

Connections

Winter 2015

Center of Achievement

Lenape Tech's
**NEW NextTier
Adult Learning Center**

Lenape Tech
Adult Education
Online at:
lenapetech.net

Inside starting on page 14.

Also:

- Sophs to "Super Seniors!" – The 3-Year Experience! (pgs. 2-3)
- Parent Perspective – The Kotecki Family! (pg. 4)
- New NextTier Adult Learning Center Opens! (pgs. 6-7)
- Lenape Practical Nursing Update! (pgs. 10-11)
- New Choices Program at Lenape Tech (Page 13)
- Much More!

At the Center of Achievement



NexTier
ADULT LEARNING CENTER
at Lenape Tech

With the opening of the new NexTier Adult Learning Center, Lenape Tech provides a vital resource to support lifelong learning, workforce development, and continued economic progress in Armstrong County.

The yearlong building process for the new Center concluded in early fall with the completion of a modern 9,916 sq. ft. training facility located adjacent to Lenape Tech's campus in Manor Township. NexTier Adult Learning Center will serve as home to the Lenape Practical Nursing Program and will feature a wide range of amenities including a new simulation lab, clinical lab, and spacious classroom and computer lab resources.

"This project provides a practical, flexible building for Lenape Tech to implement its Adult Education curriculum," says **Greer Hayden**, President of HHSDR Architects/Engineers (Sharon, PA) who supervised the design-bid-build process. "The exterior design complements both the Lenape Tech facility and the context of the surrounding residential neighborhood. These goals, set by the Joint Operating Committee, are achieved with the completed facility."

Previously, Lenape Practical Nursing Program's full- and part-time classes were held at West Hills Commons in East Franklin. The new Center will allow for greater class capacity and more programming flexibility, which Lenape administrators believe will produce increased revenue and greater opportunities for program growth.

The facility will house or support other Lenape Tech Adult Education initiatives including its medical office assistant, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, and commercial driving programs. It will also house the New Choices career development program. Final costs for the project are estimated to come in at just under \$2 million. DeMarco

Who Are The Adult Learners?

Those Looking for Work: In 2010-11, 41% of adults enrolled in adult basic education were unemployed and 31% were employed; the rest were not in the labor force. Enrollments in adult education have skyrocketed across the nation during the recession as adults are laid off and unable to find new jobs.

Youth: Every year, over three million youth drop out of school. They join the 6.7 million youth between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market. When they decide to complete their education, they enroll in adult education.

Immigrants: By 2030, nearly one in five US workers will be an immigrant. English Language Learners are a rapidly growing population across the nation.

Parents: Most adult learners are parents and primary caregivers of school-age children. Many are motivated to return to school by wanting to serve as better role models for their children and help their children succeed in school.

Source: worlded.org

“The opening of the new NexTier Adult Learning Center represents a milestone achievement in Lenape Tech’s ongoing commitment to supporting our single greatest resource - the people of Armstrong County.”

Dawn Kocher-Taylor, Lenape Tech Administrative Director

Construction (Clairton) served as general contractor for the project. The construction and operation of the new facility will be entirely self-sustaining through revenue generated by program tuition. No tax dollars support the facility, which was built with a \$1.8 million loan from NexTier Bank. “This school and its training programs are worth investing in,” said NexTier Bank President and CEO **Rich Krauland** in a Trib Total Media article (10/22/14). “We think giving those students state-of-the-art facility to learn in is going to be best for them and the entire community in the long-run.”

NexTier Bank secured the naming rights to the facility for the next five years as a result of a \$40,000 donation to the school. The funds have been earmarked for the purchase of furniture and technology.

A grand opening celebration for the new Center took place on November 20, 2014. **Dawn Kocher-Taylor**, Lenape Tech Administrative Director, comments: “The opening of the new NexTier Adult Learning Center represents a milestone achievement in Lenape Tech’s ongoing commitment to supporting our single greatest resource - the people of Armstrong County. We believe that it has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of individuals, families, and local communities. This is consistent with Lenape Tech’s mission, and we look forward to its success for decades to come.”



The NexTier Adult Learning Center at Lenape Tech is now home to the school’s Practical Nursing Program. Under the direction of Kimberly Doms, pictured with assistant Tiffany Unger above, the facility features state-of-the-art computer and health care simulation technology, large instructional classrooms, and a number of other amenities to support learning.



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