

AFRICAN AMERICAN



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Monthly News & Updates

March 4, 2026 | Issue
14

▶ Business Institute Presents



BUSINESS INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Building a Strong Succession Strategy Webinar

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
11:00am - 12:00pm

Join us for the second webinar in our three-part series featuring Orlando Houston, Managing Partner and Financial Consultant at Ohana Wealth Legacy. Orlando will share practical insights on identifying critical roles and future leaders, competency mapping and leadership development, key legal and financial considerations, and effective communication strategies for stakeholders.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Simple Access to SBA Surety Bonds



Discover the Power of Surety Bonding:
How to Obtain SBA Surety Bonds and
Grow Your Bonding Capacity



Housing Authority
City of Pittsburgh



19 March 2026

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

AFRICAN AMERICAN



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Why Attend?

- ✓ Become bondable and qualify for more opportunities
- ✓ Access SBA surety bonds to help you compete and win
- ✓ Increase bonding capacity to bid larger projects



Peter C. Gibbs
President & CEO

Foundation Surety & Insurance Solutions, LLC

Register to Join

link to attend or scan QR code:
<https://aaccwp.com/event/simple-access-to-sba-surety-bonds/>





PowerBreakfast Meeting with Pittsburgh Steelers

Friday, March 20, 2026

8:30am - 10:00am

Rivers Club

One Oxford Centre, 4th Floor

301 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Join us as Blayne Holmes Davis, Senior Director of Community Relations for the Pittsburgh Steelers discusses the 2026 NFL Draft and the 2026 NFL Draft Source Program, an NFL-led procurement program for local and diverse businesses in the greater Pittsburgh region.

[**Click here to RSVP**](#)



BUSINESS INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Financing Your Business Webinar

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

10:00am - 11:00am

At Citizens we know small businesses are the heart of every community. Citizens are committed to helping small business owners thrive through financial empowerment. Our Small Business Financial Empowerment sessions equip business owners with the tools, skills and resources needed to build a strong, resilient business.

Join us on March 24, 2026 as we begin our Small Business virtual series with "Financing Your Business". This session will help you review the various ways you can leverage to finance your business and grow facilitated by Citizens Vice President, Business Banking Market Manager Jordan Winters

Don't Miss It!

[**Click here to RSVP**](#)



BUSINESS INSTITUTE PRESENTS

**Affordable Internet and Phone Services for
Non-Profits, Government Agencies and Small
Businesses Webinar**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
11:00am - 12:00pm

Join us as David Ombres, Government, Education and Non-Profit Account Executive presents options for low-cost, high-speed internet, VoIP telephone services, low-cost wireless service, POTS line replacement, and additional benefits for government and non-profit businesses

[**Click here to RSVP**](#)



BUSINESS INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Implementing and Sustaining the Plan Webinar

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

11:00am - 12:00pm

Join us for the third and final webinar in our three-part series featuring Orlando Houston, Managing Partner and Financial Consultant at Ohana Wealth Legacy. Orlando will walk through how to implement a succession plan effectively, monitor and update it over time, manage resistance and cultural change, and use technology to support succession planning.

[**Click here to RSVP**](#)

▶ **Member Events**



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & NETWORKING EVENT

JOIN US IN PITTSBURGH

April 6, 2026 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM | PPG Paints Arena - Lexus Club



Monday
April 6, 2026
5:30 - 7:30 PM
PPG Paints Arena - Lexus Club



SPECIAL GUEST
CHARLIE BATCH
of the Charlie Batch Foundation

- Keynote by Steelers Legend
CHARLIE BATCH
- Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres & networking

TO ATTEND OR DONATE:

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY INCORPORATED®
ALPHA OMICRON LAMBDA CHAPTER



BLACK & GOLD SCHOLARSHIP GALA

The Future is on the Clock

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

THE RIVERS CLUB

301 GRANT STREET, SUITE 411

Honorary Chairman: Max Starks — Pittsburgh football legend,
Two-time Super Bowl champion, and Alpha Brother
Held During the 2026 Pro Football Draft in Downtown Pittsburgh

SCAN TO
REGISTER



REGISTER NOW: MAY 28-31, 2026



**BLACK ALUMNI
COLLECTIVE**

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

— 2026 —

**THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW!
BLACK ADVOCACY FROM
CAMPUS to CORPORATE to CONGRESS**

A dynamic 4-day event designed to connect alumni and leaders from all across the country to learn, plan and implement change.

ALL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



**SCAN THE CODE FOR A
GREAT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**

Let's meet and prosper together through ideas and leadership that foster our collective community and help drive us forward into a brighter future.

UNDERSTANDING & OBTAINING DIVERSITY CERTIFICATIONS

ATTENTION SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

STAY CURRENT AND BE PREPARED FOR THE 2026 NFL DRAFT AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

New, existing and upcoming supplier diversity opportunities are a certification away. Check your certifications and stay current and prepared for the next big opportunity!

MBE Certification of Minority-owned Businesses (Pennsylvania - DBE Certification Management System)
Go to:
paucp.dbesystem.com

WBE Certification for Women-owned Businesses (Pennsylvania - DBE Certification Management System)
Go to:
paucp.dbesystem.com

MWBE Certification for Minority & Women-owned Business Enterprise (Pennsylvania - DBE Certification Management System) Go to:
paucp.dbesystem.com

DBE Certification for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (Pennsylvania - DBE Certification Management System) Go to:
paucp.dbesystem.com

WBENC Women's Business Enterprise National Council; Go to:
www.wbenc.org

NMSDC National Minority Supplier Diversity Council; Go to:
www.nmsdc.org

EMSDC Eastern Minority Supplier Diversity Council; Go to: emsdc.org

DGS Pennsylvania's Department of General Services; Go to:
dgs.pa.gov

City of Pittsburgh; Go to:
pittsburghpa.gov

Allegheny County; Go to:
www.alleghenycounty.us

▶ Spotlight Your Business

Spot on Business 1

Put Your Business In The Chamber's '2026 Spotlight'

Learn more about this opportunity to showcase your business by sponsoring a Chamber Business Institute Program. 2026 sponsorships are available.

▶ Share Your News

Share Your 2026 News, Events, and Hiring Opportunities

Are your sales up, have you opened a new office, are you hiring new staff members, or have an upcoming event? Your Chamber wants to share your 'Good News' with other Members in our monthly Newsletter.

Learn more at 412-392-0610 or AfricanAmericanChamberInformation@aaccwp.com

Miscellaneous News

SCAM ALERT

If you receive an email that says the following it is a scam!

Subject: African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania

Hello,

I believe my email finds you well.

Your details have been forwarded to me by one of my colleague Scarlet. I'm glad to help you with the pricing & additional details. We will deliver you the 1,000+ Registrants/Members from African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania 2026.

Each record of the list contains: Contact Name (with 1st name and last name), Emails, Company Name, URL/Website, Phone No, Job Title/Designation, Location.

Cost: \$299

Data Quality and Guarantee terms:

- Delivery of list within 2-3 business days upon the receipt of payment.
- No any generic emails or junk emails (like info@, contacts@, sales@)
- These data you can use for multiple marketing activities including emails, paid online targeting, and more.
- List is delivered in CSV or Excel format.
- 95+% Accuracy/Deliverability Rate.

Let me know your thoughts on this so that I can send you the invoice & Payment Link to proceed.

Awaiting your response.

Steve Murray

Sr Sales Analyst

Email: steve.murray@businessbox-s.com

Website: www.businessbox-s.com

Address (HQ): 30 N North Gould Street, Sheridan, WY 82801

Chamber Social Media Sites

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania has a new social media sites.

- Please [click here](#) to follow us on Facebook!
- Please [click here](#) to follow us on Instagram



AI Essentials for Small Business Success

A partnership between the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA and YMUai

Issue 2: The Hidden Cost of Busywork and How to Reclaim Your Time

We are at the beginning of this technology and we need to start having the conversations now... The power to dictate what the future looks like is in our hands. - Chike Aguh, Senior Advisor, Harvard Project Workforce, 2025 ESSENCE Festival

He is right. And for small business owners, that power starts with one decision: What will you stop doing yourself?

Every entrepreneur knows the invisible tax. You planned to work on your business - pricing, partnerships, growth. Instead, you spent three hours answering emails, formatting proposals, and chasing invoices. The real work? Still waiting.

This is not a discipline problem. It is a systems problem.

AI does not replace your expertise. It protects it.

The goal is not to automate everything. It is to reclaim the hours where you create the most value - building relationships, making decisions, leading. Here are four tools to help you do exactly that:

Your AI Operations Toolkit

Tool	What It Does	How to Use It
Claude (claude.ai)	Thinking partner for writing, strategy, and problem-solving	Draft emails, summarize documents, brainstorm ideas. Use R.O.L.E. prompts for best results.
Canva AI	Design without a designer	Create social graphics, flyers, presentations. Let Magic Write generate your captions.
Notion AI	Organize and accelerate your workflow	Build task lists, meeting agendas, project trackers with AI that drafts and summarizes.
Otter.ai	Never lose a conversation	Record calls and meetings; get instant transcripts and action items.

The 15-Minute Challenge

Pick one task you dread this week. Time yourself doing it the old way. Then try it with AI.

Most owners cut the time in half or more. That is not efficiency. That is leverage.

We Want to Hear From You

We are building this series for you and we want to make sure we are covering what matters most. Take 30 seconds to tell us what you most want to learn about AI for your business.

Take the Survey: <https://forms.gle/tQEribxohQAxtWPu8>

Your answers will shape the rest of this series and future workshops from the Chamber and YMUai.

Next Issue: Marketing Without a Department - creating content that connects, without a creative team.



Delvina Morrow is the founder of YMUai, a people-first AI ecosystem strategy consultancy for nonprofits and social impact leaders. Based in Pittsburgh, YMUai helps mission-driven organizations harness AI to amplify their work - because your mission leads and intelligence follows.

dmorrow@delvinamorrowllc.com | ymuai.com

YMUai | People-Centered Intelligence
dmorrow@delvinamorrowllc.com | ymuai.com

Please take this survey to help us shape future content and workshops

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/tQEribxohQAxtWPu8>

[Delvina Morrow](#)

Founder, Gleea & YMUai

Where kindness meets intelligence.

The Challenge: Unsustainable Health Care Costs

Health care costs remain one of the biggest concerns for families and businesses alike. We're gathering feedback to better understand interest in alternative health care options.

If this is something that matters to you, please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey.

[Click Here to take the Survey](#)

Virtual-First Health Plans: The New Frontier of Telehealth Care

As technology reshapes how we work and live, it's also redefining how employees access healthcare. Virtual-first health plans, which make digital primary care the initial point of contact, are rapidly emerging as a cost-effective, convenient alternative to traditional insurance models. What began as a pandemic necessity has become a preferred pathway for many employees seeking faster, more flexible care.

Unlike legacy telehealth options that serve as plug-ins to brick and mortar care, virtual-first models are designed to manage most primary and behavioral healthcare needs remotely. Employees can schedule video visits, chat with care teams, refill prescriptions, and receive preventive coaching from their phone or laptop, often with same-day access. When in-person treatment is needed, care navigators coordinate referrals to high-quality, lower cost providers.

For employers, the benefits are compelling. Virtual-first plans can reduce ER and urgent-care utilization, increase engagement with preventive services, and deliver meaningful cost control, particularly for geographically dispersed or shift-based work forces. Younger employees and working parents appreciate the flexibility virtual first provides, while organizations gain visibility through integrated reporting and analytics.

Still, success depends on communication and digital literacy. Employers must introduce these plans clearly, support first-time users, and emphasize that virtual care enhances, not replaces, human connection.

With adoption accelerating, virtual-first healthcare is not merely an innovation, it's a strategic evolution toward easier access, smarter cost management, and a better experience for employees and families alike.

The African American Chamber of Commerce offers its members access to My Benefit Advisor as a solution for employee benefits, including voluntary offerings. For more information about My Benefit Advisor, visit our website at aacc.mybenefitadvisor.com or contact Craig Pritts at (800) 377-3539.

Business Banking

Lending solutions

Now's the time for a great rate.

We keep your money boring so you can do bold things with it — like growing your business, owning your own space and planning for the future. This offer can help make doing it even more doable.

Put this limited-time offer to work for you:



No origination fee*

On secured small business loans



Recently reduced rates**

To make your plans more affordable

Take advantage of reduced rates on new small business secured loans and convertible lines of credit from \$100,001 to \$5,000,000.

Offer expires on 07/03/26.

Get started today!

Christopher Arndt

Vice President, Business Banking
Relationship Manager

PNC

412-768-0590

christopher.arndt@pnc.com



Scan
the QR code
to learn more



All loans are subject to credit approval.

*Offer available on new small business secured loans and convertible lines of credit from \$100,001 to \$5,000,000 only. Applications must be received by July 3, 2026, and loans must close on or before September 30, 2026. Offer requires a primary business operating account at PNC and automatic deduction from a business checking account. Other fees and charges may apply. Refinances of existing PNC business loans are excluded. May be subject to a property appraisal. Offers may be extended, modified or discontinued at any time without prior notice.

**Reduced rates are the result of the Federal Reserve Prime Rate reduction that occurred in December 2025. Rates remain subject to change, including changes as a result of future Federal Reserve actions which increase or decrease the Federal Reserve Prime Rate.

Call your PNC Business Banker for promotional pricing for other terms which are available.

Bank deposit, treasury management, and lending products and services are provided by PNC Bank, National Association, a wholly owned subsidiary of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. and Member FDIC.

Brilliantly Boring since 1865 is a service mark of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

PNC Bank is a registered mark of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

©2026 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved. PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC.

BB PDF 1225-075-2792201



**BRILLIANTLY
BORING
SINCE 1865™**



Shape the future of Allegheny County!

Get involved at
engagement.alleghenycounty.us/allegheny-forward



ALLEGHENY
FORWARD

ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



In the New Pittsburgh Courier

Congratulations to member Pittsburgh Penguins for their successful Annual Black History Hockey Game.

[Congratulations](#) to member 1 Hood media for their successful Artist Academy Showcase.

[Congratulations](#) to member Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh for their first ever Black History Month Celebration.

[Congratulations](#) to members Khamil Bailey, Philip Gbee Sr, Marty Smith, and Patriece Thompson for being recognized as a honoree for the Fab 40 Under Forty.

In the Pittsburgh Business Times

Congratulations to member First National Bank for achieving \$50 billion assets milestone.

Thank you to members Kenya Boswell, Rhonda Carson Leach, Amber Deemer, AJ Jefferson, Melani Marie Boyer, Kate Murphy, Shea Murtaugh, and Sabrina Saunders Mosby for taking time out of your day to be a mentor for Mentoring Mondays.

Congratulations to member Net Xperts for being honored with the Pennsylvania Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Ethics.

Thank you to member Sabrina Saunders Mosby for her guest opinion regarding "The seven-letter 'C' word costing you millions. The word is clarity.

Congratulations to member Yalanda Wells for being selected for the Personalities of Pittsburgh interview.

Congratulations to member Allegheny Health Network for opening a Cancer Clinic in North Fayette.

Thank you to member UPMC for their \$10 million gift to the City of Pittsburgh for ambulances and fire/ rescue trucks.

Thank you to member PNC for their \$2 million grant to the City of Pittsburgh for snow plow trucks.

Congratulations to member Allegheny Conference for signing a lease extension at 11 Stanwix Street (Downtown Pittsburgh) through 2040.

Thank you to the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh for approving a \$50 million fund for downtown Pittsburgh.

Congratulation to S&T Bank their multiyear branch refresh initiative that will update about 75% of its branch network.

Congratulations to members Esther Bush, Ken Gormley, Bill Artman, Jerad Bachar, Leroy Ball, Jenn Beer, Quintin Bullock, David Burritt, Christina Cassotis, Louis Cestello, Rob Cherry, Leslie Davis, Bill Demchak, Rich Fitzgerald, Joan Gabel, Karen Hanlon, David Holmberg, Kathy Humphrey, Michael Huwar, Farnam Jahanian, Katharine Kelleman, Tim Knavish, Jim McQuade, Bob Nutting, Stefani Pashman, Audrey Russo, Sabrina Saunders Mosby, Mark Sevco, Susie Shipley, Matt Smith, Jeremy Waldrup, Kevin Walker, Kendra Whitlock Ingram, and Chamber president Barata Bey for being recognized as a Pittsburgh Power 100.

Career Opportunities

Duquesne University

The Business Consultant provides comprehensive, equity centered management and technical assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs, with a particular focus on Historically Disadvantaged Business Assistance (HDBA) Grant participants. The consultant delivers one on one advising, conducts need assessments, prepares written recommendations, and supports clients in developing the operational, financial, and strategic capacity needed to start, stabilize, or grow their businesses. The role requires strong analytical skills, cultural competence, and the ability to guide clients through complex challenges including access to capital, market development, regulatory compliance, and long term sustainability.

The consultant also contributes to outreach, training, data reporting, and special projects that advance the mission of the SBDC and Duquesne University. If interested please reach out to Richard Longo.

Richard A. Longo, R.N., FACHE, FACMPE, CTC
Director, Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Duquesne University
Palumbo/Donahue School of Business
600 Forbes Ave/Rockwell Hall Ste 108
Pittsburgh, PA 15282
412-396-5138

longor@duq.edu

Pittsburgh Regional Transit

Pittsburgh Regional Transit is seeking a Fleet Vehicle Specialist – Bus to provide support and assistance with bus technical issues for Port Authority of Allegheny County d/b/a Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) including development of bus maintenance standard operating procedures and standard practice bulletins. Coordinating and supervising support level maintenance for fare box and radio/head sign activities completed at the bus divisions and the main shop, and interacting with division managers of maintenance, Manchester, Central Storeroom and Material Control Specialist regarding parts and inventory issues needed for buses to return to revenue vehicle service. Creates and tracks campaign work on coaches, reporting monthly progress on open campaigns. Travels to manufacturing facilities to perform QA inspections on new coaches during build process and coordinates track acceptance work performed by manufacturer's service representatives.

Annual Salary \$63,500 - \$95,300

We offer a comprehensive compensation and benefits package. Interested candidates should forward a cover letter (with salary requirements) and resume to:

Joe Sekely
Employment Department
345 Sixth Avenue, 3rd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2527
JSekely@RidePRT.org
EOE

Allegheny County Airport Authority

We are excited to announce several job openings at the Allegheny County Airport Authority that may be of interest to your networks.

As part of our commitment to fostering local employment, we believe these positions can provide valuable opportunities for individuals in our region and community. We encourage you to share this information widely.

Available Positions:

Plumber

Finance Business Analyst

Senior Staff Accountant

AR AP Staff Accountant

For more details about these roles and how to apply, please visit our website at <https://flypittsburgh.com/acaa-corporate/join-our-team/career-opportunities/> feel free to reach out to me directly.

Stacy Lutz

Talent Acquisition Specialist

Office: (412) 472-3523

Email: SMlutz@Flypittsburgh.com

Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

The Programming Manager is an integral member of the Cultural Trust's programming team, led by the Chief Programming & Engagement Officer, which is responsible for curation of programming to fulfill the Trust's artistic mission, align with industry best practices and relevant trends, and meet department/organization metrics. In addition to managing the venue calendars for all performance related programming, the position provides extensive support to the Programming department's senior team members to program and implement the mixed portfolio of mission focused and revenue generating bookings/programs. As a member of the larger Programming, Arts Education, and Community Engagement (PEACE) unit, this position requires a flexible schedule that includes evening and weekend hours, especially during performance and festival weeks.

Those interested need to apply on our website <https://pittsburghculturaltrust.applytojob.com/apply/gRxXXvu7UP/Programming-Manager>.

Pennsylvania Needs Teachers

Pennsylvania is in the midst of a teacher shortage crisis, which threatens our students' futures, along with the future well-being and prosperity of our commonwealth. That's why we're proud to stand with [PA Needs Teachers](https://www.paneedsteachers.com), a statewide coalition working to address this issue. By taking a moment to visit the link below, you can easily email your elected officials and encourage them to invest at least \$40 million in the Student Teacher Stipend Program — a proven, cost-effective, bipartisan strategy to rebuild our educator pipeline. Together, we can address the root causes of the shortage and build the excellent and diverse teacher workforce that every student deserves. <https://www.paneedsteachers.com/take-action>

▶ FYI



The NFL has listed their opportunities to do business. Please click this link in order to submit a form of interest <https://2026nfldraftsuppliers.com/>. Please scroll to the bottom of the page a click submit an interest form.

FYI

Interested in Business Property in Allegheny County? Learn about property for sale in Allegheny County, property taxes, and property assessments. Go to: **realestate.alleghenycounty.us**

Did You Know

The upcoming 2026 NFL Draft in Pittsburgh is just over 50 days away. Get updates and learn about the activities planned for the 2026 NFL Draft at www.visitpittsburgh.com



REGULAR MEMBERS

Shea Murtaugh

Hoffmann Murtaugh

<https://hoffmannmurtaugh.com/>

Brittany Remington

The Wow Booth Company

<https://www.wowboothco.com/>

Is your Chamber Membership up for renewal?

Renew Your Membership Now at:

information@aaccwp.com or call 412-392-0610x1



412.392.0610