

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

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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

We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who donated supplies, prizes, and financial support to the Business Week Program. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the following supporters. We also wish to thank everyone who purchased a "Girard Bus" for their contribution

**Balance Veterinary
Rehabilitation Services**

Domino's Pizza

**Erie County Gaming
Revenue Authority**

Gadley Pest Services

Gannon University

Emily Knorr

Kurtz Bros.

McDonald's

Nothing Bundt Cakes

Penn West Edinboro

Steadman Law Office

Taco Bell

Tim Horton's

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.

Hunter Cox

Widget Financial

John Buchna

Flagship Bank

Marit Bakken Barber

Gannon University

Jim Ohrn

Custom Engineering

Aaron Carlson

Port Erie Plastics

Ben Luniewski

TechWorx LLC

Andy Pratt

Pratt Insurance Agency

Heather Evans

Port Erie Plastics

Jeff Gadley

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Phil Stuczynski

*Black School of Business,
Penn State Behrend*

Dea Leftwich

PGH Bureau of Police

Janelle Shollenberger

TechWorx LLC

Jennifer Pontzer

Career Street

Stacey Stephens

Burton Funeral Home

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.

PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS WEEK

A PROGRAM OF AMERICANS FOR THE COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM



Girard High School

February 9-12, 2026

Presented by:



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

Girard 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 Girard 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.

Nicole Hyatt
First Commonwealth

Clay Brocius
Hyper-Tek Manufacturing

Michael McConnell
Hometown Management

Emma Jones
3:23 Athletics

Scott Jones
KML Industries

David Sterrett
Business Consultant

Crystal Viveralli
Snap-Tite Hose

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.

Julie Acker

Gina DeFreo

Greg Dore

Jim Funk

Jeff Paslowski

Greg Stelter

Mike Zona

Business Week Coordinator, Yvonne Conley

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.

John Buchna
Flagship Bank

Peter Burton
Burton Funeral Home

Jim Funk
Girard High School

Christopher Harben
Penn State Behrend, Black School of Business

Joe Kuvshinikov
Gannon University, Dahlkemper School of Business

Micki Webster
Gannon University, Undergraduate Admissions

Val Laufenberg
ACES

Program Sponsor

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



Higher Education Sponsor

The following organization has generously donated funding for program support.



PennState
Behrend

Black School of Business

Industry Sponsors

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



Competition Sponsors

The following companies have generously donated funding to sponsor the student competitions. Community Health Net sponsored the Trade Show Competition. Tendto Credit Union sponsored Advertising & Marketing, RONA, and Stockholder's Competitions.



Company Sponsors

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

Girard Federation of Teachers

Hyper-Tek Manufacturing

Northwestern Manufacturing

TechWorx LLC

Tendto Credit Union

Thiel College

Van Air Systems