BLUE VALLEY TIMES



Meeting with Local Pastors

By State Rep. Ann Flood

SLATE BELT - Thank you to Pastor Sean Hinton of El Shaddai Assembly of God, Pastor Frank Pons of Mission of Love Pentecostal Church and Pastor Matt Whistler of Faith Alive Community Church and other local pastors from Church Ambassador Network of PA for visiting the district office this week!

It was a blessing to speak with them all, hear words of encouragement and speak about issues of importance within our communities.

RPL East Dismantles 55-ton Coal Conveyor on Former Coal Power Plant In Upper Mount Bethel Township

By Lauryn Rotonda

UPPER MOUNT BETHEL, PA -- (AUGUST 17, 2022) -- RPL East, an affiliate of River Pointe Logistics, has dismantled a 55-ton coal conveyor on the former GenOn Coal Power Plant. The plant sits adjacent to the planned River Pointe Commerce Park, a world-class industrial park that will attract world-class employers to the Lehigh Valley.

As part of the initial dismantling efforts, RPL East deconstructed and removed the conveyor ramp that once moved coal to the plant as well as two adjacent buildings. Almost 80% of the demolished materials will then be transported off-site where it will be used as scrap metal.

"This milestone marks the beginning of our efforts to deconstruct, remediate, and develop what soon will serve as an important complementary part of a much sought-after employment hub here in the Lehigh Valley," said Lou Pektor, President of RPL East. "For years, the abandoned coal power plant stood as a testament to our post-industrial past. While we still have a long way to go before the site is ready for the next phases of redevelopment, the demolition of the conveyor is a significant and noteworthy achievement."

Total demolition of the site will include the removal of some 700,000 square feet of post-industrial infrastructure including two massive 480-foot tall smokestacks that tower over the Delaware River and once emitted sulfur dioxide into the skies over the Lehigh Valley and Northwest New Jersey. Additionally, the site will undergo remediation through the Act 2 program.

RPL East is currently accepting bids from construction companies to continue the dismantling and deconstruction process in Q4, 2022. Land will be developable as early as Q3, 2023.





COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Local Community College Graduates to Receive 50 Percent Tuition Discount to Drexel University

By NCC

BETHLEHEM, PA - Students graduating with an associate's degree from either Northampton Community College (NCC) or Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC) will soon have the opportunity to apply for a renewable 50 percent tuition discount at Drexel University as part of the university's new Drexel Promise Program.

The program, which begins in fall 2023, is designed to increase the accessibility and affordability of a Drexel degree.

"Affordability is such a large hurdle for many college students, but especially so for those attending community colleges who come from lower income backgrounds," says Dr. David A. Ruth, president of Northampton Community College. "The Drexel Promise Program addresses that head on and will open the door for many of our students who are focused on transferring to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree."

There is no additional form or application required for graduates from NCC to be considered for the program. However, to be eligible students must be enrolled full-time, on-campus and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA for a maximum of 12 academic quarters.

For information about transferring from Northampton Community College, call 610-861-5346 or email advinfo@northampton.edu.

