

## LVEDC Executive Vice President Recognized as one of PA's Top Women in Leadership

By Paul Muschick

LEHIGH VALLEY -Two Lehigh Valley executives whose leadership has improved their communities and positioned them as role models were among three dozen women across Pennsylvania who were recognized recently for their achievements and service.

Jaime Whalen, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC), and Lauren Graves, Senior Advisor, Government Relations at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., were named to this year's City & State Pennsylvania Above & Beyond list.

They were among the recipients honored during a gala at the Cescaphe Ballroom in Philadelphia on March 31, for making significant contributions to society in business, public service, media, nonprofit, and organized labor.

"As they shape Pennsylvania's future across myriad sectors, these women are now mentors themselves, cultivating the next generation of leaders through professional and civic engagement," wrote City & State Pennsylvania, a monthly print and digital magazine distributed to a statewide audience of decision makers in business, education, and government.

Whalen joined LVEDC in 2013. City & State Pennsylvania recognized her as a key player in driving regional economic growth – Lehigh Valley was named the top mid-sized market in the U.S. for economic development in 2025, and the region is at all-time highs in Gross Domestic Product and employment.

"I'm grateful for the opportunities I've been given and the people who have supported my growth along the way," Whalen said. "I've learned that advancing women in leadership is a shared responsibility—progress happens when organizations recognize talent, create pathways, and champion strong leadership across the team. I'm proud to contribute to that kind of culture at LVEDC."

She is responsible for developing LVEDC's organizational strategy, providing leadership and building relationships to ensure the nonprofit's operations align with its mission.

Her role includes managing operations which includes human resources, information systems, and financial functions including accounting, auditing, and corporate finance.

She works with the President and CEO in developing and executing LVEDC's fundraising strategy and managing investor relations, as well as Board of Directors relations and corporate governance. Whalen has helped to boost investment and sponsorship by 35%.

She also oversees LVEDC's finance group that provides staffing to several economic development organizations, offering access to credit and incentives available through the economic development community.

Whalen previously worked at the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development for three years, and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for 12 years.

Graves has worked at Air Products, one of LVEDC's leading private-sector investors, for more than two decades.

She currently leads political and regulatory strategy and steers community and stakeholder partnerships. Her work has included efforts to support major hydrogen, energy, and infrastructure projects critical to regional and statewide economic development.

Graves mentors women entrepreneurs, teaches ballet, and volunteers with Lehigh Valley organizations including the American Heart Association-Eastern Pennsylvania, the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, and Habitat for Humanity. She has chaired the Downtown Allentown Business Alliance and was named the 2025 Volunteer of the Year by the Allentown Chamber of Commerce.

"Early in my career, there were few women in senior external-facing roles, which reinforced my commitment to mentorship and ensuring more women have access to influence and decision-making spaces," she told City & State. "Over time, I've seen meaningful progress: greater representation, stronger networks, and more recognition of women's collaborative



## ABE Laboratories, LLC

*The area's only locally owned state certified water testing laboratory for over 40 years*  
**KEEP YOUR FAMILY'S WATER SAFE!**

**DO YOU HAVE:**

Spotty Glasses • Cloudy Or Dirty Water • Brown Or Orange Stains  
Pin Hole Leaks • Salty, Metallic Or Bitter Taste • Stomach Problems  
Blue/Green Staining • Black Specks

**610-837-7721**

**7596-B BETH-BATH PIKE, ROUTE 512 BATH, PA 18014**

**ABE-LABS.COM**

**Bring in this ad for \$25 any residential safe water bundle (restrictions apply)!**

## Lead Could be Lurking in Your Water

By Janel Gist

SLATE BELT - Lead can feel like the boogeyman of old homes. Homeowners worry it could be in the paint on the windowsills or on the exterior of the home leading to chipping and lead dust. While many know there are dangers associated with lead paint in old homes, it may be less commonly known about the dangers of lead in water.

Lead isn't normally found in natural water supplies like rivers or freestanding bodies of water, instead lead in water is typically from pipes, the pipe soldering or fixtures. While there are laws in place now about how much lead can be present in objects, in the past there wasn't, or the amount of allowed lead was much higher.

Lead is an issue that can affect well owners and public water consumers equally. Well owners are typically on their own to maintain and monitor their own water quality, but public water consumers normally can trust that their supplier is regularly testing and maintaining the system. Lead is different because it's normally coming from within the house which the public water supply doesn't monitor.

This is why it's important for all homeowners, public or well, to be aware of the dangers of lead and take steps to mitigate risk. Lead is most dangerous to children and pregnant woman. Lead exposure in children can cause lowered IQ, developmental problems, anemia and other serious symptoms.

While homeowners may be confident that their plumbing is lead free, a sneaky source of lead in water can be faucets and fixtures.

Faucets from before 1997 are most likely to contain high levels of lead, before rules were changed. Homeowners should be cautious even today about buying faucets online. The US Consumers Product Safety Commission recalled 100k faucets from Amazon in 2025 because they contained high levels of lead (cpsc.gov).

While lead exposure is serious there is an easy way to mitigate risk with water. Lead gets into water when it's sitting in the pipes. The longer it sits the higher the lead concentration can be, to be safe it's best to run the water before using it, especially for drinking and cooking. If you are unsure of the content of your plumbing or are just looking for peace of mind, it can be helpful to get your water tested.

Lead water testing generally involves letting the water sit in your plumbing with no water usage for 6 to 24 hours and then collecting the very first water that comes out of the faucet. The maximum lead limit for public water supplies and a good guideline for private homeowners is 0.015 mg/l (milligrams per liter). The good thing about testing for lead is you generally only need to do it once unless you change your plumbing. Lead is a serious issue, but being informed and taking precautions can keep you and your family safe from the dangers of lead.

**ABE Laboratories, LLC, 7596 - B Beth-Bath Pike, Route 512 Bath, Pa. 18014, ABE-LABS.com, 610-837-7721.**



**You Call, We Haul 7 Days A Week**

**DENNY'S** CLEAN UP  
DEMOLITION &  
HAULING

**One Call Hauls It All**

Fully  
Insured

**ATTICS • BASEMENTS  
YARDS • GARAGES  
Senior Citizens Discounts**

Free  
Estimates

**YOU NAME IT . . . WE HAUL IT!**

Phone **(610) 923-7346** Easton, PA