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- ***The Economic Benefits of New Industry:*** Now more than ever, our state's economic health depends on new industries. What types of industries are growing and how are these industries contributing to our economy?
 - Certainly the energy sector is the one we are directly involved in and most familiar. But the STEM field spans a wide variety of industries that are booming in our region – banking, education and medicine are just a few of the others.

- ***The Importance of a Skilled Workforce:*** One of the most important issues new and current Pennsylvania job-creators face today is having access to a skilled labor force that is prepared to hit the ground running. Are Pennsylvania's institutions of higher learning effectively preparing Pennsylvania students for the new workforce needs? Is there a weak link between higher education and Pennsylvania job opportunities?
 - STEM related professions are in high demand and will continue to be. Creating job programs – whether that's four year degrees or technical programs that specifically prepare students for work in the energy sector is critical to the long term success of many industries. We also need to think about encouraging kids to be interested in STEM careers and this begins very early in their educations. If that interest isn't built at a young age, then even if the higher education programs are available the students will not be interested in utilizing them.

- ***Inventorying the Jobs of Tomorrow:*** Our state's employment landscape is changing dramatically. Over the next decade, what types of jobs will be made available to our citizens, and what types of skills and/or training will be necessary for those jobs?
 - As the energy sector continues to grow in Pennsylvania, more and more skilled labor positions will be required.
 - Some jobs will still require a four year degree – engineers, scientists, and all of the other functions that support the organizations.
 - Many of the jobs though are skilled labor positions and that requires a shift in thinking for both our colleges and universities, but also at the high school level. Teachers and counselors need to encourage students to explore this line of work and move past the stigma of blue collar versus white collar professions. Many of the skilled labor positions are high paying, solid jobs that can provide a very different, positive future for students.