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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chamber Members Learn About Workforce Constraints

Monthly Meeting Provides Employment Outlook

MIFFLINBURG – As central Pennsylvania faces an 8.9-percent unemployment rate, the traditional job market has been turned on its head and job seekers need to prove their skills all the more, according to Shannon Miller, executive director of the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation.

Miller and Assistant Director Rachel Smith made presentations at the Chamber's April 8 Monthly Meeting at the Carriage Corner restaurant, Mifflinburg, to explain the challenges ahead for the Valley's workforce. They addressed nearly 70 Chamber members in attendance.

This year, summer unemployment for teens is expected to be at an all-time high, Smith said. Adults in need of part-time work are competing with the less-qualified youth.

Addressing the possibility of a "jobless recovery," Smith told Chamber members that the Lewisburg-based CPWDC is aiming to maximize the number of people accessing its Pennsylvania CareerLink facilities.

Utilizing its WorkKeys program, which provides "career readiness certificates" to prove certain job seekers are proficient in particular job skills, the corporation is trying to make the workforce more skilled and competitive.

On the other hand, CPWDC is looking to directly help businesses fill immediate openings. Through those partnerships, Miller said, the corporation is able to better equip its incoming job seekers.

The Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce is working to increase job availability and provide partnerships for businesses that are seeking to fill positions. As it enters its strategic planning process, the Chamber is looking at options, such as rural sourcing, to bring more jobs to the area.

For more information, contact CPWDC at 522-0805 or through its Web site at 111.cpwdc.org.

Businesses seeking resources as they fill positions can contact the Chamber at 743-4100 or rluff@gsvcc.org.

Don't miss next month's meeting, which will focus on *Brain Drain*, one of the job market bugaboos confronted in part by *Rural Sourcing*, another major Chamber topic. Members can register for the May 13 meeting online at www.gsvcc.org.