

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 3, 2026

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:20 a.m. at the Bucks County Community College on September 3, 2026, and called to order by Consortium President, Chris Garges.

Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

April Watson, Bristol Township
Heather Satterly, Bristol Township
Emily Patz, Bristol Township
Dana Cozza, Buckingham Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township
Andrea Mergner, Doylestown Township
RF Shoup, Haycock Township
Calvin Trovinger, Haycock Township
Dave Kratzer, Lower Makefield Township
Mega Bhandary, Lower Makefield Township
Joe Murphy, North Wales Water Authority
Larry Kremsky, North Wales Water Authority
Lisa Sobestsky, North Wales Water Authority
Robert Pellegrino, Northampton Township
Bill Wert, Northampton Township
Ashley Casey, Northampton Township
Stacey Mulholland, Plumstead Township
Steven Hicks, Plumstead Township
Mayor Wayne Codner, Richlandtown Borough
Chris Garges, Solebury Township
Zach Zubris, Solebury Township
Caitlin Pederson, Telford Borough Regional Authority
Gregg Schuster, Upper Makefield Township
Allison Oldfield, Warminster Township
Tim Hagey, Warminster Township Municipal Authority
Melissa Kenyon, Warrington Township
Kevin Barron, Warrington Township
Alanna Moore, Warrington Township
Colleen Keith, Warminster Heights
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Becki Marencik, Warwick Township
Skye Sorresso, Warwick Township

Sponsors:

Joe Dugan, Boyle Construction
Mark Harris, Delaware Valley Trusts
Linda Bengera, Delaware Valley Trusts
Beth Kaufman, Equitable Advisors
Charles Coyle, Equitable Advisors
Anna Keating, United Inspection Agency
Jay Hafferty, United Inspection Agency
Megan Cooper, Univest
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, WK2 Consulting
Tim Mirra, Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC

Guest Sponsor:

Zac Schull, Connect Me Today

The meeting began with a welcome from Patrick M. Jones, Ph.D., President of Bucks County Community College. Mr. Garges thanked Dr. Jones for his remarks and the College's gracious hospitality in hosting this month's meeting.

Presentation:**Bucks County Community College 2026 Update: Valuable Resources for the Individual and Employers**

Representatives from Bucks County Community College (BCCC) provided the Consortium with an overview of resources available to individuals, municipal employers, and the broader Bucks County workforce. The presentation focused on educational opportunities, career and workforce development, employer partnerships, customized training, funding opportunities, and use of College facilities.

Amanda A. Kala, M.Ed., Associate Director of Admissions, reviewed the College's educational offerings, including associate degree transfer pathways, job-ready degree and certificate programs, and continuing education and training opportunities. BCCC currently offers more than 90 programs of study, including 32 fully online programs, along with flexible scheduling and multiple campus locations. The College also highlighted opportunities for students to reduce the overall cost of earning a bachelor's degree by beginning their education at Bucks and transferring through its dual-admission partnerships.

The presentation also highlighted BCCC's job-ready programs designed to prepare students for in-demand careers, including business, information technology, healthcare, education, fire science, nursing, radiography, legal studies, and other fields. The College encouraged employers to consider educational opportunities and tuition reimbursement programs as tools for employee development and retention.

Kate Zimmerman, Director of Cooperative Education and Career Services, discussed opportunities for municipalities and other employers to partner with the College and connect with its local talent pool. Employer resources include recruitment through Handshake, direct outreach to students and faculty, career fairs, internships, co-ops, job shadowing, micro-internships, on-campus interviews, mentorship, and other experiential learning opportunities. These partnerships can assist employers with developing a future workforce pipeline while providing students with practical experience.

Michael Reil, Executive Consultant, Corporate College & Customized Training also reviewed its Center for Workforce Development, which offers state-registered pre-apprenticeships and career preparation in areas such as industrial maintenance, metal work, building and construction trades, healthcare, HVAC, electrical work, and welding. The College reported a job placement rate of more than 90% for its Industrial Maintenance and Metal Work programs.

Through its Corporate College and Customized Training, BCCC provides professional development and workforce training in leadership and supervision, customer service, communications, conflict management, computer/software skills, cybersecurity, industrial safety, CDL driving, welding, electrical skills, and other areas. Coaching and consulting services are also available for executives, managers, employees, and workgroups, as well as for organizational needs such as business-process analysis, workflow reviews, and employee or customer surveys.

Mr. Reil further discussed grant and funding programs that may help eligible employers offset training expenses, including WEDnetPA, the Incumbent Worker Training Grant, and the ITAC Grant.

Lastly, he highlighted BCC's facilities in Bristol, Newtown, and Perkasié, as well as its fire schools in Croydon and Doylestown, which are available for meetings, retreats, training programs, and other events.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Bob Pellegrino the Treasurer's Report for June through August 2026, was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by John Ramey seconded by Becki Marenick the May 7, 2026, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business:

Northampton Township Manager Bob Pellegrino welcomed Chris Hoffman, the new Middletown Township Manager, to the Bucks County Consortium. Mr. Hoffman expressed his excitement to be in Bucks County and to be a part of the Consortium.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Casey
Consortium Coordinator