



OUTREACH

*Economic Development News
from Tioga County, Pennsylvania*

Fall Edition 2000 Issue 15

TCDC Elects New Board Officers for 2001 – 2002

The Board of Directors at our Regular Monthly Meeting on December 15, 2000, elected a Slate of Officers for 2001-2002. The following Officers will assume office on January 1, 2001 and serve through December 31, 2002.

President	David E. Cummings	Betterment Organization of Mansfield (BOOM)
1st Vice President	Karen Hammer	Keystone North, Inc.
2nd Vice President	Dr. Edward C. Nichols	Pennsylvania College of Technology/North Campus
Treasurer	Wendy Swartz	E. H. Hall, Inc./Westfield Tanning Company
Secretary	Robert J. Blair	Tioga County Development Corporation

Effective January 1, 2001 the Board of Directors of the Tioga County Development Corporation will be: **Cathy Canniere, Donald Carman, Erick J. Coolidge, David E. Cummings, Gary Dinnison, Thomas Freeman, Mark A. Germino, Dr. John R. Halstead, Karen Hammer, Raymond Kaminski, Charles L. Kenyon, Karl Kroeck, C. Frederick LaVancher, Gary A. Mosher, Dr. Edward C. Nichols, Leo Parchesky, David Rundell, Wendy S. Swartz, Patty Vlajic, Philip Wood and Mary E. Worthington.**

The Board of Directors and the TCDC Staff extend a sincere appreciation to out going President **Fred LaVancher** for his three years of Service as President and for his participation and support in TCDC as a Charter Member since 1989. A Special Thank You to outgoing Directors **Thomas Phinney** and **Brian H. Keck**.

1st 49 CORRIDOR Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Loan Approved R & T Mechanical, Inc. to locate Facility in Lawrenceville Borough

The first Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) through the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone** was approved on August 30, 2000. **R & T Mechanical, Inc.**, located along US Route 15, **Lawrence Township**, Tioga County, Pennsylvania with Corporate offices in Bainbridge, Pennsylvania, will receive the very first RLF in the EZP. **Timothy J. Baughman**, President & CEO and **Ronald E. Hunt**, Vice President & Acting Secretary are the owners. **R & T Mechanical, Inc.**, is an industrial mechanical contractor providing services for manufacturing, in areas of new process installation and maintenance of existing processes. R & T was established and incorporated on February 12, 1987 in Lancaster County. Development of a branch operation in Tioga County is being planned to increase sales and better serve customers in the Tioga County Area. A 7,500 square feet manufacturing facility is being constructed in Lawrenceville Borough. This will be Lawrenceville's first industrial manufacturing operation. Employment will go from thirteen (13) employees in Tioga County to twenty five (25) within three (3) years.

Total Project Cost of \$800,000			
EZP/RLF	\$ 30,000	@ 2.75 %	10 Years
SBFP	\$200,000	@ 3.75 %	10 Years
NTRPDC	\$100,000	@ 5.00 %	10 Years
NEPIRC	\$100,000	@ 5.00 %	7 Years
OGF Grant	\$ 25,000		
Private	\$220,000		
Company	\$150,000		

"TCDC, with assistance from the 49 CORRIDOR RLF & Executive Committees; the NTRPDC's TEAM Pennsylvan!a Program and Paulette Potter, NTRPDC RLF Program; and Steve Yokimishyn with the Governor's Action Team, structured the financing for this Project. Working with Tim and R & T has indeed been a pleasure. Lawrenceville Borough participated fully in this important economic Development Project . . . Team Work, the Tioga County Way."

Robert J. Blair
TCDC Executive Director

Leadership Tioga County

Youth Leadership Program . . . Class of 2001 began September 2000

Leadership Tioga County Youth Leadership Program began its second year on September 13, 2000. Thirty local students have been selected to participate in this year's Class of 2001. The individuals selected have been identified as youth who are beginning to show leadership potential and an interest in the community. Through the Program, the students will become acquainted with community needs and resources; develop leadership skills; and have the opportunity to interact with one another, the community and business leaders throughout Tioga County.

An Orientation Picnic was held on August 23, 2000 at the United States Army Corps of Engineers Tioga-Hammond Ives Run Recreational Park. Members from the Class of 2000 provided advice and insight for the Class of 2001. Parents and students from the Class of 2001 were informed about the Program they were about to embark on.

The Program consist of thirty high school juniors representing the three (3) public school districts. The students from Northern Tioga School District selected are from Cowanesque Valley High School: Robert Cunningham, William Jacobson, Amanda Perry and Joshua Romaneo; Elkland High School: Troy Baker, Craig Johnson and Kristen Landry; and Williamson High School: Angela Conrad, Krista Deats and Carrie Warso.

Representing Southern Tioga School District are from Liberty High School: Heidi Foulkrod, Joel Ostrom and Skylar Pais; Mansfield High School: Amy Evans, Christina Hughes, Adrian Lovenduski, Elizabeth Nance and Kristina Whipple; and North Penn High School: Nichole Hall and Jason Weaver.

Students chosen from Wellsboro Area School District are Mary Janae Deats, Meghan Deming, Jennifer Fisher, Stephanie Ley, Nathan Sayre, James Serfass, Maren Smithgall, Elizabeth Townsend, William Watkins and Teri Zuchowski.

Participants learn and practice leadership and communication skills while confronting issues which affect the quality of life in Tioga County. The Program consists of a series of workshops, hands-on interactive activities and site tours. It runs one day each month beginning with an Orientation in September and ending in May with a Graduation Ceremony for our new young leaders. Sessions & dates include:

	Orientation & Team Building	September 13, 2000
Session 1:	Living in a Diverse Community	October 10, 2000
Session 2:	Understanding Business & Economics	November 16, 2000
Session 3:	Health & Human Services	December 13, 2000
Session 4:	Teens & the Law	January 10, 2001
Session 5:	Communication, Arts & Entertainment	February 13, 2001
Session 6:	Local, State & Federal Government	March 15, 2001
Session 7:	Quality of Life	April 10, 2001
	Graduation	May 6, 2001

Community Leadership Program . . . Coming September 2001

Leadership Tioga County is creating a program for adults who have exhibited leadership qualities and have an interest in the community. Participants will expand, develop and implement new and existing resources through involvement in individual community/business projects and field trips. The *Community Leadership Program* will give sponsors an opportunity to reward adults with a program to assist them in building a stronger foundation of leadership skills. An opening retreat will be held in September 2001 with a closing retreat held in May of 2002. There will be more in dept Program details in the next Newsletter. There are 13 Committee Members and three (3) Action Teams: **Program Development Action Team:** Lance Albertson, Philips Supply House; Elaine Hickey, Laurel Health System; Scott Keck, C & N Bank; C. Frederick LaVancher, Larson Design Group; Dennis Murray, Mansfield University; James Prevost, Educator; Deb Sawyer, AHEC; and David W. Wishard, Northern Tioga School District. **Application, Selection & Marketing Process Action Team:** Al Locey, Farmer; James Prevost, Educator; Bill Williams, Ward Manufacturing, Inc.; and Linda Williams; Thornapple Design and **Finance/Budget & Tuition Action Team:** Scott Keck, C & N Bank; Leo Parchesky, TCDC Director; and Phil Wood, TCDC Director.

Tioga County Strategic Plan: Time for an Update

OUTREACH to the Future, the original Strategic Plan for Tioga County is now a part of the past. **OUTREACH** was completed in 1992 as Tioga County's first Strategic Plan. Much has happened since then. The *Tioga County Development Corporation* was merely a concept; the economic climate was dismal; unemployment was high; and Tioga County still did not have a four lane limited access highway. It is amazing what can occur in less than a decade. Tioga County now has the lowest unemployment rates in our history; Ward Manufacturing, Inc.'s ACP and WARDFLEX facilities fill a field in Lawrence Township; the 49 *CORRIDOR* exists; US Route 15's four lane highway system has entered eleven miles into our County; several School To Work and Work Force Development Programs are assisting in providing a quality work force; and presently, Tioga County have a work force shortage. It is time for us to reflect on these events.

The *Tioga County Development Corporation* is making application through the **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)** for a Land Use Planning Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP). Specific Problems to be addressed include: Workforce Issues: updating skills for new employment opportunities, commutation (especially into New York State), underemployment, labor force participation, etc.; Land Availability for industrial and business park development; Options for Funding and Operating the Enterprise Zone after the State closeout; Land Use concerns along the Major Highway Corridors in Tioga County; and meeting the needs of Existing Employers in the County. Public meeting will be held throughout the process to solicit input from the community for the **OUTREACH To The Future: Going Forward from 2000**.

TEAM Pennsylvan!a TCDC Needs YOU for a Business Calling Interview

As the **TEAM Pennsylvan!a** Agent for Tioga County, the *Tioga County Development Corporation* has participated in seventy (70) **Business Calling Program (BCP)** Interviews throughout Tioga County since 1998. The purpose of the Interviews is to obtain information about your business which may assist the Commonwealth establish business policy for the future and to determine if you may need assistance from TCDC or the Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission (NTRPDC).

If your business has not been interviewed and would like to participate in the Business Calling Program please contact Jeannine B. Singer at (570) 723-8232 or tcdc2@ptd.net.

The on site Interview Process takes approximately one half hour. Several companies have received technical and financial assistance through the BCP Process. Other have local issues resolved through the assistance of the NTRPDC and TCDC.

On July 1, 1997, the *Tioga County Development Corporation* began its role as the **TEAM Pennsylvan!a** Agent for Tioga County as part of Governor Ridge's **TEAM Pennsylvan!a** Initiative. The Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission (NTRPDC) is the designated Regional Coordinator and has contracted with TCDC. The Tioga County Commissioners in January 1997, designated TCDC to serve as its representative for administering the **TEAM Pennsylvan!a** Program in Tioga County.

Lillian Smith Joins TCDC as Program Specialist

Lillian Smith was appointed the new position of Program Specialist of the *Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)* and began this post May 1, 2000. Lillian was formerly employed with the **Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission (NTRPDC)** as a Career Advisor for the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) now the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Program. She received her BA in Psychology from Mansfield University in 1995. During her internship with Penn College, the *New Choices Program* hired Lillian to be the interim Bradford County New Choices Director. She worked there for 4 months in 1995.

In January of 1990, Lillian began college at the Pennsylvania College of Technology/ North Campus after completing the New Choices Program. She continued her education at Penn College until 1991, for which she transferred into Mansfield University. When she made this transfer, Mansfield University asked her to enter in the *Honors Program*, as well as, majoring in Psychology.

She has lived in the Tioga/Lycoming Counties all her life and is married to Edward with a teenage daughter, Alicia and a baby due in January.

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**Blair
Singer
Smith**

Leadership Tioga County

Recipient of Community Revitalization Grants

Senator Madigan & Representative Baker Support Leadership Program

The *Tioga County Development Corporation's (TCDC) Leadership Tioga County* Program has received two (2) **Community Revitalization Program (CRP)** Grants through **Senator Roger Madigan** and **Representative Matthew Baker**. Each CRP Grant awarded the *Tioga County Development Corporation's Leadership Tioga County* Program \$25,000 to continue to grow and develop into full leadership programs for all sectors of our citizens.

The CRP Grant awarded through Senator Madigan will be utilized in the *Youth Leadership Program*. This grant will assist in helping our new and younger leaders of Tioga County to provide civic service as part of their individual duties to their communities. The *Youth Leadership Program* addresses all the sectors of community and prepares our youth for participation in school leadership positions, as well as many civic adult positions when they reach adulthood.

The CRP Grant awarded through Representative Baker will be utilized in the *Community Leadership Program* and the *Other Leadership Programs*. This grant will assist in helping to develop and enhance leadership qualities in our adults and continue to help the youth. The *Community Leadership Program* addresses all the sectors of community and prepares our adults for participation in their communities.

The *Tioga County Development Corporation* has generated a **Leadership Tioga County** Budget based on our current year experience with the *Youth Leadership Program* and an anticipated cost of the *Community Leadership Program* and the *Other Leadership Programs*. While the actual CRP Funds will not be used for direct training (i.e. paid instructors or curriculum tuition), some of the funds will be used for instructional materials. These materials will include a manual, calendar, session materials and hand-outs, scrapbooks, LCD computer viewing projector to conduct power point presentations and a digital camera.

The scrapbooks, at this point, are made up of pictures from all the sessions along with an individual picture of all the students from the *Youth Leadership Program*. (Eventually, there will be scrapbooks and individual pictures from the other two (2) Programs, as well.) These scrapbooks and pictures are displayed in TCDC's Conference Room for all to view. The scrapbooks are created to give the public a better understanding of what the Programs are about.

Senator Madigan and his aide, **Arnie Kriner**, attended the **Orientation & Team Building Session** held at the **W. M. Tokishi Training Center**, Wellsboro, PA (NYPUM Building). On March 15, 2001, **Senator Madigan** and **Representative Baker** will be participating in Session 6 **Local, State & Federal Government**. The Office of **Congressman John Peterson** will present the federal perspective. This Session will be held at the **Tioga County Court House**. The **Tioga County Commissioners**, **Erick J. Coolidge**, **Walter G. Barnes** and **Charles James** will also be present at this Session since they will be conducting an actual Tioga County Commissioners Meeting with the 30 students in attendance. Students will also visit the Row Offices and various Departments throughout the Court House.

Through the grants, our future vision is for all of the **Leadership Tioga County** Programs to be added to TCDC's Home Page and kept current along with the schedule of Programs and a direct link to register for Programs. We also envision linking to the *National Association for Community Leadership*. Some of the CRP Funding will go for Contracted Services to our Web Master and for Home Site Linkage Fees.

Both **Senator Madigan** and **Representative Baker** have been supportive of **Leadership Tioga County** since its inception and through their efforts the Community Revitalization Program Grant takes **Leadership Tioga County** to a new level. The *Tioga County Development Corporation* Board of Directors extends our sincere appreciation to **Senator Madigan** and **Representative Baker**.

The purpose of Leadership Tioga County is to recruit, train, encourage & develop caring individuals to participate in community leadership activities & responsibilities throughout Tioga County

49 CORRIDOR Update

Basic Planning Grant Year 5 Received

The **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)** awarded the **Tioga County Redevelopment Authority** with a \$50,000 Basic Planning Assistance Grant for the Program Year 5 (July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000). The funds are used to support the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone** through the *Tioga County Development Corporation*, the Administrative entity for the Enterprise Zone Program (EZP). Funds are used to improve the economic climate in the nine (9) municipalities (**Deerfield Township, Nelson Township, Elkland Borough, Knoxville Borough, Osceola Township, Lawrenceville Borough, Lawrence Township, Westfield Borough and Westfield Township**) Enterprise Zone in the Northern portion of Tioga County; development and implementation of the Business Development Strategies (based in a structured survey of local businesses and reflect the needs of the local private sector) to actively foster and promote the economy of "The Cowanesque Valley"; and the Administration of the Enterprise Zone. Eleven (11) industries in the EZP account for one third (1/3) of the manufacturing base of Tioga County with 1,368 Jobs and an Annual Payroll of over \$24 Million. These industries are located on 290 acres of land and have over 887,371 total square feet of building area comprised of 18 parcels of land.

Since the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone** was designated in 1985, two (2) Competitive Grants of \$250,000 each have been awarded to the EZP and loans have been made to **ElectriCord Manufacturing, Inc.** and **Ward Manufacturing, Inc.** A third Competitive Grant for \$250,000 is pending for Phase II of the **WARDFLEX®** Project and hopefully will be funded by the end of 2000. Proceeds from the loans are administered by **Citizens & Northern Bank** and are available to loan to industries and manufacturers in the Enterprise Zone. The first RLF Loan was approved in August 2000. (See Cover Story on Page 1.)

The **49 CORRIDOR Executive Council Officers (1999-2000)** are: President **David W. Wishard**; Vice President **John J. Abplanalp**; Secretary **David Melton**; Business Development Chair **Paul Goodridge**; Revolving Loan Fund Chair **Scott Keck**; and Site/Infrastructure Development Chair **Jeffrey VanDusen**.

Tioga County Partnership for Community Health Funds Youth Leadership Scholarship Program

The *Tioga County Partnership for Community Health (TCPFCH)* has awarded a \$2,000 Work Group Funding Grant through the *Community & Family Awareness Work Group* of the Partnership for **Leadership Tioga County**. The funds will be used to provide financial assistance to students in Tioga County who participate in leadership programs around the Commonwealth and throughout the United States. Scholarships of up to \$200 will be provided to eligible students involved in leadership training and development. The funds will offset tuition, course materials, travel, lodging, etc. Ninth through twelfth grade Students in all Tioga County Schools (public & private) are eligible. Applications should be made through the *Youth Leadership Program* School Coordinators **David W. Wishard** (NTSD); **Susan Strassburg** or **Bernadette Martino Strong** (STSD); or **Jill Tombs** (WASD). Private School Students should apply through their School Administrator or contact Lillian Smith, Program Specialist at (570) 723-8232 or tcdc3@ptd.net.

The *Tioga County Development Corporation* is a Charter Member of the *Tioga County Partnership for Community Health*. **Elaine Hickey, Laurel Health System** and Robert J. Blair are Co-Chairs of the *Community & Family Awareness Work Group* which meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 AM in the TCDC Building Conference Room.

A Special Thank You to the *Tioga County Partnership for Community Health* for the Grant and your continued support of **Leadership Tioga County**.

TCDC Executive Director Robert J. Blair Elected PEDA Secretary

The Membership of the **Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA)** elected Robert J. Blair PEDA Secretary at its Fall Conference in State College on October 16-18, 2000.

Blair has been a PEDA Member since 1978 and was appointed as a Director in 1998. He will begin as Secretary on January 1, 2000. He serves as Chair of the Membership Committee which reached an all time high of 325 members in 2000. PEDA is the premiere economic development association of professionals in Pennsylvania.

TCDC Executive Director Blair has been involved in economic and community development since 1976 and was appointed TCDC Executive Director on March 1, 1994.

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Tioga County Foundation

Receives Pennsylvania Department of Health Challenge Dental Program Grant

The **Pennsylvania Department of Health** awarded a \$125,000 Challenge Grant to the *Tioga County Foundation* in August 2000. The Grant was a culmination of partnering between the *Tioga County Partnership for Community Health, North Central Area Health Council (AHEC)* and the *Tioga County Development Corporation*. The *Kids First Challenge* Grant will begin December 1, 2000 and be implemented over a two (2) year period through November 30, 2002. The funds will be used to provide dental education, dental assessment and dental care to underserved children ages birth to 5 years of age in Tioga County. A fulltime Dental Hygienist/ Dental Coordinator will be hired and work in conjunction with the **Tioga County Dental Society**.

The *Tioga County Foundation* is serving as the Fiscal Agent for the Grant. The *Tioga County Foundation* was formed to serve as a Fiscal Agent for various non profit organizations projects throughout Tioga County, as well as, the educational and scholarship arm of the **Leadership Tioga County** Program.

TIOGA COUNTY Career Development Update

Work force development and access to a quality work force continues to be the major obstacle to employers in Tioga County, as well as, statewide and nationally. Several Career Development Initiatives continue in Tioga County.

TIOGA COUNTY Career Day (TCCD) Program

The **TIOGA COUNTY Career Day Committee** met on November 9, 2000 and established the dates for the three (3) Career Days in Tioga County. The next Committee meeting will be January 4, 2001 at 9:00 AM at Penn College/North Campus.

14th Annual Tioga County High School Career Day

Co-Chairs **Sheila Mosso**, Laurel Health System; **Cheryl Zuchowski**, Tioga County Public Assistance; **Ernie Coder**, Site Coordinator, Tioga County, NTIEC
 Date March 2, 2001, Friday Alternate March 23, 2001, Friday
 Location **Pennsylvania College of Technology/North Campus**
 Grades 9th & 10th

2nd Annual Tioga County Middle School Career Day

Chair **H. Lee Hoar**, Penn State Cooperative Extension
 Date April 20, 2001, Friday
 Location **Pennsylvania College of Technology/North Campus**
 Grades 7th

4th Annual Tioga County Vehicular Career Day

Chair **David W. Wishard**, Northern Tioga School District
 Date May 7, 2001, Monday
 Location **Mansfield University**
 Grades 3rd & 4th

K-16 Council

Mansfield University President **Dr. John R. Halstead** (TCDC Director) recently announced Mansfield University was the recipient of a \$82,200 from the *Pennsylvania Academy for the Profession of Teaching*, to establish a *K-16 Council*. The *K-16 Council* covers an eight (8) county region within the IU 9 & IU 17, including Tioga County. It is comprised of basic education, higher education, business & industry and economic & community development organizations. The *Tioga County Development Corporation* is a Partner. The primary goal of the Council will be to address the improvements of academic achievement at all levels for successful School To Work transition and improved rates of School To College transition and persistence for students in the North Central Region of Pennsylvania. For more information contact: **John J. Abplanalp**, Director of External Learning Experiences, Mansfield University at (570) 662-4565.

DCED Deputy Secretary Kim T. Coon Keynotes 7th Annual TCDC Meeting

The *Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)* held our 7th Annual Meeting on the Campus of **Mansfield University** on Monday, July 31, 2000. This year's Keynote Speaker was **Kim T. Coon**, Deputy Secretary with the **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)**. DCED Secretary McCullough named Kim T. Coon, Deputy Secretary in July 2000. Mr. Coon was introduced by former Tioga County Commissioner and TCDC Member **Oliver R. Bartlett**. Mr. Bartlett is Operations Manager, Office of Planning & Operations, DCED.

Kim T. Coon has come from the grassroots of local government and as head of the *Center For Local Government Services* was an affective state official committed to our local communities. He is at the very essence of what the *Tioga County Development Corporation* is about. His comments were extremely effective and provided a vibrant timely message to our Members and Guests.

Kim T. Coon served as a Bedford County Commissioner from 1988 to being appointed to the Ridge Administration in 1995. On July 1, 1996, Governor Tom Ridge appointed him as the Executive Director of the newly created *Center For Local Government Services* . . . a "super agency" within the Department of Community & Economic Development. In addition, he is often called upon to share his knowledge and experiences about effective local government with other state and local officials from throughout the United States. Also in 1997, the Governor named Mr. Coon as Census 2000 Liaison to provide direction to the Governor's Census Advisory Panel and the formulation of 1,000 local Complete Census Committees. As part of a comprehensive awareness campaign Kim personally traveled to 50 communities, including Mansfield and Wellsboro, during the "Count Down to Count Up" tour promoting census participation in traditionally undercounted urban and rural areas of the State. A graduate of the Penn State Rural Leadership Program (RULE) in 1987, a former teacher and banker he resides in Hopewell with his wife, Vickie.

The *Center For Local Government Services* annually presents "**Excellence in Local Government**" Award to municipalities and organizations throughout the Commonwealth. In 1998, the *Tioga County Development Corporation* received this prestigious award for "Promoting Community and Economic Revitalization."

The Annual Meeting was a casual dress event revolving around the celebration of economic development in Tioga County. Election of TCDC Directors; A Report of the Membership; and Door Prizes, donated by several contributors, was part of the Evening Program. TCDC Members and Major Contributors were recognized at the event. Live music was provided by **Monique** and **Vic Canniere** (daughter and husband of TCDC Director **Cathy Canniere**) throughout the Reception.

John J. Antonio & Chester P. Bailey

Recipients of 2000

Rod C. Kelchner President's Award for Community Leadership & Excellence

The 2000 *Rod C. Kelchner President's Award For Excellence in Leadership and Community Involvement* was presented at the 7th Annual Meeting to **John J. Antonio** and **Chester P. Bailey**. Both were presented the Award by **TCDC President Fred Lavancher**, joined at the podium by **Senator Roger A. Madigan**; **Oliver R. Bartlett**, **Appalachian Thruway Association**; **Paul Heise**, **PennDOT District Engineer 3-0**; and **Ken Larson**, **former PennDOT District Engineer, 3-0** for their continued efforts and leadership over the past thirty years in the quest to develop a four lane limited access **US Route 15** through Tioga County and for their leadership in so many organizations and causes in Tioga County.

The *Rod C. Kelchner President's Award* is given in honor of *TCDC's* first President and former Mansfield University President, **Rod C. Kelchner**. Former recipients of the award include: **Rod C. Kelchner**, Mansfield University (1995); **Doyme Chartrau**, Ward Manufacturing, Inc. (1996); **John "Hap" Kuster**, Blossburg Borough (1997); **Charles L. Kenyon**, Elkland Borough (1998); and **Michael T. Egan**, Tioga County Redevelopment & Housing Authorities (1999).

The *Tioga County Development Corporation* Board of Directors extend our sincere thank you and congratulations to John and Chester. You are both indeed leaders in our County which we all emulate.

Development News from Tioga County for



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Jeannine B. Singer

Program Specialist

Lillian Smith

From the Executive Director . . .

The *Tioga County Development Corporation* had a successful year in 2000. We began the Year with a reserve and ended the year under budget. Our Capital Campaign strengthen our fiscal position. Our Members number 200. Our *Youth Leadership Program* began its second year and our *Community Leadership Program* Planning Process is well underway. We added a new professional position and are fortunate we have Lillian Smith as our newest team member. We saw the lowest unemployment rates Tioga County has ever experienced . . . A major accomplishment, but with success comes new challenges . . . a work force shortage for our employers. We did not loose an industry and gained one in Lawrenceville. We made our first **49 CORRIDOR** RLF Loan . . .six years in the making.

We saw increased opportunity for our youth in the expansion of Career Development Programs and the addition of the *K-16 Council*. Our first 30 Juniors graduated from *Leadership Tioga County*. We conducted three **TIOGA COUNTY Career Day** s.

We saw the creation of the *Tioga County Foundation*. A 501©(3) charitable foundation created to serve the educational and scholarship needs of *Leadership Tioga County* and to serve as a Fiscal Agent for nonprofit organizations within Tioga County. A *Pennsylvania Department of Health Dental Challenge Grant* was awarded to the *Tioga County Foundation* on behalf of the *Tioga County Partnership for Community Health*.

We expanded the **TEAM Pennsylvania Business Calling Program** with Jeannine conducting the interviews and increasing our Interview goal. We provided valuable business development services to several industries and employers in Tioga County. We applied for our third \$250,000 Competitive Grant for the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone**.

We began to plan for the future by looking at our past. During 2001, we will implement an updated Strategic Plan for Tioga County. **OUTREACH To The Future** has served us well, but we must continually strive "*To foster and promote the economic development of Tioga County, passionately striving to improve the quality of life of our communities, our residents, our business & industry and our environment in our quest to make Tioga County . . . a place to call home.*"

We recognized two leaders in Tioga County by presenting **John J. Antonio** and **Chester P. Bailey** with the *Rod P. Selchner President's Award For Excellence in Leadership & Community Involvement*. We saw the "Changing of the Guard" with **David E. Cummings** being elected *TCDC* President without even one recount . . . And we say **THANK YOU to C. Frederick LaVancher** for your three years of outstanding leadership to *TCDC*, to our citizens and to Tioga County. Yes, 2000 was a good year. *TCDC* is truly blessed. Thank you **all** for making it a good year.



Tioga County Development Corporation

From the President . . .

As I write this message for **OUTREACH** I am struck by the fact that this will be my last time writing as President of the *Tioga County Development Corporation*. As I recall the events of the last three years many good memories come to mind. Paramount is the health of our Corporation. Financially we are solvent. Our Membership and our involvement throughout Tioga County continue to grow. . . and whenever a call goes out, many respond with their willingness to serve. Our partnership with BOOM, GROW, the Elkland and Westfield IDC's, NTRPDC and many other development and community organizations flourishes. Our mutual concerns for the benefits of business and industry throughout Tioga County are genuine as we strive to make our local economy vigorous.

During the past months we have waged a Capital Campaign to secure funds that will assure the continued vitality of *TCDC*. The response to that effort has been most rewarding and I personally thank the businesses, industries and individuals that have made an investment in Tioga County's future. To those who have not had an opportunity to participate in our Campaign, I urge them to do so. Another investment that has been made is the establishment of **Leadership Tioga County**. Again, I want to thank the many volunteers who have devoted untold hours in organizing and implementing the *Youth Leadership Program* and are currently finalizing plans for the *Community Leadership Program*. The rewards from this Program will serve Tioga county for generations.

Through our support of the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone**, a growing revolving loan fund has been established; expansions at WARDFLEX, Metamora Products Corporation, E. H. Hall, Inc./Westfield Tanning Company, ElectriCord Manufacturing Company, Inc. and R&T Mechanical, Inc. have come about through the efforts of **TEAM Pennsylvania!**; the US Route 15/I-99 Corridor keeps moving northward toward the PA/NY State Line; recreational improvements are being planned at the Army Corps Reservoir Projects and our State Parks, and the Northern Tier Welcome Center will be opened as a State facility for use by the traveling public in 2002. The list goes on . . .

Many of these initiatives would not be possible without the diligence of our Corporation's Board of Directors and our Staff headed by Bob Blair. My sincere thanks to our Directors and to Bob, Jeannine Singer and Lillian Smith whose efforts truly make the Corporation function on a daily basis. Bob brings together his superior organizational skills, membership programs, grantsmanship ability, economic development, education and workforce development efforts with an effectiveness that others envy.

I also want to recognize the strong commitment of our County Commissioners, Congressman Peterson, Senator Madigan and Representative Baker for their continued involvement and support for *TCDC*. Our communication with our elected officials during the *Legislative Breakfasts* and *Annual Meetings* continues to be strong and provides a wonderful forum for the sharing of ideas.

Without a doubt our most valuable resource is our Members. *TCDC* is over 200 strong and we need to continue to grow and attract new members to our organization. From individuals to small non profit organizations to our municipalities to our small and large business, you are the very heart of why *TCDC* exists. As your President I thank each of you for your membership and commitment to the *Tioga County Development Corporation*

In the years ahead, the *Tioga County Development Corporation* will be challenged to make some tough decisions. I am convinced that we are prepared to meet and address those issues in order to maintain and improve the economic climate of our County. I will be here as a Director to continue to assist and support our Corporation. Its been easy being President of such a great organization with the help of our Members, Directors and Staff. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

C. Frederick LaVancher
President
1998 – 2000