



Success In Somerset County

An education initiative developed by the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce, Success in Somerset County creates awareness of career, job and educational opportunities in Somerset County through panels, tours and specialized programs. A special emphasis is placed on high-demand jobs and industries in the area. In 2013, the Chamber applied for direct funding under the Routes Grant funded by the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies to launch Success in Somerset County as a pilot program.

The initiative has been successfully implemented in seven high schools with plans to impact more schools in the future. Each program within the initiative is designed to inform, engage and expand the knowledge of the intended audience. Essentially, the initiative is education beyond the classroom, preparing students for life beyond high school. The “success” is measured by a solid future workforce as a result of students staying and working in Somerset County.

Due to a shortage of skilled workers in the region, employers need to reach out to young people in hopes of filling vacant positions. Additionally, convincing students to pursue a career and stay in Somerset County can be a challenge. Because of those attending college or trade school out of state or elsewhere in Pennsylvania, employers in our area are struggling to find local talent to fill positions, resulting in a search for ways to keep natives working with their business or company. Success in Somerset County provides a solution by emphasizing that it is possible to live and work in Somerset County.

Educating young men and women about reaching their full potential in a career of their choice and ability is essential for producing the next generation of leaders and workers. With 11 school districts and two higher education facilities, the quality of education in the area is incomparable. Even beyond high school opportunities exist when employers offer internships to college students, reminding them a career is possible without leaving Somerset County. Through all of the Success in Somerset County programs, it is crucial to demonstrate effective and proactive measures to benefit the career prospects for those who call Somerset County home.

Although students are the target audience for many of the programs within Success in Somerset County, school administrators, guidance counselors, teachers and especially parents also play a role in the “success” of Somerset County. Without their influence and support as well as the committee members and volunteers who put together the numerous programs and panels, Success in Somerset County would not be the same as it is today.

For more information on Success in Somerset County, contact the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce at (814) 445-6431.