

2025 PWDA Youth Summit

The Next Generation Youth Workforce Summit was held from March 10-11 in Williamsport, PA. It was attended by board staff [Juanet Shefchunas](#), Title I staff [Brenda Raye](#), and TANF staff [Lacey Gill](#). The opening session was a presentation by [Beth Bittenbender](#)-Executive Director, Operations and Special Projects/Workforce Development with the theme “How Could the Rising Storm Equal A Rising Tide, Lifting all Boats”? This theme was throughout the breakout sessions and additional speakers were present at the conference. Some of the sessions attended by staff were “Leadership Events that Build Connections and Remove Barriers for Young Adult Success”, “Empowering the Future Workforce; The Role of Youth Mental Health First Aid”, “Empowering Futures; Connecting Youth to Programs, Businesses, and High School Education”. The conference also had a Future Ready panel of young adults that shared their connection to the system as a whole and how it helped them reach goals and dreams within their workforce plan. The Summit ended with an interactive town hall session titled “Securing the Future: Youth Workforce Policy in a Time of Change”. All attendees were invited to share in conversations regarding what is working, what isn’t working, and how to help advocate change at the federal and state levels.

