

**THE RURAL, REGIONAL COLLEGE OF NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Resolution of Support**

**WHEREAS**, it is recognized and supported that there is a need within the service area of the Erie County & NWPA for a rural, regional college and technical degree programs and offerings; and

**WHEREAS**, currently no such programs such as described above are offered in our rural part of the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rural, Regional College of Northern Pennsylvania (RRCNPA) was created to provide these types of educational opportunities for our region.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** The Erie County Technical School Career & Technical Center hereby signifies its support for the concept of the RRCNPA and agrees to engage in discussions regarding an agreement with the RRCNPA which would permit the college to use the CTC facilities nights, weekends, and summers, including the use of the equipment owned by the CTC needed to successfully conduct classes. All such usage would be subject to prior approval of the CTC before such time that any class would be scheduled and/or advertised.

Approved by the Board of Directors on March 24, 2016.

ATTESTED BY:

For the Career & Technical Center:

For the RRCNPA:

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Board President  
Andrew Foyle, Fairview

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Chairperson, RRCNPA  
Board of Trustees

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Board Secretary  
Terri Birchard, ECTS

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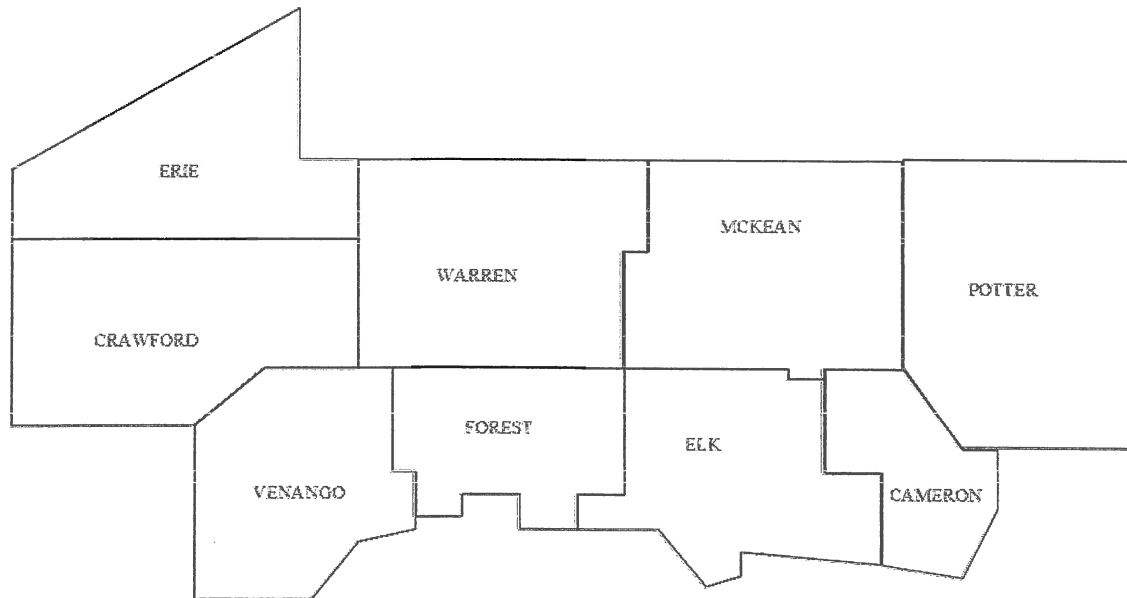
Secretary, RRCNPA  
Board of Trustees

**RURAL REGIONAL COLLEGE OF NORTHERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**STATUS UPDATE**  
**February 4, 2016**

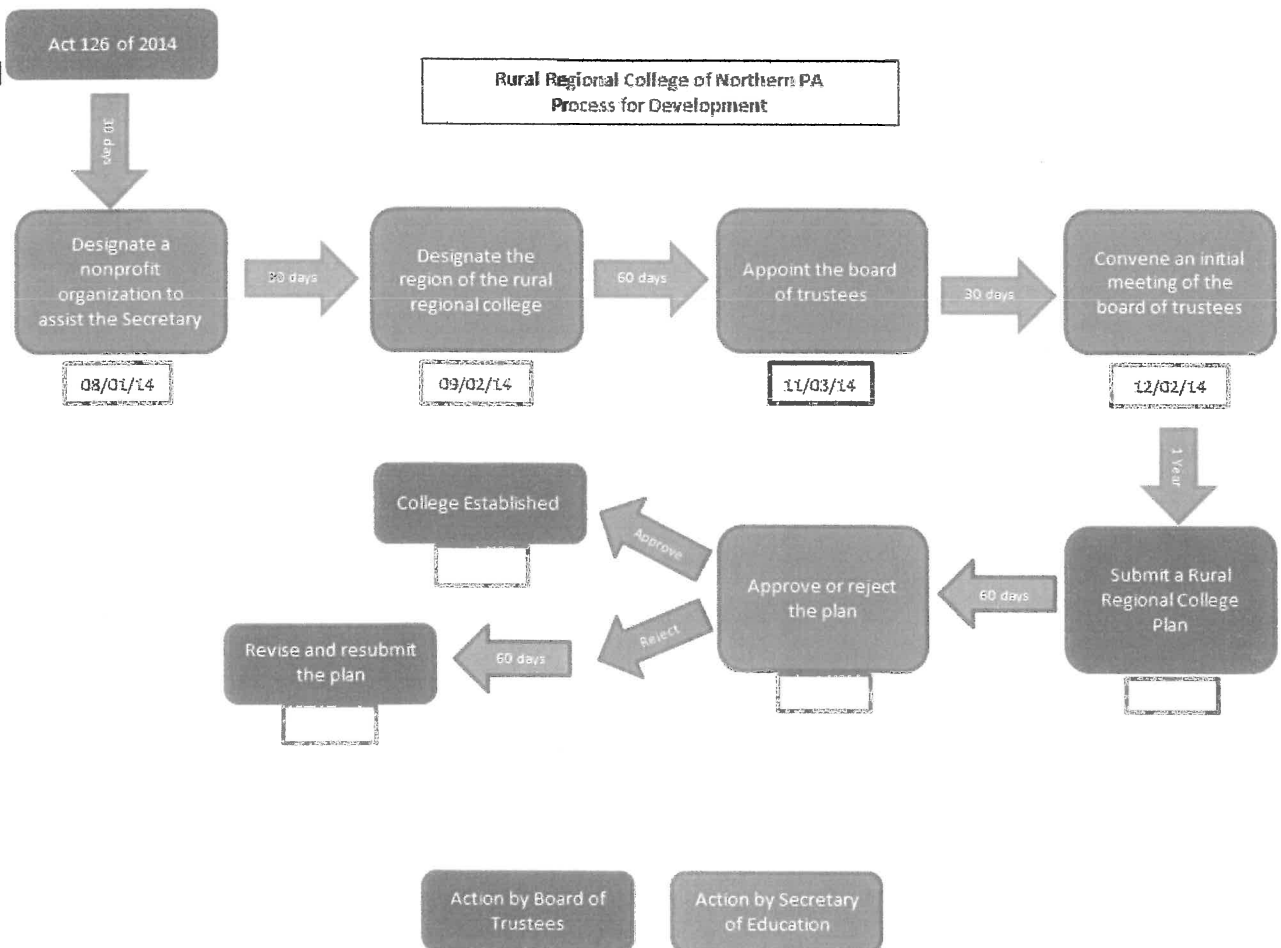
*Prepared for: The Erie Community Foundation*  
*Prepared by: Mary C. Bula*

**SERVICE AREA**

**Rural Regional College Service Area**



**PROCESS FLOW CHART/TIMELINE**



## **STATUS UPDATE**

### **Funding**

- Initial state appropriation for planning purposes (\$1.2 million) was not accessible to the Rural Regional College of Northern Pennsylvania (RRC)'s board of trustees until quite recently due to a "glitch" in legislative language. These planning dollars are now accessible through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RRC board and the PA Department of Education (PDE), subject to PDE's procurement regulations.
- The RRC was blue-lined (zeroed out) of the state's 2015/16 budget.
- The RRC board does not know whether 2015/16 funding will be restored, or what will happen beyond 2015/16. Certain RRC board member(s) are working to address these issues with state legislators.

### **Timeline**

- Because planning dollars were not accessible, the board was unable to secure outside expertise necessary to prepare the plan in a timely manner, and therefore did not meet the one-year deadline for submitting the RRC Plan to the PA Secretary of Education. The RRC board will seek an extension of that deadline.

### **Substantive Work to Date**

- The RRC board adopted articles of incorporation, bylaws and secured tax-exempt status.
- The RRC board discussed and drafted the following mission statement for the RRC:

*The mission of the Rural Regional College of Northern Pennsylvania is to provide affordable and accessible education opportunities to the underserved populace of this area by collaborating with local educational and administrative agencies, utilizing an innovative delivery model that is responsive to economic needs, and providing training which leads to family sustaining careers.*

- The RRC board identified and/or secured the following assistance:
  - Project manager (Educational Consortium of the Upper Allegheny/Duane Vicini)
  - Plan research and writing (Lyceum Group)
  - Additional research and writing assistance (North Central Workforce Investment Board)
  - Clerical support, plan coordination and other management (Elk/Cameron Community Education Council)
  - Presidential search firm (Perry & Associates, who have not yet begun their work)
- The RRC board worked on portions of the plan that could be done in the absence of outside assistance and drafted two chapters for PDE's feedback (Chapters 5 and 6 as required under the law, which are "Philosophy and Objectives" and "Board of Trustees" respectively.)

- A subcommittee of the RRC board began conversations with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education to ensure that the RRC will be prepared to commence and follow-through with accreditation requirements at the appropriate time.
- The RRC board has begun to envision a proposed delivery model for educational offerings. The current thinking is that it should be a "distributive" model with multiple sites across the region, including a main administrative site, community college centers and satellite delivery sites.
- Much of the delivery model thinking had been done prior to Erie County being added to the geographic service area. As a result, the RRC board asked Mary Buia to convene an Erie County subcommittee to evaluate the distributive model and make Erie County-specific recommendations to the RRC board. The subcommittee included:
  - Aldo Jackson, Erie County Technical School
  - Steven Bishop, Corry Higher Education Council
  - Janet Anderson, Partners for Performance (Northwest PA Workforce Development Board)
  - Richard Scaletta, General McLane School District
  - Mathew Pundt, Erie's Public Schools
  - David Tullio, Custom Engineering
  - Andy Foyle, H & H Machined Products and liaison to the Manufacturer and Business Association
  - Jacob Rouch, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership

The subcommittee reviewed the distributive model concept and supported that approach. They then issued a report to the RRC board including Erie County-specific recommendations regarding locations for community college centers and satellites, salient points for the selection of the RRC's main administrative site, and the most important keys to the RRC's success. The RRC board will act on the subcommittee's recommendation at a future meeting.

- The project manager has begun to assign responsibility for various pieces of the RRC's Plan development and put deadlines for their development. The plan must include the following sections:
  - Executive Summary
  - Regional Characteristics (Chapter 1)
  - Regional Survey (Chapter 2)
  - Survey Research (Chapter 3)
  - Regional Needs Analysis (Chapter 4)
  - Philosophy and Objectives (Chapter 5)
  - Board of Trustees (Chapter 6)
  - Advisory Council of Presidents (Chapter 7)
  - Organization of College Administration (Chapter 8)
  - Academic Programs (Chapter 9)
  - Accreditation Plans (Chapter 10)

- Facility and Plan Operations (Chapter 11)
  - Initial Partnership (Chapter 12)
  - Transition to Independent Operation (Chapter 13)
  - Financial Operations (Chapter 14)
- To assist the RRC board, Mary Bula provided the following information and connections:
    - The Erie County community college plan previously prepared by Rethink Erie, including the five year operating plan and 10 year capital plan.
    - The names and contact information of the outside experts Rethink Erie retained to identify local needs and assist with financial projections, etc. (Rich Gross, Jeff Anzovino).
    - The Erie County subcommittee's report and recommendations for the proposed RRC delivery model (referenced above).
    - Emerge 2040's final report (<http://emerge2040.org/strategicplan/>).
    - Two regional reports related to workforce and economic development needs, gaps and assets (<http://www.northwestpa.org/partners-resources/>).
    - Janet Anderson – director of Partners for Performance (Northwest PA Workforce Development Board).
    - Jessica Borza – Thomas P. Miller & Associates (the Erie Regional Manufacturing Partnership's consultant).