



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

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Commissioner Riden Elected to Lead 9-County Local Elected Official (LEO) Board

Lewisburg, PA – The Central Pennsylvania Local Elected Official (LEO) Board announced the election results from its reorganizational meeting held on February 24, 2012. The Board is comprised of one County Commissioner from each of the nine counties in the Central Pennsylvania workforce investment area: Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties.

The LEO Board works in tandem with the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board (WIB), incorporated as the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC), a 501c3 non-profit organization, to oversee the regional public workforce system, including six strategically located PA CareerLink® facilities.

Otis Riden, Mifflin County Commissioner since 2006, was elected by his peers to serve a two-year term as the Chairman of the LEO Board. Riden, a lifelong resident of Mifflin County, had a 40-year career with New Holland, one of the largest farm machinery manufacturers in the world. Upon assuming this role as LEO Board Chairman, Riden stated, “I am honored to serve in this capacity and look forward to working closely with my fellow LEO Board members; WIB leadership Teri MacBride, Chair, and Dave Zartman, Vice Chair; and CPWDC staff to promote, support and strengthen efforts to increase the employability of the region’s workforce. Combining the expertise of public and private sector representatives allows the system to be responsive to the needs of employers while maintaining accountability.”

Also elected during the reorganizational meeting were LEO Vice Chairman Dave Kovach, Columbia County and LEO Second Vice Chairman, Robert “Pete” Smeltz, Clinton County.

The LEO Board plays a critical role in appointing qualified individuals, the majority of which are key decision makers in private businesses, to serve on the Workforce Investment Board. The LEO Board also provides oversight of CPWDC’s \$13.5 million budget, which includes Workforce Investment Act, Department of Public Welfare and competitive grant funds to meet the workforce needs of job seekers and employers.

About CPWDC

CPWDC’s mission is to be the leading vehicle for regional unification, coordination, integration and alignment of workforce activities, resources and initiatives to support economic sustainability, improve education systems and develop and retain a quality labor force in Central Pennsylvania. For more information on CPWDC, including information on qualifications for prospective WIB members, visit www.cpwdc.org.

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