

LHU SBDC helps local businesses benefit from Marcellus Shale

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PHOTO PROVIDED

Representatives from East West Drilling Co. talk to interested attendees at the Central Susquehanna Gas and Oil Expo on Sept. 19.

LOCK HAVEN - The Lock Haven University Small Business Development Center is working with area agencies and organizations to inform business owners on how they can tap into economic benefits of the Marcellus Shale.

A total of 150 local businesses were given a platform to network and make many valuable connections with the Marcellus Shale Exploration industry during the Central Susquehanna Gas and Oil Expo last month. Matt Henderson, SBDC business consultant, was one of the main organizers of the event along with collaborative efforts from the Independent Oil and Gas Associations, the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and the Penn State Cooperative Extension. Their efforts put together an expo which over 1,000 people attended. The expo allowed them to promote the benefits and employment opportunities projected to boost the local economy within the next 10 years.

"The Marcellus Shale exploration and recovery activities within central Pennsylvania will most likely have a tremendous economic development impact throughout the region," said SBDC Director Tim Keohane. "It is our goal to ensure that small businesses in the area are well poised to take advantage of the opportunities within this industry, which we will continue to promote collaboratively with other resource providers through educational outreach, networking events, and focused consulting engagements."

The LHU SBDC and the Penn State Cooperative Extension will host a webinar series beginning on Oct. 14. The series will provide

information for business owners to learn more about how their business can benefit from the Marcellus Shale industry. Information about the webinar series, as well as other educational opportunities and online resources, is available on the LHU SBDC Web site: www.lhup.edu/sbdc.