



July 1, 2022



Pictured from left to right: Shelly Gilmore, Private Industry Council (PIC) Drone Program Supervisor; Janet Ward, Executive Director, Westmoreland Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WIB); Kinsey Momeyer; Braden Summers; Jacob Pullman; Alden Voss; Douglas Chew, Westmoreland County Commissioner; Michael Evans; Payton Hostettler; Adam Lindsey; Shujuane Martin, CEO/President of PIC; Mike Lavelle, PIC Youth Specialist. Not pictured are: Chantz Jones and Casey Sage.

### **3rd Annual Drone Showcase a Soaring Success**

The Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette, Inc. hosted its 3rd Annual Drone Showcase at its headquarters at 219 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA, on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Nine of the 18 participants from this year's program were able to demonstrate their skills that were learned during the in-school youth program by flying their drones through a timed obstacle course that was setup on-site. The drone students competed for awards of 1st through 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The PIC in-school youth drone program is funded through the WIB. This program allows students to participate in paid educational training and earn an FFA part 107 credential. The Drone Education program develops a career pathway in STEM related careers while also having the opportunity to create a commercial / marketing tool for local businesses, and obtain a firsthand look at different careers involving drones. Currently, drones are being flown in the military, fire, police, and emergency management companies. In addition, there are opportunities using drones in wildlife management programs, construction and highway engineering companies, and real estate.

The in-school youth Drone Education Program had great success this past year and had a group of dedicated students who participated from the Frazier, Connellsville, Norwin, Uniontown, Laurel Highlands, Burrell, Greater Latrobe, Grace Bible Academy, Commonwealth Charter Academy and Albert Gallatin School Districts.

The program consisted of 40 hours of paid educational training. Trainings included two Saturday sessions with a Steel City Drones Flight Instructor who provided flight training and flight principals to prepare students to take the FAA Flight 107 Licensing Exam. After passing the exam, students completed 45 hours of paid work experience using their drones in the workforce. They are now eligible for opportunities to make money from their drone experience. Shujuane Martin, the CEO/President of PIC stated "this program gives these students a competitive edge in today's workforce. In fact, one student has been approached by a real estate company who is interested in his drone skills and services."

PIC is looking for applicants for the 22-23 school year. If you would like more information, please contact the Drone Program Supervisor, Shelly Gilmore at 724-836-2600, ext. 207.

*PIC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building tomorrow's workforce in southwestern Pennsylvania. Founded in 1983, it administers over two dozen programs in three divisions: Early Childhood Development, Education, and Workforce Development. PIC is the operator and Title I service provider of the Alle-Kiski, Fayette, and Westmoreland PA CareerLink®; operates a private licensed school, Education and Technology Institute; and is the grantee of the Head Start/Early Head Start of Fayette County and Head Start/Early Head Start of Beaver County. To learn more, please visit the website, [www.privateindustrycouncil.com](http://www.privateindustrycouncil.com).*

The Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board (WFWIB) is a non-profit entity consisting of appointees from the business, education, and labor sectors of our counties. The board is empowered to lead workforce development activities in Fayette and Westmoreland counties. The WFWIB is funded by the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), which provides funding to federal workforce programs and local Workforce Development Boards. The WFWIB oversees the three PA CareerLink® offices that are located in Westmoreland and Fayette County. For more information about the Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board, please visit [www.WestFayWIB.org](http://www.WestFayWIB.org)