

Classes on Gases

Pencils, notebooks, calculators...and hardhats? Through the collaboration of the Pennsylvania College of Technology (Penn Tech) and the Marcellus Shale Educations and Training Center (MSETC), the stereotypical classroom is changing.

Anyone from our region has most likely heard of the Marcellus Shale—a geological formation stretching from New York to West Virginia that is being drilled for natural gas. Originally, natural gas from the area was thought to unobtainable, locked within the “pores” of organic shale. The current hullabaloo comes from techniques such as horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing that have now made getting natural gas from the region a possibility—and beyond that, a source of job opportunities for people in the Northeast.

Due to the growing demand for trained professionals in the industry, Penn Tech and Penn State Cooperative Extensions began

collaborating with MSETC in 2008 to drill up some short-term college training programs specific to the development and production of Marcellus Shale.

This past January, Penn College’s North Campus near Wellsboro held its first training course—American Petroleum Institute (API) 1104 – Down-Hand Welding.

“We are looking forward to being involved in many aspects of preparing our local work force for emerging and existing jobs in the natural gas industry,” says Brenda G. Abplanalp, director of North Campus outreach services in an article from *PCToday*.

Starting in February, the North Campus will add Commercial Drive (CDL) Training Specifics for the Oil and Gas Industry to their course offerings. For a complete list of future courses and more information about MSETC, visit www.pct.edu/msetc.

~Nicole Hagan



The Great Gas Boom

Over the years our quiet mountain home has been overlooked by big business and industrial revolution. But something is in the air—or ground, rather—that is about to change all of that. With new drilling techniques underway, we are experiencing a gas boom which may yet reach the proportions of the California and Texas oil booms of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Our humble hills are already gaining national notoriety. PBS aired a radio report on the Pennsylvania gas rush titled “In the Hills” in January 2009 as part of their *Blueprint America* segment. On January 5, 2010, Lycoming County was featured on Fox News’s *On the Job Hunt* series. Articles have also appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Philadelphia Enquirer*, and other major newspapers around the country in the last two years.

Farmers who once barely scraped by have found themselves millionaires overnight, their financial woes thrown out the door in a whirlwind of drills and trucks. As we struggle to keep up with the high-speed whirlwind of big-city industry, only one thing is certain: change is coming, and coming fast.

~Laura Reindl



A Bridge Too Far

In the January 2010 article “Safe and Sound in Bill Town,” we included a picture of the Market Street bridge (above right). Unfortunately, it was a photograph of the Market Street bridge in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, as opposed to the Williamsport bridge by the same name. Concerned citizens let us know about our error immediately. That’s the Williamsport bridge above at the left.

WHAT: “Your Business and Marcellus Shale,” a free series of lectures on the impact drilling will have on our region’s businesses.

WHEN: February 3, 10, and 17; 8–9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Pennsylvania College of Technology North Campus, 12880 Route 6, Wellsboro.

INFORMATION: For reservations or more information, call the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce at 570-724-1926.