



House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE HEARING**  
**Topic: Technical Education and Career Readiness**  
**Erie County Technical School – Erie, PA**  
**August 15, 2018**

**AGENDA**

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 9:10 a.m. Panelists:
- Dr. H. Fred Walker  
Director  
Erie County Technical School
  - Joe Tarasovitch  
Principal  
Erie County Technical School
  - Pam Mackowski  
Director of Career and Technical Education/Adult Education  
Erie's Public Schools/Erie High School
- 10:20 a.m. Closing Remarks



PARTNERS

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CONTACT US

# OUR HISTORY

## A Brief History of ECTS

### From the start . . .

Since its inception in 1969, the 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. Two years later, the school opened its doors to its first students. Over the next 40 years, ECTS has evolved into the county's leading career and technical education center.

While the mission of the school has remained virtually unchanged, the ways and means for that mission have changed with the times. The ECTS serves as the vocational-technical education department for 11 of the 13 Erie County school districts. The school fulfills its primary mission through its 19 career and technical programs, and serves nearly 800 secondary students annually.



**TESTIMONY**  
**PA HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**Career Resource Center Legislation**  
**August 15, 2018**

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Thank you for accepting this written testimony. The Pennsylvania State Grange appreciates the interest by the House Democratic Policy Committee on career resources. We support House Bill 2203.

House Bill 2203, Printer's Number 3286, sponsored by Rep. Patrick Harkins (Erie) is only two pages long but it packs a punch because it is forward looking in terms of the long-term goal of making sure that Pennsylvania's workers are linked to the jobs they need and for which they are trained.

Many of these jobs are found in PA Agriculture. According to the PA Department of Agriculture Workforce Development website,

*The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, under Governor Tom Wolf, has launched a workforce development initiative, part of which is to promote and expand the state's agriculture education opportunities, as well as career and technical education (CTE) programs. Through this workforce development initiative, the department has assessed the present employment picture in agriculture and food industries, and it has developed a forecast for the next 10 years.*

*Today, there are almost half a million Pennsylvania jobs tied to these industries. By 2025, almost 75,000 of these positions will have job openings.*

Source: [https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business\\_Industry/workforce-development/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Business_Industry/workforce-development/Pages/default.aspx)

Simply put, this bill integrates the workforce development work of three separate Cabinet agencies, Education, Labor & Industry, and Agriculture into a centralized online data base. This data base gives, students, parents, new workers, transition workers, and people re-entering the workforce an integrated resource.

The Pennsylvania State Grange welcomes the inclusion of the PA Department of Agriculture in HB 2203 as an equal partner. This means that the numerous pathways to careers in PA Agriculture will be regarded as viable. Too often, agencies build their own silos. Hypothetically, this might mean that educators and counselors push students towards a four-year liberal arts program without much attention to technical training opportunities. This might mean that workforce development efforts are propelled towards manufacturing.

By including the PA Department of Agriculture, HB 2203 integrates job resources to include Pennsylvania's number one industry, Agriculture.

Simply put, it is vital to have the PA Department of Agriculture have a seat at the table. Given the wealth of job possibilities in PA Agriculture, PDA's contribution will be to present job-seekers and students with an array of careers and specific position possibilities about which they have not dreamt.

Thanks you again for receiving this testimony from the Pennsylvania State Grange in support of Rep. Harkin's legislation.

There are two Appendices to this testimony. First is a listing of jobs from Ag Careers.com. Second is a list of jobs posted weekly by PennAg Industries Association. Both illustrate the variety of jobs that are found in Agriculture.

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*The Pennsylvania State Grange was formed in 1873 to advocate for rural Pennsylvanians. In addition to its agricultural origins, it also works on issues affecting rural businesses. One at the top of our list is securing universal access to Internet and cell phone service throughout the Commonwealth. Although not germane to today's topic, we hope that the House Democratic Policy Committee will consider a future hearing on that topic as well, particularly focusing on the fine work done by Rep. Pam Snyder (Fayette/Greene/Washington) and the new Broadband Caucus which she co-chairs.*

## APPENDIX A: SAMPLE LISTING OF JOBS IN AGRICULTURE



### Employer Jobs

#### [Regional Sales Manager- PA](#)

30+ days ago | Agribusiness - Chemical, Pesticide and Fertilizer - Sales/Retail  
PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [TIMAC AGRO USA](#)

#### [Technical Sales Rep- Reading, PA](#)

13 days ago | Agribusiness - Chemical, Pesticide and Fertilizer - Sales/Retail  
PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [TIMAC AGRO USA](#)

#### [EHS Manager - Lititz, PA](#)

12 days ago | Agribusiness - Food & Beverage Products and Processing - Business  
Development/Strategic Management  
Lititz, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [Cargill, Inc](#)

#### [EHS Supervisor](#)

11 days ago | Agribusiness - Crop Production - Operations  
Hazleton, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [Cargill, Inc](#)

#### [Research Operations Lead](#)

30+ days ago | Agribusiness - Plant & Soil Sciences, Seed and Biotechnology - Legal/Policy  
New Holland, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [DuPont](#)

#### [Administrative Assistant](#)

20 days ago | Agribusiness - Crop Production - Administrative/Clerical  
Hazleton, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [Cargill, Inc](#)

#### [Production Supervisor - Cocoa and Chocolate](#)

28 days ago | Agribusiness - Food & Beverage Products and Processing - Manufacturing/Production  
Hazleton, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [Cargill, Inc](#)

[Site Continuous Improvement Lead](#)

24 days ago | Agribusiness - Food & Beverage Products and Processing - Maintenance/Repair  
Hazleton, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [Cargill, Inc](#)

[Warehouse General Laborer - GROWMARK FS - York, PA](#)

9 days ago | Agribusiness - General - General  
York, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km) [Growmark](#)

[General Laborer \(FG - North Charleroi, PA\)](#)

25 days ago | Agribusiness - Plant & Soil Sciences, Seed and Biotechnology - Operator/General Laborer  
PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA (0 km)

## Recruiter Jobs

[Manager of Operations \(13370\)](#)

6 hours ago | Agribusiness - Produce and Produce Related Services - Operations  
Philadelphia, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [Ag 1 Source](#)

[Field Service Technician](#)

2 days ago | Agribusiness - Equipment, Manufacturing and Technical - Technician  
Tatamy, PA, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [GPAC](#)

[Dairy Sales Nutritionist - PA \(13866\)](#)

6 hours ago | Production/Farming - Animal Production - Dairy - Nutritionist/Formulator  
PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [Ag 1 Source](#)

[Feed Ingredient Buyer \(HS-7291\)](#)

5 days ago | Production/Farming - Feed Nutrition - Farm & Ranch Operations/Herdsperson/On Farm  
PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [Hansen Agri-PLACEMENT](#)

[Farm Hand](#)

5 days ago | Agribusiness - Crop Production - Farm & Ranch Operations/Herdsperson/On Farm  
Shrewsbury, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [GPAC](#)

[Production Managers 1st, 2nd or 3rd shift](#)

13 days ago | Agribusiness - Food & Beverage Products and Processing - Manufacturing/Production  
Pittsburgh, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [GPAC](#)

[District Sales Manager \(13720\)](#)

6 hours ago | Agribusiness - Crop Production - Sales/Retail  
Eastern, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [Ag 1 Source](#)

[Seed Production Supervisor \(13843\)](#)

6 hours ago | Agribusiness - Plant & Soil Sciences, Seed and Biotechnology - Manufacturing/Production  
Central, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [Ag 1 Source](#)

[Location Manager #2734](#)

7 days ago | Agribusiness - Plant & Soil Sciences, Seed and Biotechnology - Sales/Retail  
Southeast, PA, Mid-Atlantic United States, USA [Career Solutions](#)

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## APPENDIX B: PENN AG JOB POSTINGS

### Job Postings

Job Title	Company	Location
<a href="#"><u>Resource Conservationist</u></a>	Lancaster County Conservation District	Lancaster, PA
<a href="#"><u>Finance Manager/Bookkeeper</u></a>	Lancaster County Conservation District	Lancaster, PA
<a href="#"><u>Building Project Coordinator</u></a>	Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.	Lititz, PA
<a href="#"><u>Class A CDL Driver</u></a>	Longenecker's Hatchery	Elizabethtown, PA
<a href="#"><u>Assistant Plant Manager</u></a>	B & B Poultry Co., Inc.	Norma, NJ
<a href="#"><u>Front Desk Receptionist</u></a>	Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.	Lititz, PA
<a href="#"><u>Coal Delivery Driver</u></a>	Martin's Ag Service, Inc.	New Holland, PA
<a href="#"><u>Fleet Inspection Mechanic</u></a>	Martin's Ag Service, Inc.	New Holland, PA
<a href="#"><u>Seed Production Supervisor</u></a>	Local Seed Co.	Jersey Shore, PA