



Public Hearing – Rural Population Change
January 31, 2024 – 9:30 A.M.
Lutheran Heritage Room
Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania

Agenda

- 9:30 A.M. Call to Order**
- Senator Gene Yaw, Chairman, Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors
- 9:35 A.M. Welcoming Remarks**
- Dr. Susan Traverso, President of Thiel College
- 9:40 A.M. Panel 1: Rural Development Perspectives**
- Mark Critz, Western Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Executive Director of the Rural Development Council
 - Jill Foys, Executive Director of the Northwest Commission
- 10:05 A.M. Panel 2: County Perspectives on Population Change**
- Thomas Kreiner, McKean County Commissioner
 - Albert “Chip” Abramovic, Venango County Commissioner, and Board Chair of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
 - Kate Brock, Executive Director of the Community Education Center of Elk and Cameron Counties, and Leadership Elk and Cameron
- 10:45 A.M. Panel 3: Business and Economic Development Perspectives on Population Change**
- Rod Wilt, Executive Director of the Penn-Northwest Development Corporation
 - Andrew Sokolski, Executive Vice President of Strategic Alliances, Whirley Drink Works, and Member of Warren Worx
- 11:10 A.M. Panel 4: Anchor Institution Perspectives on Population Change – Education and Health Care**
- Amanda Hetrick, Superintendent of the Forest Area School District
 - Dr. Susan Traverso, President of Thiel College
 - Janice Walters, Interim Executive Director, and Chief Operating Officer of the Rural Health Redesign Center
- 11:50 A.M. Concluding Remarks**
- Senator Gene Yaw