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SERVING THE SLATE BELT, SOUTHERN POCONOS & NORTHERN N.J.
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FEBRUARY 21, 2023

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Fidelity Bank Commits \$360k Over The Next 6 Years to Slate Belt Rising



L-R Brian Fenstermaker Director of Slate Belt Rising, Sandee Kennedy - VP, Business Services Relationship Manager, Neil Hockenberry - VP, Business Relationship Manager, Dawn Godshall - Community Action Lehigh Valley Executive Director, Ivan Orrego - Retail Branch Manager, Dan Santaniello - President and CEO

Welcome Our New Slate Belt Rising Director, Brian Fenstermaker

By CALV

Brian Fenstermaker has begun to plan and execute the next six years of our Slate Belt Rising program. Brian's plan is to build on the strong foundation created by our previous directors and continue to grow our program by spreading the word about our work. Brian stated, "I want people to know us and understand that Slate Belt Rising is here, ready to help the region. SBR is a hidden gem, I want to help more people access our programs and support."

Brian has spent the past ten years working for the Pennsylvania General Assembly, most recently for the State Senate as District Director for State Senator Mario Scavello, whose district included the entire Slate Belt region. Brian sees this new position as a natural fit, as it enables him to build on the relationships he's forged over the last several years as he continues his service to the people of the Slate Belt.

Brian spends much of his time in the Slate Belt with his family: his wife attended Bangor School District and his niece and nephew recently started at Five Points elementary school. "We all enjoy getting out and attending community events, whether it's a Bangor vs Pen Argyl game or a gathering in one of the downtowns. The best way to experience the Slate Belt is to get out and get active - there is a great sense of community here. You can always feel the energy, heritage, and history when attending community events and visiting local businesses."

Community Action looks forward to working with Brian and his expertise in community relations and neighborhood revitalization. "When serving a community, 'no' cannot be part of your vocabulary. You personally may not be able to directly assist someone, but you can usually connect them with someone who can."

By Michael Ortoski

BETHLEHEM - The new Director of Slate Belt Rising Brian Fenstermaker held a check presentation for one of the partners funding the group Fidelity Bank.

This is the second six year \$50,000 per year commitment given by Fidelity Bank. Dawn Godshall - Community Action Lehigh Valley Executive Director accepted the check from Dan Santaniello - President and CEO.

The mission of Slate Belt Rising (SBR), a program of Community Action Lehigh Valley, is to galvanize the boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland to capitalize on their shared heritage and traditions, the natural beauty of the Slate Belt, and the commercial potential provided by the proximity to major roadways in order to increase economic opportunity in the region, reduce poverty, eliminate blight, and improve the overall quality of life.

Slate Belt Rising is administered as a Neighborhood Partnership Program of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development with funding from Waste

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