



# Armstrong Educational Trust E-Newsletter

## *S.A.T.S. Fund Raiser*

Inside this issue:

- Small Business Development Center* 2
- Job/Career Fair* 2
- Family Resource Network* 2
- WAGE Program* 3
- Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center* 3
- Manufacturing Consortium* 4
- Healthcare Consortium* 4

The second annual Sports Auction and Trivia Showdown will be held on Saturday, March 25 at 5:30 PM at the Belmont Complex.

The evening will feature an auction of sports-related items, a tailgate party dinner menu, and a Jeopardy-style sports trivia challenge.

This year, proceeds from the auction will be used to establish the AET Harry Beckwith Education Grant.

Auction items up for bid include a certificate for two grandstand tickets to a Pirates game, a signed Mario Lemieux photograph, and a football signed by the entire 2005

Steelers team and coaches. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for students, and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets are limited, so call the Trust today to get yours! (724) 543-2599



*This signed 2005 Steeler's Football is one of the items in the Sports Memorabilia Silent Auction.*





## Small Business Assistance

**"The Small Business Development Center from Clarion University helps individuals who are thinking of going into business ."**

The Small Business Development Center from Clarion University helps individuals who are thinking of going into business by offering a free workshop: First Step: Starting a Small Business. This workshop is designed to give a head start with a business by covering

guidelines on how to finance the business, what to consider before starting, information needed to start, and the importance of a business plan. These workshops are offered monthly at the Armstrong Education Center. The next First Step workshop is scheduled for

Tuesday, March 14 at 9:00 AM.

For more information, contact the SBDC at 1-877-292-1843 or the Trust at 724-543-2599.

## Armstrong County Family Resource Network

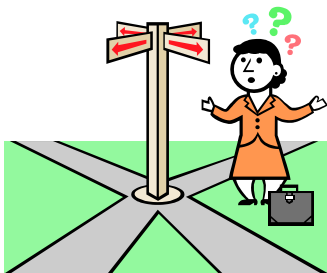
The Family Resource Network of Armstrong County has a new website with a resource directory and resource library as well as links to local providers. The new site provides a wealth of information on opportu-

nities to help children and communities.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.airnetfrn.org/about.cfm>.



## Job/ Career Fair



### STUDENTS

Not sure of what your career choices will be????

Here is a chance to meet and network with area employers to discuss and explore career choices in the Armstrong County area. There will be employers, recruiters and training providers available to discuss some career choices that you may be interested in.

Don't miss this informational Job/Career Fair.

**Sponsored by:**  
*The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Pennsylvania CareerLink and PHEAA*

Wednesday, March 29, 2006  
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Belmont Ice Complex  
Kittanning, PA

### Hope to see you there!!!

If you require accommodations to participate in an activity, program, or service offered by the Armstrong CareerLink call 724-548-5693 or TTY 724-543-4510 to make your request. Please notify the Armstrong CareerLink at least 72 hours in advance.

## Workforce Advancement Grant for Education

### Workforce Advancement Grant for Education (WAGE) Program

The WAGE Program provides a grant to postsecondary institutions that have applied and been determined eligible to participate. Institutions establish and award grants to adult students who meet both Agency and institutional student eligibility guidelines.

*The maximum grant amount, per student, is \$3,500 for an academic year, which includes Fall, Spring and Summer (in that order).*

### Student Eligibility Guidelines

In order to benefit from the WAGE Program, the student must:

- Be a Pennsylvania resident before the start of the term for which funds are awarded and must maintain PA residency throughout the term of the award.
  - Be classified as an independent student in accordance with federal guidelines.
  - Have a high school diploma, GED, prior successful completion of college level work or be admitted under ability to benefit requirements.
  - Not be in default on any federally guaranteed loan.
  - Be **ineligible** for a State Grant due to one of the following reasons:
    - Less than half-time enrollment, or
    - Enrollment in a program of study that is fewer than two academic years, or
    - Pursuit of a degree or certificate after completion of a baccalaureate degree, or
    - Being a non-renewal applicant (not a State Grant recipient in 2004-05) who missed the application deadline.
    - Be enrolled in a Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry [approved program of study](#).
    - Demonstrate financial need.
- Students who meet these qualifications should contact the financial aid office at their school to determine if it is a [participating school](#) in the WAGE program.**
- For more information, see the website, <http://www.pheaa.org/>



**“The WAGE Program provides a grant to postsecondary institutions that have applied and been determined eligible to participate.”**

## Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center

Armstrong County has a special resource – the Environmental Learning Center at Crooked Creek. The ELC is a facility for everyone – students, families, community groups, and anyone interested in the environment. Our meeting space is available for weekday and



weekend use, and with sleeping quarters for 26, a retreat is easy to arrange at the Center. Groups like primary and secondary schools and colleges and universities hold field trips and environmental training at the ELC, while community groups such as scout troops, gar-

dening clubs, service organizations, and others hold overnight or day-long meetings and retreats. Special Sunday programs are held for the public during the warm weather months, and programs for teacher continuing education are offered during the summer.



Events coming up at the ELC include Earth Day Work Day on April 22, Armstrong School District Envirothon on May 9, Open House on May 13, Act 48 workshops for teachers June 21-23, and Summer Adventure Camp for youth July 10-14.

For more information, see the website at [www.crookedcreekelc.org](http://www.crookedcreekelc.org) or call 724-763-6316.





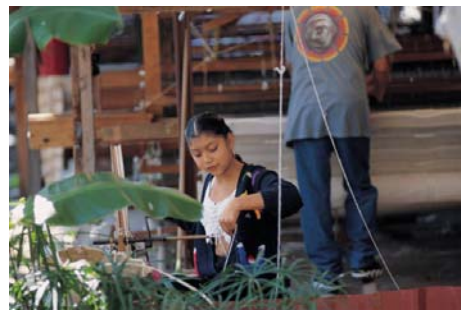
## *Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium*

The Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium has been extremely active over the last several months. This group, made up of representatives from manufacturing companies in the County and resource partners in economic development, education, and employment, has been preparing to build capacity by establishing a pre-employment training program, developing a training matrix for incumbent workers, and recruiting new member companies to

the consortium to participate in the group's initiatives. Over the last several years, the consortium has conducted training programs for members such as a mini-MBA, shared information on resources that has saved member's companies on contract costs, and worked with local officials on manufacturing issues. The consortium meets monthly on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 AM at the Armstrong Education Center.

For more information, contact Consortium Vice President Bernie Marrese at 724-545-2223 or the Trust at 724-543-2599.

**The consortium meets monthly on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 AM at the Armstrong Education Center.**



## *Armstrong County Health Care Consortium*

The Armstrong County Health Care Consortium is building capacity through a number of new initiatives. The consortium will hold a recruitment luncheon to discuss membership with representatives of local health care providers in April. The group recently completed a video focusing on promoting health careers which will be distributed to schools and employment agencies in the coming months. In addition, the consortium is conducting an assessment to determine

training needs for the development of incumbent worker training programs. The consortium meets on the second Friday of the month at 11:00 AM at the Armstrong Education Center. The next meeting of the consortium will be in June due to the upcoming April recruitment luncheon and May recognition luncheon.

For more information, contact Health Care Cluster Coordinator Grace Thachik at 724-471-7249 or the Trust at 724-543-2599.





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*The Armstrong Educational Trust brings post-secondary education and training opportunities to Armstrong County.*

*To accomplish this we:*

- *Survey education and training needs.*
- *Convene educational providers to identify programs that meet those needs.*
- *Provide instructional facilities and a computer lab.*
- *Provide financial aid and career counseling to adults.*
- *Market provider program offerings.*

[www.armstrongeducatrust.org](http://www.armstrongeducatrust.org)

"Training for Life"

# MARCH 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Manufacturing Consortium 7:30 a.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Health Care Consortium 11:00 a.m.	11
12	13	14— EOC Representative-All Day NC/NO Program First Step Workshop	15 NC/NO Program	16 NC/NO Program	17	18
19	20	21 AET Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. NC/NO Program	22 NC/NO Program	23 NC/NO Program	24	25
26	27	28 EOC Representative-All Day NC/NO Program	29 NC/NO Program Supervisory Skills Class	30 NC/NO Program Supervisory Skills Class	31	