

Tuesday, March 10th, 2026

Hungry Run Distillery, 30 Ridens Road, Lewistown, PA 17044

- 4:30pm** **Bus Departs:** For those that pre-register, bus transportation will be provided to the evening reception. The bus will depart the Nittany Lion Inn at 4:30pm on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026.
- 5:15pm** **Networking Reception: Hungry Run Distillery, 30 Ridens Road, Lewistown PA 17044.**
Forum attendees are invited to travel in early to enjoy an evening of networking with other attendees and local leaders to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary and the impact of industrial development in Central Pennsylvania and its promising future. Hungry Run Distillery is a Pennsylvania-based small-batch distillery founded in 2015. They produce award winning spirits, including vodka, whiskey, bourbon, and rum. The Lewistown tasting room and event center is located outside of Lewistown in a beautiful country setting, named after a stream, that runs through the property. Learn more at <https://www.hungryrundistillery.com/>.
- 7:30pm** **Bus Departs Hungry Run Distillery to Return to the Nittany Lion Inn**
- 8:15pm** **Bus Arrives Back at the Nittany Lion Inn**
The Nittany Lion Inn has Triplett's, where casual vibes meet creative flavors in a high-energy atmosphere. The bar features familiar favorites with an innovative twist, signature cocktails, and the perfect blend of lively energy.

Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

Nittany Lion Inn, 200 W Park Ave, State College PA 16803

- 8:30am to 9:30am** **Registration/Exhibit Hall Networking**
- 9:30am to 9:45am** **Forum Welcome: Penn State Vice President of Research, Andrew Read**
Dr. Andrew Read, oversees research across twelve colleges, seven research institutes, and the Applied Research Lab. Penn State's federal, private and institutional investments account for a record \$1.44 billion in research expenditures in FY 2024-25, supporting work that improves the lives of Pennsylvanians and beyond.
- 9:45am to 10:45am** **Keynote Presentation – Industrial Investment in an AI World**
Ronn Cort, President, Dunmore, a Steel Partners Company, is a highly respected leader in industrial development, innovation, talent, and growth here in Pennsylvania. Ronn is a lean manufacturing leader integrating generative AI to tackle workforce learning, skills transfer, and operational speed while rooted in a culture that puts people first. He will share examples and thought-provoking questions about investment decisions and how AI and technology impact key growth areas and trends.
- 10:45am to 11:00am** **Networking Break**

- 11:00am to 12:00pm Utilizing Advanced Technology for Smart Growth & Industrial Development**
Evan Stair, Partner and Managing Director of Analytics, Vista Site Selection
Brad Zdenek, Director of Economic Development and Student Programs, Office of Entrepreneurship and Commercialization, Penn State University
 Industry expert, Evan Stair, and University leader, Brad Zdenek are teaming up to co-present on case studies and example projects showing the planning, methodology and results of utilizing data, AI, GIS, algorithms, and technology for smart site selection, business decisions and smart economic & industrial development growth. This dynamic team will provide insightful and engaging ideas, inspiration on how to utilize this game changing technology in the important work of industrial development and provide suggestions for taking the next steps to see impactful results by utilizing this technology in the pursuit of important business investment decisions and community economic impact decisions.
- 12:00pm to 1:00pm Networking Lunch**
- 1:00pm to 1:30pm Coffee & Dessert Networking at Exhibit Hall**
- 1:30pm to 2:00pm BusinessPA – PA Gets It Done Update: Impacts & Initiatives**
Rick Siger, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED)
 The Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), Secretary, Rick Siger will share how Pennsylvania is Getting It Done to drive innovation, business growth, and competitiveness across the Commonwealth. He will share details on leadership, strategy, initiatives and programs and what are some of the key factors business leaders should know and plan for in Pennsylvania.
- 2:00pm to 3:00pm Central PA Industrial Investor/Leader Panel moderated by BusinessPA**
Moderator: Aaron Pitts, Chief Commercial Officer, BusinessPA, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development
Panelist: Becky Ford, Manager, Economic Development Amazon Web Services’ (AWS)
Panelist: Ethan Wendle, Chairman DiamondBack Covers
Panelist: Industrial Leader, Phillips Ultrasound
More panelists to be listed soon.
 Discover directly from **senior industrial leaders** why they are **making game-changing investments** in Central Pennsylvania! Pennsylvania is getting things done in the world of economic growth and investment. Aaron Pitts, Chief Commercial Officer, BusinessPA, leads initiatives to attract new businesses to Pennsylvania and supports the growth of existing companies by fostering proactive and efficient engagement with corporate and industry stakeholders to position the Commonwealth as a premier business destination. Aaron will moderate a panel of industrial leaders in Central Pennsylvania that are making game-changing investments to learn why they are making those investments, how advancements in technology have altered how and what they invest in, and what are some of their key future strategies and plans and how they impact economic growth in Central PA.
- 3:00pm to 3:30pm Closing Remarks/What’s Next**
- 3:30pm to 4:30pm Exhibit Hall Networking**

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