

LVEDC Welcomes New Program Manager to Administrative Team

By Paul Muschick / (Photo by Marco Calderon Photography)

LEHIGH VALLEY - Nadya Rachid has joined Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) as Program Manager, following the recent retirement of Stephanie Wean.

Rachid fills a key position connecting LVEDC with numerous regional partner organizations. She will provide administrative, business, and program support to various entities LVEDC is contracted with to provide staffing. This regional shared services model is designed to combine resources to provide a cost-effective and streamlined way to deliver economic development services.

LVEDC currently provides administrative services to the Industrial Development Authorities in both Lehigh and Northampton counties, the Lehigh Valley Economic Investment Corp. (LVEIC), the Lehigh Valley Partnership, and the Industrial Training and Education Consortium of the Lehigh Valley.

In addition, Rachid will manage the administration of several programs for LVEDC, including the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ), Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ), and Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Rachid will also provide administrative support to LVEDC's Board of Directors and assist with certain organizational functions of LVEDC.

"Nadya's versatility and talent to adapt quickly to different situations, and her experience working collaboratively with diverse groups of individuals and stakeholders, make her an excellent fit for this important role," said Jaime Whalen, LVEDC Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff.



Rachid comes to LVEDC from a position with U.S. Congress, where she developed

interagency working relationships and provided constituent services to Lehigh Valley residents.

"Her ability to navigate various government and community programs and understand policies and procedures has already proven valuable," Whalen said. "She has jumped right in and we are happy to have her part of our team."

Rachid has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, with a minor in health, medicine, & society, from Lehigh University.

"I am extremely proud and honored to join LVEDC, an organization that is dedicated to making a lasting impact in our community," Rachid said. "As someone who proudly immigrated to this area and was raised here, I am deeply committed to fostering economic growth and alleviating poverty, ensuring that the wonderful residents of the Lehigh Valley have access to opportunities for a better future. I look forward to contributing to such an important mission and working alongside a passionate team to ensure that mission becomes reality."



Northampton County 2025 Envirothon Bangor Area's Teams Take 2nd & 3rd

By Carrie Cevicelow, Envirothon Coordinator

BETHLEHEM - Last week the Northampton County Conservation District held its annual Envirothon competition. The Envirothon is an environmental competition for students in grades 9 through 12. A team consists of five students and an advisor. Each team is given materials and objectives to study in advance. The teams will be tested in five areas at the competition: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils & Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, and a current environmental issue (this year's topic is 'Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change').

The team from Saucon Valley High School — Stepan Goudsouzian, Navair Goudsouzian, Jacob Norwood, Kyle Chi and Ryan Pakzad — had the highest cumulative score. Bangor Area's Team Maroon placed second, and Bangor's Team White placed third.

Moravian Academy's Team Gold was awarded the Chryss Buchman Memorial Current Issue Award, for having scored the highest without placing at the Current Issue Station, which had the theme "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change." Nazareth Team Eagle Eye received the Robert H. Jones Memorial Soils & Land Use Award for having scored the highest without placing at the Soils & Land Use Station.

Station awards also were presented to teams scoring the highest at the Aquatics (Freedom Team Black), Wildlife (Nazareth Team Talons) and Forestry (Moravian Team Gold) stations.

Saucon Valley High School's team will advance to the two-part state competition in May. Saucon Valley also won last year's county event, and placed 13th at the state contest.

This year, seven schools competed with a total of twelve teams. Competing were Bangor Area High School, Freedom High School, Nazareth Area High School, Northampton Area High School, Pen Argyl Area High School, Moravian Academy Upper and Saucon Valley High School. At the competition, the teams rotate through the five stations taking written tests with some hands-on application.

The event was held at Louise Moore County Park located in Bethlehem and Lower Nazareth Townships, and was sponsored this year by the Northampton County Conservation District; the Northampton County Division of Parks & Recreation; The Pidcock Company; J.G. Petrucci Co. Inc.; Joe Correia; Commerce Construction Co., L.P.; Majestic Realty Co.; Buzzi Unicem USA Inc.-Hercules Cement; Pennsylvania American Water Co.; Schlouch, Inc.; Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc.; Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Grand Central Landfill (Waste Management); Langan Engineering; Bohler Engineering; Giant Food Stores, and Wegman's Markets. The Conservation District receives help from the following agencies who are responsible for preparing, administering and correcting the tests: PA Game Commission, PA DCNR – Bureau of Forestry, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and Penn State Extension. Assistance will also be provided by volunteers from the Conservation District, the Division of Parks & Recreation, some of the sponsoring organizations, and the PA Master Watershed Stewards.

Plaques, medallions and gift cards were awarded to the top three scoring teams as well as prizes for the highest score achieved for each of the station tests. All participants received event T-shirts and Certificates of Participation.



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