



FOUNDING PARTNERS

The founding of the Greater Reading Keystone Innovation Zone was primarily led by the **Berks Economic Partnership** and the **Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry**; however, an extensive advisory group was convened and will work closely with the Chamber to provide guidance and advise on the implementation and operation of the Greater Reading KIZ.

Albright College: Albright College, founded in 1856, offers students unique opportunities to develop skills and to create academic paths specially tailored to their goals and interests. Students create their academic paths in partnership with faculty advisers and professors. Students may choose to focus on a single field of study - or combine two or three to create an individualized major. Half of our students graduate with combined, interdisciplinary or multiple majors. Last year, for example, students created more than 200 different combinations of majors.

Alvernia College: A four-year Catholic comprehensive professional college with a liberal arts core, Alvernia College was founded in 1958 by the Bernardine Sisters of the Order of Saint Francis of Assisi in the Franciscan tradition. The college's current enrollment is 2,654 with over 700 students participating in graduate programs. Alvernia College instills skills for the workplace and values for life.

Kutztown University: Comprising five colleges - Visual and Performing Arts, Business, Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Graduate Studies – KU offers a diverse range of excellent academic programs to prepare individuals for successful careers.

Penn State Berks: PSU is a “Big Ten” internationally renowned University that is close to home, offering baccalaureate and associate degrees and certificate programs taught by Penn State faculty. PSU is a teaching/learning/research institution for undergraduate education and for lifelong learning. PSU is a partner in educational collaborations to improve the quality of life for our community through contract training, enrichment programs and service projects.

Reading Area Community College: Since its creation in 1971, the college has grown from 265 students to over 4,100 today. RACC serves an additional 25,000 people per year through the non-credit continuing education division. The mission of RACC is to provide the first two years of a bachelor's degree, career education for immediate employment, courses to assist in the transition from high school to college, community education and public service activities and training for area business and industry.

Ben Franklin Technology Partners: BFTP is part of a state-funded economic development initiative created in 1983. We link early-stage technology firms and established manufacturers with funding, people, technology, universities and other resources to help them prosper. In the process, we fuel economic growth for northeastern Pennsylvania. The program has been modeled nationally and internationally. Our mission is to boost the economy of our region with new and retained jobs, new technology companies, and established manufacturers that are more competitive.

Berks Economic Partnership: BEP is the lead marketing agency and primary point of contact for all economic development inquiries related to the Greater Reading and Berks County area. BEP coordinates and works with other economic development agencies to provide a single voice in helping to retain, attract, promote and grow economic development in a collaborative and unified manner.

Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry: For 125 years the Chamber has provided outstanding programs in the areas of business assistance, government affairs, community development and membership services. Whether it is providing a quality training program, hosting an enjoyable networking opportunity or speaking out on a key public policy issue, the Chamber is committed to meeting the needs of the local business community.

Manufacturers Resource Center: MRC is a non-profit corporation that provides strategic business consulting assistance and identifies resource options to help manufacturers develop strategies to grow, transform and develop their business.

Contact us...

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