

Regional Institutions of Higher Learning develop retention program with Lackawanna County official.

Northeast Pennsylvania is losing the battle to keep our educated minds working in this great region. At any given time, our colleges in NEPA have over 50,000 under graduate students and more than 10,000 graduate students. These students take out a huge investment to study at our regional schools, and now it's time to invest in the students themselves while they are living in northeast, PA.

In 2010 Kevin Haggerty, Deputy Director of Governmental and Community Affairs, will begin a region wide speaking tour, establishing better relationships with students (both high school and college) along with regional businesses. Haggerty's mission is simple. "We need to utilize the great talent we have in our region to develop new jobs, and to help strengthen existing jobs. I have watched students turn part-time work, or internships into a full time career, and I think more job growth can occur if we can only bring the students and employers together in the present; not after they are ready to graduate.

Starting in February Haggerty will visit 15 regional colleges, in addition to local high schools. Students need to learn the trade of networking, interview skills, public speaking and communication. Business owners need to understand that they have tremendous resources right here at home, and that together, students and employers can end the 'brain drain' exodus that has taken place for years in this region.

Please contact Kevin Haggerty at 963-6743 x 1369 or at haggertyk@lackawannacounty.org with any questions.