



## Preserving Northampton County's History, Art, And Culture

Megan van Ravenswaay / Executive Director

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY** - In 2024, the Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society (NCHGS) worked diligently to share and preserve Northampton County's history, art, and culture. We could not have done so without our members. Please accept my heartfelt invitation to join our membership program.

It was a busy year! Here are just a few of our highlights:

- **Forged by Fire: The Heroism, Honor, and History of Firefighting** exhibition closed in summer of 2024. We are proud to share that it won an "Institutional Achievement Award" from PA Museums. The exhibition was one of twelve selected from across the Commonwealth.
- **Warehouse Valley: A Changing Landscape** exhibition opened in September of 2024. It surveys our region's rapidly changing landscape by comparing 18th and 19th century images of the Valley with a current photograph of the same location.
- **"I saw Easton the way it could be:" Tim Hare** exhibition opened in fall of 2024. It explores the life and impact of Tim Hare (1947-2020), an artist and architect who was a driving force in historic preservation, community revitalization, marriage equality, and basic civil rights for the Valley's LGBTQ+ community.
- We continued to spearhead Lehigh Valley 250's efforts to look ahead to 2026, the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. We helped host a three-day visit by bipartisan members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives' Tourism & Economic & Recreational Development Committee to learn about the Lehigh Valley's thriving economic, cultural, and educational collaborations.
- We continue to chair the Passport to History initiative, a collaborative partnership of over seventy regional museums, historical societies, archives, and historic sites.

At the link below, you will find a variety of opportunities to support our education efforts and the preservation of our historic structures and collections while providing you and your family with a variety of benefits. Thank you for your consideration and support.

## Is Ai Curriculum The Future Of Education In PA. 'Cyber Charters?'

By Danielle Smith / Keystone State News Connection

**PA.** - A new virtual charter school offering two hours of artificial intelligence-based learning wants to expand into Pennsylvania.

The Unbound Academy proposal awaits approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It operates at some private schools in Texas but its founders have had charter school applications rejected in Arkansas, North Carolina and Utah.

There are 14 cyber charter schools in Pennsylvania, serving more than 57,000 students.

Carol B

"As a former educator, I'm extremely concerned," Burris stressed. "Children don't do well in online schools, and this school promises even less instruction than a typical online charter school might."

Burris pointed out the Unbound Academy calls its instructors "guides" and has plans to open a brick-and-mortar location in Lancaster. An academy cofounder said online charters impart practical skills, help kids learn at their own pace and give homeschooled students another alternative.

The academy proposes a two-hour learning session for \$5,500 per student. But in Arizona, its proposed fee is \$2,000.

Moir Kaleida, executive director of the Pittsburgh-based Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, said her group is asking legislators to tighten the state's cyber charter law to prevent anyone taking advantage of families.

"What we have seen with this Unbound Academy is, yet again, a conglomerate of kind of the same people making money off of each other," Kaleida contended. "Charging different prices in order"

Kaleida noted her group has not seen proof of the learning model's success. She added test results to help prove whether the AI model is doing a good job of educating students are unverifiable.

"This model is being sold as some golden ticket and provable," Kaleida argued. "Where we have no research, no accountability, nothing to show that this is actually backed up by test results, by academics, by a peer-reviewed study."

State lawmakers seem to agree more financial transparency is needed for cyber charter schools, which currently are regulated the same way as other charter schools.



## Tyler Greene, VP Named to Prestigious Pool Fellowship for Health

By Valley Youth House

Bethlehem, PA (January 20, 2025) – Valley Youth House is proud to announce that Tyler Greene, Vice President of Quality and Risk, has been selected as a member of Cohort 10 of the esteemed Pool Fellowship for Health. In his role at Valley Youth House, Tyler oversees Compliance, Data Management, Risk Management, and Continuous Quality Improvement. His work ensures the organization consistently delivers the highest standards of care and service to youth and families.

Tyler's career in human services began with his dedication to supporting vulnerable communities. After earning a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Bucknell University, he provided case management services for individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges. Over the years, he has gained significant expertise in residential program development and management, serving youth and adults with mental health conditions and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

With extensive experience in Quality and Risk Management, Tyler's leadership and commitment to excellence have been crucial in advancing the mission of Valley Youth House. His expertise and dedication continue to drive the organization's success.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Tyler on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to his continued impact through the Pool Fellowship for Health.

AI-based model may not help.