



NEWS

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Montco Commissioner Richards Featured Speaker at DVRPC Forum at MCCC

Norristown, PA (March 21, 2014) – Leslie S. Richards, vice chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, was a featured speaker Thursday at an economic development forum at the Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) sponsored by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and several other civic organizations.

Entitled “Investing in People and Places”, the forum brought together many of the leading governmental, business and planning officials in the region.

Richards, who is vice chair of the DVRPC board, welcomed the attendees to the county, and talked about Montgomery County’s economic might in the Commonwealth and how the county has restructured its economic development efforts under the new administration that took office in 2012.

“Montgomery County is an economic powerhouse, leading the state in high-tech and manufacturing employment,” Richards said. “Major industries include mutual funds, pharmaceuticals, insurance, computer design, and education. Overall, the county had approximately 500,000 jobs in 2000, with 77,000 more jobs expected by 2025.”

“We have established a new infrastructure within our Department of Commerce to link economic development and workforce development initiatives in unique ways,” she continued. “Our goal has been to make us a “one stop shopping” tool for businesses seeking capital and labor in Montgomery County.”

The forum was sponsored by DVRPC, the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and other partners. It featured speakers from

IKEA, Main Line Chamber of Commerce, Chester County Economic Development Council, Montgomery County Community College, SEI Investments Company, and PJM.

DVRPC is dedicated to uniting the region's elected officials, planning professionals, and the public with the common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work, and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment, and enhancing the economy. It serves a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey.