

## CBICC launches citizen engagement initiative

The Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County (CBICC) and its young professionals arm – CBICC Connect – recently launched a new initiative designed to encourage more residents to serve on local authorities, boards and commissions.

*ABC Essentials* will offer a series of monthly, hour-long presentations designed to explore the many authorities, boards and commissions that are responsible for guiding municipal, county and regional decisions. In a casual setting, attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about a particular ABC; better understand the role of/expectations for volunteers; and have their questions answered. Municipal officials and those currently serving on an ABC will serve as presenters.

“The decisions made by various boards and commissions impact the quality of life and the economy in individual communities, and ultimately, the county as a whole,” said CBICC President and CEO Vern Squier, CCE, PaCCE. “The *ABC Essentials* initiative fulfills the CBICC’s and municipal officials’ desire to promote greater understanding about the critical role authorities, boards and commissions play in governance, and responds to concerns about growing the pool of people able and willing to serve.”

**Photo caption:** *The CBICC’s ABC Essentials kick-off program welcomed a full house of Centre County residents interested in learning more about serving on local boards and commissions.*