

**First Friday Noontime Forum Series**  
**“Continuing the Growth and Prosperity of Downtown Lancaster”**

**Highlights October Discussion**  
**Looking Forward to Recovery in Lancaster County**  
**Scott Sheely, Executive Director, Lancaster County**  
**Workforce Investment Board (WIB)**

- ❖ Unemployment doubled in Lancaster from 3.8% in Fall 2008 to 7.6% in August 2009.
- ❖ In Lancaster, job losses primarily in financial and automotive services, manufacturing and construction.
- ❖ Large numbers of people are exhausting the 79 weeks of unemployment benefits available.
- ❖ Just under 20,000 people are looking for work in Lancaster County.
- ❖ PA CareerLink of Lancaster County, a collaborative of 16 organizations provides employment and training services—they have been seeing approx. 1,300 individuals each week.
- ❖ WIB’s goal is to get people back to work as quickly as possible and to improve the skill level of the Lancaster County workforce.
- ❖ Stimulus funding of \$1,876,000 will be used to fill gaps and connect elements of the existing system. Funds must be spent by June 30, 2010. 75% of the funds must be spent on training.