

PRO STAFF EXPLORE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY AND THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH, PA



Left to Right:
Sam Giannetti (West Central Job Partnership), Gary Hinkson (City Manager-City of Hermitage), Willie C. Taylor-PRO Regional Director, Dan Gillen-PRO Civil Engineer, Karen Hawkins-PRO Graduate Intern, Gary Gulla (Asst. City Manager, City of Hermitage)

Several members of the PRO team including: Willie Taylor-Regional Director, Dan Gillen-Civil Engineer, and Karen Hawkins-Graduate Intern spent two days participating in informational sessions and site visits in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday, June 30th, the contingent started the day with Pat Early of Allegheny County Economic Development. They discussed a grant from the Department of Defense that EDA will administer, to construct a Commissary and Post Exchange (PX), as a result of a Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) decision. Two proposed construction sites were examined in Moon Township, PA.

The team then traveled to Beaver Falls, PA for an informational meeting with

President Randy Brown of StartingGate, formerly Corporation for Owner-Operator Projects (CO-OP), and members of the design and construction team consisting of Greg Madej-Architect, Al Fidazzo-Rycon Construction, and Ken Faux-Construction Manager. StartingGate, since its inception in 1984, has assisted 257 new businesses and created more than 900 new jobs in the Beaver County region. The new 75,000 sq. foot incubator facility would allow CO-OP to expand on its success by attracting manufacturing and technology-related businesses. A visit to the construction site followed the meeting. The StartingGate incubator will be LEED Certified and will ultimately create 130 new technology jobs.

The final scheduled meeting was in the City of Hermitage, PA. At the meeting were officials from Pennsylvania and Ohio – including Mayor Jay Williams of Youngstown, Ohio. The Eastern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania economic development practitioners have formed a consortium entitled OH Penn. Included in the presentation was a new proposal for a Technical Center/Learning Lab located at the LindenPointe Innovative Business Campus which will be LEED certified. The Tech Center will provide training opportunities to enhance the emerging semiconductor and electronics cluster, as well as the biomedical and biotechnical clusters in the 115-acre LindenPointe Innovative Business Campus. Following the meeting, a site visit was made to a new 5,000 square foot EDA project currently under construction. Also, the team saw the location of the proposed project which is adjacent to the building under construction. The EDA staff met with start up companies located in the LindenPointe Campus. EDA has participated in a previous investment with the City of Hermitage and is looking forward to future collaborations.