

Who We Are

BASICS is a coalition of business, education and community leaders working to provide career exploration and development opportunities to Blair County's young people and the broader workforce. Supported by the Blair Chamber Foundation, we believe that the success of our next generation is the cornerstone of Blair County's economic health.



What We Do

We focus on communicating career choices to students, parents and educators so they prepare themselves today for the challenges of tomorrow.

We create and support workforce development programs to significantly improve the match between the education system's priorities and the needs of the region's evolving business community.

We strive to educate adults and young people alike across Blair County so they better understand the range of career opportunities in this region before making education, training and employment decisions.



Current Programs

Early Childhood Education

Advocating the positive impact of early childhood learning in discussions among community stakeholders.

8th Grade Career Fair

A program supporting participating schools with business speakers and essay recognition awards.

Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!)

A nationally recognized opportunity for students grades 7-12 to learn and launch business ideas.

Summer STEM Collaborative

A week-long summer STEM experience for 9th - 12th graders led by teachers and business professionals.

10th Grade Rotary Career Fair

Career Exploration seminars hosted by the six Blair County Rotary Clubs at the BC Convention Center.

10th Grade Leadership Blair County Youth

Selected 10th graders learn leadership, collaboration and community service during their sophomore year.

11th Grade Career Shadowing

A half or full-day "on-the-job" career exploration experience for 11th graders at area businesses.

Next Gen Summer Workplace Mentoring

Career-to-Work staff and businesses offering 11th – 12th graders school year and summer work experiences.

Higher Education Worksite Tours

Businesses hosting career services staff, creating internship and job opportunity networking relationships.

Regional BASICS

Oversight of a regional BASICS program involving Blair, Bedford, Cambria and Huntingdon counties.

Community Partners

Altoona Area School District
 Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8
 Bellwood-Antis School District
 Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School
 CareerLink
 Claysburg-Kimmel School District
 Goodwill of the Southern Alleghenies
 Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center

Healthy Blair County Coalition
 Hollidaysburg Area School District
 PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
 Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
 Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development
 Spring Cove School District
 Tyrone Area School District
 Williamsburg Community School District

To Learn More

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Next Gen Workplace Mentoring
 Gwin Dobson & Foreman Inc.



Young Entrepreneurs Academy
 Forever Broadcasting



Career Shadowing
 Altoona Symphony



Career Shadowing
 Warren A. Gingrich Agency