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PROGRESS UPDATE

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Progress is ...

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato to be the keynote speaker for the Mon Valley Progress Council's 43rd annual dinner on March 27 // The Onorato-led Jan 11 Expressway/Southern Beltway regional meeting and follow-up meetings focus on public/private funding strategy // Mon Valley Community Education Council's (MVCEC) spring courses to include technical college program advanced by State Representative Peter J. Daley // Upcoming open house planned for MVCEC/MVCTC joint regional business/education wireless internet and video-conferencing meeting facility called **Mon Valley Tech Access Site**

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato keynote speaker for the MVPC annual dinner- Chief Executive Dan Onorato will be the keynote speaker for the MVPC's 43rd annual dinner on March 27 to be held at the Willow Room on Route 51 in Rostraver Township. Please call the Progress Council at 724-684-3381 for reservation information and dinner sponsorship opportunities.

Onorato-led Jan 11 Expressway/Southern Beltway meeting focuses on public/private funding strategy - An Onorato-led January 11 meeting of more than sixty state legislators, PA Turnpike Commission representatives, local elected officials and Expressway advocates represented the first gathering of its kind to discuss funding strategies for the twenty-four mile Mon Valley/Fayette Expressway.

MVCEC spring courses to include Daley-advanced technical college program – Spring classes of MVCEC education partners to begin in March and will include real estate sales, supervision, business performance, Construction Code Official training, and an electronics engineering technical college program.

An upcoming open house planned for MVCEC/MVCTC Mon Valley Tech Access Site - An education and business conference/training site developed as a joint effort of the Mon Valley Community Education Council and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center will officially open with an upcoming open house. A notice for the open house will be forthcoming and will be posted on the website www.mvceec.org

Mon Valley Progress Council, Inc. • 435 Donner Avenue, Suite 410 • Monessen, PA 15062
 Phone (724) 684-3381 • Fax (724) 684-5113 • Email: jkirk@dp.net • www.monvalleyprogress.org

Onorato keynote speaker for the MVPC annual dinner

Chief Executive Dan Onorato will be the keynote speaker for the MVPC's 43rd annual dinner on March 27 to be held at the Willow Room in on Route 51 in Rostraver Township. "We are pleased to have Dan as our keynote speaker. He has taken a very strong leadership position on the Mon Valley/ Fayette Expressway," said Progress Council president Bill Worthington.

It is expected that Onorato's address will focus on a January 11 regional meeting he called consisting of area legislators, key local elected officials and expressway advocate to develop a financing plan for the 24-mile Allegheny County Expressway project (see related article below).

It will be the second time that Onorato has provided the keynote presentation at a Progress Council annual dinner. Onorato spoke at the February 2004 dinner shortly after taking office.

The cost of the March 27 annual dinner is \$55 with a social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Please call the Progress Council at 724-684-3381 for reservation information and dinner sponsorship opportunities.

Onorato-led Jan meeting focus on public/private funding strategy

An Onorato-led January 11 meeting of more than sixty state legislators, PA Turnpike Commission representatives, local elected officials and Expressway advocates represented the first gathering of its kind to discuss funding strategies for the twenty-four mile Mon Valley/ Fayette Expressway. The meeting included presentations by PA Turnpike Commission CEO Joe Brimmeier and Progress Council executive director Joe Kirk.

In the meeting, Onorato referred to the Expressway project as a key priority that would provide access to brownfield sites and address traffic congestion in the Parkway East corridor. He then appointed a 21-member committee in follow-up to develop a number of funding options for the Expressway funding. A second regional leadership meeting is planned for early April.

The Expressway Partnership Initiative (EPI) began meeting with Onorato late in 2007 to plan for the January 11 meeting and to continue advocacy actions for the Expressway project. Current members of the EPI include the Mon Valley Progress Council, Regional Chamber Alliance, Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, West-to-West Coalition, and the Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County. The EPI is coordinated by the Mon Valley Progress Council.

MVCEC spring courses to include Daley-advanced technical college program

Mon Valley Community Education Council chairman Armand Ferrara is pleased to announce that spring classes of MVCEC education partners to begin in March and will include real estate sales, supervision, business performance, construction code official training and an electronics engineering technical college program. The MVCEC courses are being held at the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center in Speers. Please call 1-888-883-0825 for registration information.

Mon Valley Community Education Council's 2008 Spring Term

Penn State

Selected college credit courses – courses begin January 14
Evening certificate programs

- Real Estate Salesperson - course begins March 19
- Effective Supervision Series - course begins March 4

California University

Daytime certificate program

- Uniform Construction Code Official Training – course begins March 4 (Distance-learning course)

Westmoreland County Community College

Evening credit course and certificate program

- Electronics Engineering Program – course begins March 10

Capital Communications Inc.

Business Performance Seminars – seminars begin March 10

Upcoming open house planned for Mon Valley Tech Access Site

An education and business conference/training site developed as a joint effort of the Mon Valley Community Education Council and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center will officially open with an upcoming open house. A notice for the open house will be forthcoming and will be posted on the website www.mvceec.org

The Mon Valley Tech Access Site, a joint venture of the Mon Valley Community Education Council and the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center, is a full-service web-based video conferencing and computer access training site right here in the Mid Mon Valley.

Mon Valley Tech Access Site capabilities:

- Web-based video conferencing with a 12' projection screen
- Full DVD/VRC and Power Point presentation capabilities
- Smart boards
- Hot-spot access for up to sixty laptop computers
- Forty lap top computers available for onsite use
- Capacity for up to 120 people
- Flexible configuration for one to three rooms
- Can be configured with computer worktables or auditorium seating

Mon Valley Tech Access Site - introductory rates (per room)*

	<u>½ day (three hours)</u>	<u>full day</u>
Monday –Friday	\$ 50	\$100
Weekends	\$150	\$300

* On-site tech support after 3:00 p.m. and weekends, \$30 per hour.