

## Review of the PA Workforce Development Association Conference

by Chrissie Klinger

Workforce Development Project, Penn State

In October 2020, the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association (PWDA) Conference was held virtually. This year's theme was *Driving Workforce Connections*. Rocky Bleier, Vietnam veteran and 4-time Super Bowl champion was the opening keynote speaker. He discussed the resiliency of humans and living in a culture of opportunity. He encouraged people to constantly learn, have the courage to act on information, and choose new opportunities to pursue. In adult education, we play an important role building lifelong learners and helping individuals improve their critical thinking skills so they can pursue new opportunities that may lead to a better life for themselves and their families. However, we can't do this work alone. The conference sessions emphasized the importance of multiple programs and partners working together to help individuals reduce barriers; seize new opportunities; and meet their personal, academic, and career-related goals.

In KayLynn Hamilton and Chrissie Klinger's session, *Improving Workplace Skills Using the Foundation Skills Framework*, participants explored concrete examples of how partners have worked together to offer contextualized instruction using the Foundation Skills Framework, tracked success using a competency-based approach, and used employer engagement activities to help adults transfer learning. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Chrissie ([cok5111@psu.edu](mailto:cok5111@psu.edu)).

Session materials are also available on the following topics: Apprenticeship, Motivating Clients Virtually, Post-COVID Workforce Development Trends, and Ways to Work Collaboratively with Workforce Partners. Please contact Chrissie ([cok5111@psu.edu](mailto:cok5111@psu.edu)) for more information.