



OUTREACH

*Economic Development News
from Tioga County, Pennsylvania*

Summer 1998 Issue 13

TCDC Awarded State Leadership Award from Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development

The Tioga County Development Corporation was honored by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on April 15, 1998, receiving the distinguished *Excellence in Local Government Award* by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED). Eighteen (18) awards were given out in three (3) categories. TCDC was recognized as one (1) of six (6) organizations statewide for Excellence in Leadership in Economic & Community Development. The Honorable **Mark S. Schweiker**, Lieutenant Governor and **Samuel McCullough**, Secretary of the Department of Community & Economic Development presented the Awards. **Kim C. Coon**, Executive Director of the **Center For Local Government Services** served as Master of Ceremony. The Event held at the Radisson Hotel & Convention Center in Camp Hill was attended by over 350 people from throughout Pennsylvania.

Attending the Ceremony in Harrisburg representing Tioga County and TCDC were: **C. Frederick LaVancher**, TCDC President; **Senator Roger A. Madigan**; **Representative Matthew E. Baker**; Tioga County Commissioners **Walter G. Barnes**, **Erick Coolidge** & **William D. Hall**; **Arnie Kriner**, Aide to Senator Madigan; TCDC Directors **Karen Hammer**, **Gary Mosher**, **Ted Nichols** & **David Rundell**; **John Henricks**, GPU Energy; TCDC Executive Director **Robert J. Blair** and Administrative Assistant **Deniese A. Ogden**.

A Project Summary highlighting the accomplishments which qualified the Tioga County Development Corporation for the Award is included with this newsletter. TCDC was nominated for this prestigious award by **Joe Krumsky**, from the Center For Local Government Services/ Northeast Regional Office.

C. Frederick LaVancher Elected TCDC President President Rod C. Kelchner Retires

On January 1, 1998, **C. Frederick LaVancher** became the second President of the Tioga County Development Corporation, replacing **Rod C. Kelchner**. Rod served as the first Chairman of the Tioga County Economic Development Task Force and TCDC's first President. In June 1998, he retired from **Mansfield University** as president. Joan and he have moved to State College for their retirement years. We wish Rod and Joan the best and thank them for all their years of service to Tioga County.

Fred, a native of **Tioga Borough**, is a charter member of TCDC and an active lifelong community leader. He served as Tioga County's first County Planner and a past member for 25 years of the Tioga Borough Council. He is an active member in the Appalachian Thruway Association, Route 15 Coalition, and Northern Tier Welcome Center. Fred is a Senior Partner with **Larson Design Group, Inc.** He and his wife, Judy, reside in Tioga.

In assuming the TCDC Presidency, Fred set several goals for TCDC, including: working to nurture new leaders throughout the County by establishing *Leadership Tioga County*. He pledged to be active in promoting TCDC and undertaking a sustainable income campaign to assure the long term economic vitality of the Corporation. He is a firm believer in the support of TCDC and has coined the phrase "A commitment in TCDC is an investment in Tioga County."

TCDC 1998-99 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

The Tioga County Development Corporation's 5th Annual Membership Campaign for 1998-99 started on May 8, 1998, with this year's goal of 250. Our Membership has grown each year from 138 members in 1994-95 to 168 members in 1995-96 and last year's total of 204. As of August 31, 1998, our Current Membership is at 187, only 63 from our goal.

A Membership Application and list of our 1998-99 Members & Major Contributors is included in this issue of *OUTREACH*. **If you are not currently a member please consider joining.**

The purpose of the Open Membership is to create a countywide consensus for economic development and develop a larger pool of ideas and skills to draw on for committees, Directors, special projects and increase the overall awareness of TCDC in Tioga County.

Members receive copies of *OUTREACH*, Membership Certificate, Membership Display Plaque, elect new Directors at the Annual Meeting and are advised of important issues in the development of our County, as well as being asked to serve on various committees.

Membership in TCDC is not expensive:

Large Business (50+employees)	\$100
Utility	\$100
Small Business	\$ 50
Municipal Government	\$ 50
Non-profit	\$ 50
Individual	\$ 25

Please encourage other businesses and individuals to join TCDC. Give the Membership Application to a friend or an associate. Any reader interested in joining is encouraged to call TCDC at (717) 723-8232 or ask a TCDC Director.

A Special Thank You to all our Members! 1998-99 Members were recognized at the TCDC 5th Annual Meeting.

Please join us in making an investment in the future of Tioga County with your Membership. Help us to continue to make *Tioga County . . . a place to call home.*

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TCDC's 2nd ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Legislative activities which occur in Washington and Harrisburg impact on our businesses and communities in Tioga County. In order for our members to be informed of what legislation will impact on them, the Tioga County Development Corporation Board of Directors hosted our **2nd Annual TCDC Legislative Breakfast** on April 9, 1998. The Event was held from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the **Penn Wells Hotel** Dining Room in **Wellsboro**, Pennsylvania. There were 147 persons in attendance.

State Senator Roger A. Madigan, State Representative Matthew E. Baker and Congressman Peterson's District Director Peter Winkler presented an overview of activities in Harrisburg and Washington affecting economic development and other related issues and an update on federal and state economic development issues affecting our County.

TCDC President **C. Frederick LaVancher** served as Master of Ceremony and Tioga County Commissioners **Walter Barnes, Erick Coolidge** and **William Hall** introduced our legislators.

The Legislative Breakfast was video taped and aired on **Blue Ridge Cable Television** by **PenTeleData, Inc.**, compliments of **Thomas Freeman**, TCDC Director

Jeannine B. Singer: Administrative Assistant

Jeannine B. Singer of **Delmar Township** began as Administrative Assistant on June 17, 1998. She replaces **Deniese A. Ogden** who assumed a position with **Eagle Family Foods, Inc.** in April.

Jeannine served as the Secretary for **Charleston Township** for three (3) years prior to coming to TCDC. She brings an extensive background in local municipal government, bookkeeping and finance to our Corporation.

She and her husband, Doug, live in Stony Fork with their three daughters, Joleen, Nicole and Kayla.

TCDC Mission Statement

The Board of Directors of the Tioga County Development Corporation on June 12, 1998, adopted a Mission Statement. The Mission Statement is a result of a board Retreat conducted on February 18, 1998, at the **USGS Research & Development Laboratory** at Aspah. The Board believes this Mission Statement truly reflects the role and direction of the Corporation.

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.

Leadership Tioga County

Focus Group Meetings to be Conducted

The Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC) will conduct three (3) Focus Group Meetings on **September 30, 1998**, throughout Tioga County as part of the beginning of *Leadership Tioga County*. The meetings will bring together key business & community leaders from throughout Tioga County. *Leadership Tioga County* is a new initiative being developed by TCDC to nurture and develop leaders for the future well being of our County. TCDC President **C. Frederick LaVancher**, in January 1998, challenged the TCDC Board of Directors to develop a leadership program in Tioga County to train people to become leaders.

The Tioga County Development Corporation, in cooperation with the *Tioga County Partnership For Community Health*, will conduct the countywide focus group meetings at three locations in Tioga County on **September 30, 1998**:

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Breakfast Session Blossburg Community Library, Blossburg, Pennsylvania
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Luncheon Session Knoxville Community Center, Knoxville, Pennsylvania
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Evening Dessert Session Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital, Conference Room, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania

Invitations have been sent to several select business & community leaders throughout the County. In addition, interested individuals are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input and support for developing *Leadership Tioga County*. "Too few people in Tioga County are involved in community volunteer service. It is always the same ones at all the meetings. We must identify new leaders for our County and train them to go out and become involved in their community, their government, their schools," explained President LaVancher. "We need the support and commitment of our businesses and our residents. You are the leader of your business, your organization, your community based organization, your municipality. . . we need your help to grow new leaders for Tioga County. We need your involvement."

Please RSVP to Jeannine Singer at TCDC by September 28, 1998, at (717) 723-8242 Voice; (717) 723-8441 Fax; tcdc2@ptd.net eMail, or 114 Main Street, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901

TEAM Pennsylvania!

On July 1, 1997, the Tioga County Development Corporation began its role as ***TEAM Pennsylvania!*** Agent for Tioga County as part of Governor Ridge's ***TEAM Pennsylvania!*** Initiative. The Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission (NTRPDC) is the designated Regional Coordinator to implement the Program. The Tioga County Commissioners in January 1997, designated TCDC to serve as its representative for administering the ***TEAM Pennsylvania!*** Program in Tioga County. From September 1997 through August 31, 1998, thirty seven (37) Business Calling Program Interviews have been conducted in Tioga County. The Interviews help to identify public assistance which our businesses & industries may qualify for and develops statewide policy changes which are identified as economic trends and concerns in order for the State to address issues which deter business growth and development.

Interviews conducted to date include: **ABC Gaines; BioSun Systems, Inc.; Eagle Family Foods, Inc. (formerly Borden, Inc.); Buildings, Inc.; Comfort Inn of Mansfield; Cornell Brothers, Inc.; Dietrich's Milk Products, Inc.; ElectriCord Manufacturing Co, Inc.; The Gaines Company, Inc.; Gehman's Ornamental Iron; Georgia Pacific; House Wood Products Co.; Johnson Machine & Production; Kaminski Lumber Company, Inc.; Keystone North, Inc.; Kingdom, Inc.; K & W Medical Specialties, Inc.; K House & Son Lumber Company; Laurel Health System; Liberty Enterprises; Malco Machine Company; MetalKraft Industries, Inc.; Metamora Products Corporation; Monaghan Transportation Company; North Penn Comprehensive Health Service; Northern Tier Fabrication; Penn State Geisinger Health Group; Ron Baltzley Hardwoods, Inc.; Roseville Woodworks, Inc.; Signor Brothers Contracting; Tioga Petroleum Company; TruckLite of Wellsboro, Inc.; Tyoga Container Company, Inc.; Ward Manufacturing, Inc.; Westfield Tanning Company, Inc. (E H Hall Company, Inc.); and Wheeland Lumber Company, Inc.**

During Year 2 (July 1, 1998-June 30, 1999), the NTRPDC's ***TEAM Pennsylvania!*** Business Calling Program will interview 200 employers, concentrating on clusters of specific businesses in the areas of: **Health Care (Medical); F.I.R.E. (Finance, Insurance & Real Estate); Wood/ Paper Products; Machine /Tool & Die; Plastics/ Injection Molding; electrical Components/ Tech Based; and Ag Processing.** These clusters have been recognized as key industries based on the Northern Tier's Strategic Plan. Fifty (50) of the Interviews will be re-interviews with companies interviewed during the first year. The TCDC Board of Directors executed the Year 2 Contract at our July 10, 1998 Board Meeting.

PIDA/MELF Rate Remains At 3.75% For TIOGA COUNTY

Effective July 1, 1998, the **PIDA (Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority)** and **Machinery & Equipment Loan Fund (MELF)** Interest Rates for Tioga County will remain at **3.75%**. **Tioga County industries** are eligible for PIDA loans of up to forty percent (40%) for the cost of land and buildings for up to fifteen (15) years fixed rate. Applications must be made through a PIDA Certified IDC. In Tioga County, the **Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)**, **Betterment Organization of Mansfield (BOOM)** and **Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation (GROW)** are qualified. For more information about the PIDA/MELF Programs contact: Robert J. Blair, Executive Director, TCDC at (717) 723-8232.

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Tioga County EAC & Job Center Conducts Plant Tours of Tioga County Industries in July

The **Tioga County Employer Advisory Council (EAC)** and the **Tioga County Job Center** hosted a Public Tour of several industries in Tioga County on Friday, July 17, 1998. Tours were provided at **CNG Transmission, Georgia Pacific** and **Ward Manufacturing, Inc, ACP Division** with a Dutch treat Lunch at **The Woodshed**. The Tour began at Schoonover's Restaurant in Middlebury Center. **Benedict's Bus Service, Inc.**, transported the EAC Members compliments of CNG. There were 40 persons who participated in the Annual Tour coordinated by **Cathy Canniere**, Manager, Tioga County Job Center. Executive Director Blair serves as the Tioga County EAC Chair.

BUSINESS LOAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO TIOGA COUNTY BUSINESSES

The Tioga County Development Corporation has provided considerable economic development financing assistance to several Tioga County businesses involved in expansion and development projects. Assistance to the following industries will result in \$475,000 in public loan funding and \$175,000 in private lending, resulting in the retention of 39 jobs and the creation of seven (7) new manufacturing jobs within three (3) years. These companies are to be commended for their investment in Tioga County.

ElectriCord Manufacturing Company MELF LETTER OF INTENT SUBMITTED

A **Machinery & Equipment Loan Fund (MELF)** Letter of Intent was submitted on behalf of **ElectriCord Manufacturing Company, Inc. (ECM)** in July by the Tioga County Development Corporation. ECM is requesting a MELF Loan of \$175,000 as part of a \$350,000 M & E modernization project for its wiring line. The project will make ElectriCord more competitive in the power cord industry. Sixteen (16) jobs will be retained as a result of the Project and help to secure the existing 133 jobs in Westfield. On July 10, 1998, the **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)** authorized the submission of a full loan application. A full application is anticipated to be submitted by TCDC by mid September. **First Union Bank** is providing the private sector loan.

In September 1997, **Mitch Samuels** purchased ElectriCord from its parent company, Leucadia, Inc. resulting in the saving of 122 jobs in the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone**. ECM has been operational in **Westfield Borough** since 1965.

Ralph H. Evans/ Ralph's Service Center Inc. PEDFA APPLICATION SUBMITTED

On April 9, 1998, the TCDC Board of Directors approved the submission of a PEDFA Application on behalf of **Ralph H. Evans**. The \$650,000 PEDFA request was for the purchase of **Ralph's Service Center, Inc.** in **Richmond Township**, which would result in the retention of forty eight (48) jobs. Prior to the PEDFA Board Meeting in July, the Application was withdrawn by Mr. Evans due to other financial arrangements.

Woodhouse Post & Beam Homes, Inc. PEDFA APPLICATION APPROVED & CLOSED

A **Pennsylvania Economic Development Loan Application (PEDFA)** for **Woodhouse Post & Beam Homes, Inc.**, sponsored by the Tioga County Development Corporation was approved on March 24, 1998, by the **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)** and closed in June 1998. The \$400,000 PEDFA Loan provided funding to Woodhouse to purchase state-of-the-art manufacturing machinery & equipment. **First Citizens Bank** was the participating lender for this expansion project in **Rutland Township**. Woodhouse employs 23 and will add seven (7) new manufacturing jobs within three (3) years. The Company, incorporated in 1981, is owned by **C. Stephen Keller**.

Tioga County School To Work Program

Labor Market Survey, YAP & Vehicular Day Highlight Activities

TIOGA COUNTY LABOR MARKET SURVEY

On November 12, 1997, the Tioga County School To Work (STW) Partners approved a contract with **Wilkes University** to conduct a countywide employer survey to determine the curriculum development needed to meet the work force needs of employers. The results of the Survey were presented to the Tioga County School To Work Partners on June 9, 1998. As a result of that meeting, and in an effort to continue to develop the process, a Special Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 22, 1998, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the **Pennsylvania College of Technology/ North Campus**. **Brian Williams**, Career Development Coordinator from Monroe County provided insight into how Monroe County implemented its Labor Market Survey with its school districts.

NTIEC YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IN TIOGA COUNTY

The Tioga County **Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP)** officially got under way with the start of the new school year. **Brian Stahler**, YAP Coordinator, has placed twenty six (26) students in Tioga County at several sites in Tioga County.

TIOGA COUNTY VEHICULAR CAREER DAY

Tioga County Vehicular Career Day was held on May 14, 1998, at **Mansfield University**. Nearly 1,200 3rd and 4th grade students from Tioga County experienced first hand nearly 35 employers and the vehicles they use in their business. David W. Wishard, Career Coordinator for the Northern Tioga School District, coordinated the event for the Tioga County School to Work Partners.

NORTHERN TIER INDUSTRY EDUCATION CONSORTIUM/TIOGA COUNTY SCHOOL TO WORK PARTNERS

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the **Tioga County School To Work Initiative** should contact: **Charlean Patterson, Laurel Health System**, Wellsboro, PA 16901 (717) 723-0191. If you wish to get involved with the **Northern Tier Industry Education Consortium** contact: **David Rice, SCAVTC**, PO Box 100, Dimock, PA 18816 (717) 278-5038. In August 1997, the **Tioga County School To Work (STW) Partners** joined the **Northern Tier Industry Education Consortium (NTIEC)**. NTIEC serves Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. With Tioga County joining, the entire Northern Tier Region of Pennsylvania is served by NTIEC. The Tioga County STW involves the **Northern Tioga, Southern Tioga and Wellsboro Area School Districts**; county businesses and industries; and several public entities including: **Tioga County Job Center, NTRPDC JTPA Program, Laurel Health System, Penn College, Mansfield University and TCDC**.

Liberty Strategic Plan Funding Approved

In June of 1998, the Tioga County Development Corporation received a **State Planning Assistance Grant (SPAG)** for \$10,000 for the Liberty Strategic Plan.. The DCED Grant is the result of a meeting held on November 20, 1997, with Executive Director **Kim T. Coon, Center for Local Government Services**. The communities of **Liberty Borough** and **Liberty Township** in Tioga County and **Jackson Township** in Lycoming County, have been working together for over a year in addressing common concerns.

A local share of \$3,850 has been contributed as part of the overall funding by several local businesses, including: **B & D Transfer, Inc.**; **Bob's Market (Lyle Brion)**; **Citizens & Northern National Bank**; **GPU Energy**; Liberty Borough; Liberty Township; Jackson Township; Southern Tioga School District; and **Wheeland Lumber, Inc.**

Request For Proposals (RFP) were developed by the Liberty Committee and TCDC for Professional Planning Consultant Services to develop the Strategic Plan. The RFP will also solicit cost estimates for an Act 537 Sewage Plan and Comprehensive Plan. TCDC will continue to pursue public funding to implement these operations of the overall planning process. As part of the planning process, a Sewer Survey was conducted through a **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** intern and an Income Survey, to be conducted with assistance through the **Tioga County Redevelopment Authority**, will be performed.

The Liberty Strategic Plan Committee is comprised of: **Maryanne Bishop; Arnie Kriner; Dan May; Darrie Mase; Glenn Saffer, Phoebe Thompson; Ann Yuscavage. and Roy Zeafra.** Tioga County Planner **Kerry Gyekis** and TCDC Executive Director **Robert J. Blair** provide technical assistance to the Committee. RFPs were received on August 24, 1998, and are being reviewed by the Committee. A Consultant hopefully will be selected by the end of September.

TCDC Receives Private Contributions

Several contributions were received by TCDC during this past quarter. TCDC expresses our sincere thank you to our Contributors for **Your Investment** in Tioga County.

Tioga County Commissioners

Tioga County

The Tioga County Commissioners, Walter G. Barnes, Erick Coolidge & William D. Hall presented a \$14,000 check to TCDC as part of their annual contribution to TCDC. **Erick Coolidge** is the Commissioner Member of the TCDC Board of Directors.

Wal*Mart Foundation

Mansfield Wal*Mart Store, Tioga County

Wal*Mart Foundation presented a contribution check for \$2,000 to TCDC. This marks the fourth contribution given by Wal*Mart Foundation totaling \$9,000 since 1996.

Westfield Tanning Co., Inc.

Westfield Township

Westfield Tanning Co., Inc. provided their quarterly contribution of \$1000 to TCDC. This marks the sixth contribution presented to TCDC totaling \$6,000 since 1996.

BOOM

Betterment Organization of Mansfield

Mansfield Borough

Thomas Freeman, BOOM President, provided a \$500 contribution to TCDC for economic development. This is the third investment BOOM has made to TCDC totaling \$1,500.

Township of Deerfield

Deerfield Township

Karl Kroeck, Chairman, Deerfield Township Board of Supervisors presented its annual contribution of \$500 to TCDC for our efforts in the **49 CORRIDOR** and economic development.

Township of Osceola

Osceola Township

The Board of Supervisors contributed their annual contribution of \$100 to TCDC. Osceola Township is a participating municipality in the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone**.

Jon & Belinda Seely

Osceola Township

Jon (TCDC Director) and **Belinda Seely** (**49 CORRIDOR** Vice President) contributed \$50 to TCDC.

Since 1991, TCDC has received \$168,233 in contributions from forty nine (49) different major contributors ranging from \$50 to \$20,000. Our major Contributors were recognized at the 5th Annual Meeting.

SMS Grant Received

The Tioga County Development Corporation has been awarded a \$5,000 **Shared Municipal Services (SMS)** Grant from the **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)**.

The annual grant is used to support the countywide economic development efforts of TCDC on behalf of Tioga County and the thirty nine (39) boroughs and townships in our efforts to foster and promote the economic development of Tioga County.

TCDC Building: ADA Accessible

The TCDC Building has become ADA accessible through a **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** provided by Tioga County. **Larson Design Group** of Williamsport designed an exterior ramp system to accommodate handicapped accessibility while maintaining the historic character of the 1860 county building. **Patrick J. Gleason** of Middlebury Center was the general contractor. **Martin Landscaping Service, Inc.** provided the era landscaping to the grounds. Two Mountain Laurel were donated by **Agway** of Wellsboro. The **Sweet Foundation** provided the natural gas light and **North Penn Gas Company** donated the labor to install the light.

TCDC Executive Director **Robert J. Blair** coordinated the project on behalf of the **Tioga County Commissioners**. The **Tioga County Redevelopment Authority** under the direction of **Michael T. Egan** administers the CDBG Program for Tioga County.

The TCDC Board of Directors extends our sincere thank you and appreciation to all who contributed to the ADA Project and the continued utilization of this historic building.

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on June 18, 1998.

The TCDC Building is the former Tioga County Sheriff's Residence. In 1991, TCDC entered into a thirty year lease with the Commissioners for the Building. Office space is provided to the **Tioga County Visitors Bureau, Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce, Growth Resources of Wellsboro Foundation (GROW)** and the **Wellsboro Foundation**. A community conference room is available to the public. During 1997, 217 meetings were conducted in the Conference Room. The Conference Room houses a permanent photography display of the Building by various area artists. For scheduling contact: **Jeannine B. Singer**, Administrative Assistant (717) 723-8232.



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Development News from Tioga County

ABC GAINES, INC. EXPANSION PLANNED

Charleston Township, Pennsylvania

A \$145,000 Loan from the **Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Corporation (NTRPDC)** was approved in June for a major expansion project at **ABC Gaines, Inc.** in **Charleston Township**. The precision machine company will expand its manufacturing facility and purchase additional machinery & equipment. Employment will go from 16 to 21, adding five (5) new jobs within three (3) years. **Citizen & Northern Bank** is providing the private share of the expansion project. ABC Gaines, Inc., is celebrating it's 30th Anniversary in Tioga County, noted **Craig Horton**, President.

ROOSA CONSTRUCTION EXPANSION

Knoxville Borough

ROOSA Construction Company, Inc. has been awarded a Small Business Loan from the **Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Corporation (NTRPDC)** for \$25,000. The **Knoxville** Company owned by **William Roosa**, purchased a computerized sign making machine.

From the President . . .

Leadership Tioga County is highlighted in this issue of *OUTREACH*. A Leadership Program for Tioga County could cultivate, develop and nurture new leaders in our County, our communities, our organizations. It could identify and motivate the area's most promising young potential leaders, our adult middle management persons and our experienced, available elderly citizens . . . all full of potential.

I've been impressed with similar programs in Lycoming County and Central Susquehanna Region to our south. Through a series of seminars using the community as a classroom, these programs allow emerging leaders to exchange ideas and information with established leaders and experts from many fields. These future leaders gain first hand information about issues, as they develop the skills necessary for effective roles in their own communities and organizations. It is time for Tioga County to have our own Leadership Program.

Leaders come in all shapes and sizes with different styles, different methods, different approaches, but every good leader **cares** about her or his community and its residents. The skills to become a good leader can be taught, the caring comes from the heart.

I'm delighted the Tioga County Development Corporation is developing *Leadership Tioga County*, with the support of the *Tioga County Partnership For Community Health*. We need the support and commitment of our business & industry community, along with our residents and organizations to prepare the next generation of caring community leaders in Tioga County. Help us to nurture the next generation, so they too can continue to make *Tioga County . . . a place to call home.*

Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
CENTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

1998 Excellence in Local Government Award

Tioga County Development Corporation

PROJECT SUMMARY

The **Tioga County Development Corporation (TCDC)** was incorporated on July 22, 1991, having evolved from the *Tioga County Economic Development Task Force* formed by the Tioga County Commissioners in March 1989. TCDC began our Office of Economic Development on March 1, 1994, with the hiring of our first Executive Director, Robert J. Blair. In June 1994, an Administrative Assistant was added to the countywide industrial development corporation staff. TCDC during its brief inception has become recognized throughout Tioga County, the Northern Tier Region and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as one of the most effective rural industrial development organizations. Drawing on our strength as a countywide intergovernmental organization with municipal, county and business sectors support, TCDC has seen much success and growth in Tioga County. Some of the activities TCDC has been instrumental in include:

Development of a countywide Community Economic Recovery Program (CERP) in 1992-94.

Designation of the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone** in December 1995. Extension of the **49 CORRIDOR Enterprise Zone** to include nine (9) boroughs and townships in Tioga County (the longest most rural EZP in Pennsylvania)

Tioga County served as a participant in the 1995 International Countryside Exchange sponsored by *The Countrywide Institute* and the *Center or Rural Pennsylvania*. TCDC was instrumental in the selection and administration of this countywide international exchange. The *Tioga County Countryside Council* was created as the outcome of this initiative.

Designation as a Council of Governments by the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in 1994 as the countywide economic development organization for Tioga County and our thirty nine (39) boroughs and townships. Received Shared Municipal Services (SMS) designation from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) in 1996.

Designation as a PIDA Certified Countywide Industrial Development Corporation in June 1996. TCDC has packaged several PIDA Loan Applications on behalf of the Betterment Organization of Mansfield (BOOM).

Instrumental in the development of the \$64 Million Ward Manufacturing, Inc., ACP Division expansion in Lawrence Township which will create 500 jobs within five (5) years (1996-97).

Lead County entity and sponsor of the development of the *Northern Tier Welcome Center* to be constructed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on US Route 15 (Appalachian Thruway).

Strong supporter of the efforts of the US Route 15 Coalition and the Appalachian Thruway Association to have US Route 15 a four lane limited access highway constructed by 2002.

Key partner in the *Tioga County Partnership For Community Health*, a countywide based organization of public and private sector partners and the health care providers network. The Partnership has received state and national recognition as a premiere grassroots health partnership striving to create a healthy community in Tioga County.

Designation by the Tioga County Commissioners in January 1997 as the **TEAM Pennsylvania Agent for Tioga County** for Governor Ridge's **TEAM Pennsylvania** Initiative and part of the NTRPDC **TEAM Pennsylvania** Marketing Region.

Sponsored our first PEDFA (Pennsylvania Economic Development Finance Authority) Loan for Woodhouse Post & Beam Homes, Inc., in December 1997. TCDC has packaged several PEDFA Loans on behalf of the Tioga County IDA.

TCDC is very involved with the municipalities of Tioga County and participates monthly with the Tioga County Association of Boroughs and semi-annually with the Tioga County Association of Township Officials. TCDC is presently involved in an FIA Flood Plain Map Revision Project with Tioga Borough, Tioga and Lawrence Townships. TCDC was instrumental in securing \$4.95 Million in public funding for the Lawrence Township Municipal Authority Sewer Project, in conjunction with the Ward Project. TCDC has served as the Administrative Entity for the LTMA Sewer Project.

TCDC is an instrumental player in the Tioga County School To Work Program with the *Northern Tier Industry Education Consortium* to assure our employees have a trained educated workforce.

The Tioga County Development Corporation has been at the very heart in promoting economic revitalization and development of the economic development strategy for Tioga County. We take our responsibilities seriously and in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, and as a partner with our County, our communities, our private sector and public partners, will continue to strive to make **Tioga County . . . a place to call home.**