



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wolf Administration Continues 'Jobs That Pay' Tour at Erie County Technical School, Highlighting Investments in Job Training

Erie, PA – Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Jerry Oleksiak today visited the [Erie County Technical School](#) on the 'Jobs that Pay' tour and highlighted Governor Tom Wolf's [PAsmart](#) initiative to prepare students with the education and job skills that local employers need in the global economy.

"It is our goal that by 2025, 60 percent of Pennsylvanians will have some form of postsecondary education and training. Today, less than 47 percent of Pennsylvanians have those necessary credentials," said Secretary Oleksiak. "Governor Wolf has proposed historic new investments to improve access for Pennsylvania students and workers to education, training, and career readiness programs, to build needed pathways for our citizens to good, middle class jobs."

Secretary Oleksiak toured the school's job training programs, including the computer networking, construction trades, drafting and design, electrical engineering, facility maintenance technology, metal fabrication technology, and precision technology program labs. During the tour, Oleksiak visited with students working in the labs, and had the opportunity to talk to students and instructors.

"It was an honor to have Secretary Oleksiak visit the Erie County Technical School. Our students and faculty enjoyed displaying our school's 'Be-Attitudes,' including: be knowledgeable, be involved, be passionate, be disciplined, and be employable," said Joe Tarasovitch, interim director of ECTS. "We hope that Secretary Oleksiak walked away knowing that technical education is the primary function at ECTS, but the students' experiences includes a focus on the soft-skills that will develop competent workers for future employment opportunities."

Governor Wolf has made employability and workforce training including career and technical education, STEM, and computer science, a priority of his administration. In his 2018-19 budget, Governor Wolf proposed PAsmart as a new workforce development initiative to improve coordination and services across commonwealth agencies and invest \$40 million for STEM and computer science education, developing CTE career pathways, and promoting robust engagement with employers.

Erie County Technical School has trained thousands of Erie County residents in a wide variety of career and technical education programs. The Erie County Board of Education created the Erie County Technical School (ECTS) in 1966. ECTS has evolved into the county's leading career and technical education center. The school serves as the vocational-technical education department for 11 of the 13 Erie County school districts. ECTS offers 19 career and technical programs, and serves nearly 800 secondary students annually.

For more information about pursuing an education and career in Pennsylvania at any stage of life, visit [PAsmart](#).

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