

**Allegheny Conference Annual Meeting 2015:  
It's time to shift region into higher gear to attract and retain  
skilled workers**

*Region's employers called to be more aggressive about connecting people to opportunity to meet increased demand for skilled workers*

*Conference leaders detail recent achievements in Economy & Community, Infrastructure and Workforce strategies*

*Richard Harshman announced as incoming Conference Chair*

**(PITTSBURGH – November 4, 2015)** [Allegheny Conference on Community Development](#) leaders are using their 2015 Annual Meeting this evening to call on employers throughout the region to step up efforts to attract and retain skilled workers in the face of a massive shift underway in the local workforce.

More than a quarter of a million Baby Boomers working in the region today will be eligible to retire in the next 10 years. Between 2008 and 2013 alone, more than 60,000 Baby Boomers left the region's workforce. According to current migration trends, it's estimated that the region is missing about 100,000 people to replace the retiring Baby Boomers, if no further action is taken.

Compounding the challenge, the skills that employers will need in the future are changing and the Pittsburgh region will be competing for skilled workers with other regions across the country that have similar demographics.

"We're facing the opportunity and the challenge of a major shift in the demographics and workforce of our region. A generation is clocking out and a new generation is clocking in. And it's happening right now," said Morgan O'Brien, president and CEO, Peoples Natural Gas and current chair of the Allegheny Conference.

"We've got to shift into a higher gear and be more aggressive about connecting people to opportunity in our region. This is the focus of tonight's meeting – what each of us as employers and civic leaders must do now to prepare our organizations and our communities to compete for the future," continued O'Brien.

**MORE**

The Annual Meeting program will highlight recent accomplishments in the Conference's 2015-2017 Agenda, its current three-year work plan, which is designed to connect people to opportunity through strategies focused on Economy & Community, Infrastructure and Workforce. Among the highlights:

- **Workforce** - Continued investment in [ImaginePittsburgh.com](http://ImaginePittsburgh.com), a unique regional job portal — that hosts more than 20,000 open positions on an average day. Over the past two years, posted jobs have been viewed more than two million times by more than 270,000 users across the U.S. and in 40 other countries.
- **Economy & Community** – Secured nearly \$49 million in funding for the new [Power of 32 Site Development Fund](#) to accelerate business investment by bringing shovel-ready sites to market faster in the 32 counties of the greater Pittsburgh region. The Fund is intended to close critical infrastructure financing gaps for items such as rail line expansion and renovation, utility line installation, and clearing, grading and environmental remediation activities. The Fund's first investment was made earlier this year in Trimodal Terminal LP in Follansbee (W. Va.) and it continues to take applications for funding from new projects.
- **Economy & Community** - Added two new communities, Homewood and Sharpsburg, to the successful [Strengthening Communities Partnership](#) which has leveraged nearly \$10 million in private investment plus targeted *pro bono* services to drive revitalization and build capacity in seven communities that have been left behind by the region's economic transformation.
- **Economy & Community** - Partnered with Team NEO (Ohio) and Vision Shared (W. Va.) to support [a new Regional Cooperation Agreement](#) signed by three governors to establish a shared economic development strategy that reaches over state boundaries to capture business investment related to downstream activities, such as potential ethane cracker facilities, within the tri-state region.
- **Infrastructure** – Launched the new [Regional Transportation Alliance of Southwestern PA](#), a public-private partnership to facilitate a broad community discussion about the future of transportation in the 10-county region. The Alliance's first activity is currently underway, an "Imagine Transportation" crowdsourcing initiative to identify transportation priorities through community feedback.

At the conclusion of tonight's meeting, Conference Vice Chair Richard Harshman, chairman, president and CEO of Allegheny Technologies Incorporated (ATI) will be announced as the incoming chair. Mr. Harshman's term will begin in January 2016.

"We are committed to working together to strengthen our communities, improve the economic climate and develop an even more competitive workforce. And we must do it now. We do not have a lot of time. The decisions we make between now and the end of 2020, just five years away, will shape the region and our future together in 2025 and beyond," said Harshman.

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**The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its Affiliates** – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners improving the economy and the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The Allegheny Conference was incorporated in 1944 and provided private sector leadership through two generations of transformation. From 1944 to 1979, its focus was largely on the environment – improving air and water quality, taming annual spring floods and redeveloping urban areas. From 1980 to 2014 the region responded to the collapse of its industrial economy by transforming the economy. In the years ahead, the Conference is working on connecting people to opportunity with a specific focus on meeting the demographic and workforce challenges that face the 10-county Pittsburgh region. Learn more at [AlleghenyConference.org](http://AlleghenyConference.org).

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