The following organization has generously donated funding for program support.



PennState
Behrend

Black School of Business

Top Company

The following organization has generously donated funding to sponsor Top Company.



Industry Sponsors

The following organizations have generously donated funding to sponsor an entire industry of three student companies.

ERIEBANK
A division of CNB Bank

Company Sponsors

The following company have generously donated funding to sponsor the student competitions.

CMP
Castle Maintenance Products
"Keeping America Clean & Green for Future Generations"

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INSURANCE

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COLLEGE