

Wall Street West – Workforce Innovation in Rural Economic Development

Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania
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The purpose of this partnership is to establish a knowledge worker development and support system within existing educational systems (K to post graduate) in a nine county area of northeastern Pennsylvania.

The primary focus of the initiative included financial services and information technology. It was extended to technology-based careers as a system of collaborations among academia, industry and government. The goal is to cause transformation of the knowledge worker's educational, labor and job opportunity systems in select industry segments.

Primary players include the U.S. Department of Labor, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania, five workforce investment boards, twenty nine colleges & universities, sixty nine school districts, economic development agencies, and government & private sector partners from a nine county area in northeastern Pennsylvania. For additional collaboration, a tenth county is to be added to the initiative. Additional collaborators are also invited.

Started in 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor has provided \$15 million as a match to Pennsylvania's \$24 million and significant support by numerous other organizations.