



# TRICOUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Resources. Relationships. Recognition.*

152 E. High St., Suite 200, Pottstown, PA 19464 | 610.326.2900 | [www.tricountyareachamber.com](http://www.tricountyareachamber.com)

**Our Mission:** Leveraging the power of membership to provide valued membership services and proactive leadership for the tri-county region.

**Our Vision:** The tri-county area has a strong sense of place – quality of life, economic opportunity, and generations of leaders – to support the region's businesses and communities.

Follow us on:



#WhyTCACC

#tcaccbettertogether

## Building Our Future Workforce

### – How the Tricounty Chamber is Connecting Talent with Opportunity

By Harrison Santangelo, President  
The TriCounty Chamber of Commerce

As President of the Tricounty Area Chamber of Commerce, one of the most frequent conversations I have with our member businesses revolves around workforce development. From manufacturers to service providers, the challenge of finding and retaining skilled talent is a consistent theme. It's clear that to ensure a successful future for our community, we need to proactively cultivate the next generation of our local workforce.

That's why your Chamber is stepping up, taking a leading role in bridging the gap between education and industry right here in the Tricounty area.

We are incredibly excited to announce the development of a comprehensive intern placement program designed to connect high school students directly with meaningful career opportunities among our Chamber members. Starting this fall semester, we plan to launch the program in partnership with one local school district and look to offer the same placement for students for 10+ school districts in our service area.

The enthusiasm for this program has been overwhelming, from both the schools

and our member businesses. For too long, there hasn't been a straightforward way for students to gain hands-on experience in potential career fields, or for businesses to tap into the emerging talent pool right in their backyard. This program aims to change that.



Our vision is simple: provide students with real-world, hands-on experience that not only develops their skills but also ignites their passion for a career right here in TriCounty. Imagine a high school student learning the ropes in a local manufacturing plant, assisting in a healthcare setting, or contributing to a marketing firm, all before they even graduate. These experi-

ences are invaluable.

A significant challenge many businesses face, particularly in vital sectors like the skilled trades, is the aging workforce. As experienced professionals near retirement, there's a pressing need to ensure the younger generation is ready to step into those essential roles as soon as they're needed. Our intern program directly addresses this by giving students early exposure and practical experience in these critical fields.

But our efforts extend beyond just placements. The Chamber is uniquely

positioned to act as a crucial liaison between our biggest employers and local colleges and high schools. We're actively working to foster collaborations that will help develop curricula specifically tailored to the in-demand fields needed in our area. This means working with educators to ensure that what's being taught in the classroom aligns with the skills and knowledge local businesses are seeking.

The Chamber's unique value in this endeavor comes from the deep relationships we share with both the school systems and the business community. We can bring all parties to the table, facilitating conversations that lead to meaningful change and tangible results.

Ultimately, our overarching goal is to keep our developing workforce right here in the Tricounty area. By providing clear pathways to rewarding careers and ensuring that local education aligns with local industry needs, we hope to stem the tide of young talent seeking opportunities elsewhere. We want our students to see that they can build successful, fulfilling careers without having to leave the community they grew up in.

This isn't just about filling jobs; it's about building a stronger, more resilient TriCounty economy and ensuring a prosperous future for all who live and work here.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to the businesses listed below for becoming new TCACC Members!

### Corporate Petals

(570) 394-0109

Office Equipment / Furniture / Supplies

### Jim McAndrew Photography

(267) 474-6224

Photographers / Photography Studios

<http://www.jimmccandrewphotography.com/>

### Beem Light Sauna Collegeville

(302) 545-4883

Health & Wellness

<https://www.beemlightsauna.com/location/collegeville>

## MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to the following Members for their consecutive years of Chamber membership:

**47+ years**

AAA East Central

Graham Management  
t/a McDonald's

**35 years**

Borough of Boyertown

Richard A. Zuber Realty

**29 years**

Pottstown Area  
Police Athletic League

Occupational Health -  
Pottstown Hospital Tower Health

Avante Apartments

**11 years**

Pottstown Dance Theatre

Berks Career and Technology Center

**4 years**

Total Detailing, LLC

Cornerstone Advisors  
Asset Management



## REGIONAL CHAMBER ROUNDUP



## UPCOMING EVENTS.



AUG  
7

Thursday, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

### *Kayaking Group Expedition*

Join fellow Members for a leisurely kayak expedition down the Schuylkill River, led by Take It Outdoors. Join us to network and build relationships on the river! The guided kayaking portion will take about 2 hours. This event is open to ALL Chamber Members and is presented by the TriCounty Young Professionals and sponsored by Schuylkill River Greenways NHA. \$25 per Member - includes kayak rental and guided tour

AUG  
18

Monday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

### *Young Professionals: Pickleball*

The TriCounty Area Chamber's REACH group is offering you the opportunity to make more connections over coffee. This monthly connection will build your relationships with fellow REACH Members. Join us to meet new people, check in with each other, and share inspiration. Grow your network and connect with other professional women in the tri-county region.

AUG  
22

Friday, shotgun start at 9:00 AM, lunch at 1:30 PM

### *Annual Golf Outing*

Get ready for a day of golf, camaraderie, and non-stop fun at Twin Ponds Golf Course! Whether you're swinging solo (\$150) or bringing a foursome (\$550), this event is packed with excitement—player packages, contests, prizes, special challenges, raffles, a 50/50, and SO much more! Not a golfer? No problem—come for the BBQ lunch and all the vibes for just \$40. It's more than a day on the course—it's the event everyone will be talking about. Don't miss it!

SEP  
16

Tuesday, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

### *Business After Hours*

You're invited to TCACC's next Networking Event — The Diamond Paw-ty: Where Business Barks. Hosted by Diamond Credit Union in Gilbertsville and the Berks Animal Rescue League, this fun, pet-themed evening is "where local businesses connect - fueled by paws and partnerships." Enjoy networking opportunities that can boost your visibility, spark new collaborations, and help you build lasting professional relationships. Everyone who attends will be entered into a business card drawing, and while we kindly ask that you leave your furry friends at home, pet-friendly goodies will be available to take with you!

SEP  
24

Wednesday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### *REACH Conference - 5th Annual*

Don't miss one of the most empowering events of the year! Join over 150 professional women from the tri-county area for a high-energy afternoon featuring 3 dynamic speakers, a delicious lunch and dessert buffet, raffle prizes, REACH Awards, and table hosts ready to spark meaningful conversation. Plus, every guest receives a commemorative gift to remember the day. It's the perfect chance to connect, grow, and celebrate with a powerful network of women—all for just \$150 per person. Seats are filling fast—don't be the one who hears about it after!

## VISIONARY

TriCounty  
HEALTH PLANS

## STAKEHOLDER



## BUILDING COMMUNITIES



## CREATING CONNECTIONS



## SUPPORTING COMMERCE

