

Appointment of Nicole Pietrzak to Position of Acting Director of Administration

Brittney Waylen

EASTON - County Executive Lamont G. McClure is pleased to announce the appointment of Nicole Pietrzak as the new Acting Director of Administration in Northampton County.

Pietrzak has worked for the County of Northampton since May 2022. During her time with the County, Pietrzak served as the Deputy Director of Human Resources, responsible for the day to day operations of the department, expanding training opportunities for County employees, and developing projects to modernize systems and promote efficiency.

"Since 2014, Nicole has a significant record of service in labor relations, employee engagement, project management, and strategic planning. She has the experience and knowledge Northampton County needs moving forward," Executive McClure said.

Beginning on Monday, December 11, 2023, Pietrzak will assume the role of Acting Director of Administration and will be responsible for facilitating and assisting the operations of all County agencies in their respective delivery of County Government services. The Department of Administration provides direct management oversight of Administrative Services, Emergency Management Services (EM & 911), Weights and Measures, Agricultural Extension, Farmland Preservation, Conduct of Elections, and Conservation District.

The Department of Administration is responsible for the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with County employees, directs and supervises the enforcement of state laws and County ordinances, and directs the planning process of all County agencies.

Plan Now for Parks, Recreation Grants

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BETHLEHEM - The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is reminding county and local governments, nonprofit organizations, state heritage areas and others of the next round of Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants.

The application period for the grant program, which supports an array of parks, conservation and recreation projects, opens Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Videos to learn about the grant program and eligible project areas are available here <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/pages/>.

Additional information about the grants and how to apply is available here <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/pages/>.



Saving for Higher Education

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BETHLEHEM - If you've been thinking about saving for your child's future education, now may be the time to do it. The Pennsylvania Treasury, which administers the state's tuition savings programs, recently announced the PA 529 Investment Plan (IP) was named one of the two best plans in the entire country.

The PA 529 IP received its first-ever Morningstar Gold Rating, rating it as one of the very best plans for families. The PA 529 IP was previously rated as silver for three consecutive years (2020-22) and bronze in 2019. The upgrade to gold reflects outstanding management and recent fee reductions which make the PA 529 IP one of the most cost-effective plans in the country.

There are two PA 529 plans available for families to choose from when saving for their child's

future education – the PA 529 IP, and the PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan (GSP).

PA 529 plans help families steadily and strategically save for education expenses like tuition, fees, books, room and board, and more at qualifying technical, collegiate and apprenticeship programs. PA 529 plans provide great state and federal tax benefits, and savings don't impact Pennsylvania state financial aid eligibility. Learn more at pa529.com.



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