



Dear Friends,

As we all know, now more than ever, it is imperative that we address economic opportunities in our communities and across Pennsylvania. Over the past year, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development has embarked on the *PA Prosperity Partnerships* initiative. We have learned many lessons about engaging with communities and working to lay the foundation for entrance into the innovation economy from regional economies reliant on legacy industries. As part of our speaker series, it is important for us to learn from nationally recognized practitioners on their experiences with engagement work.

The Penn State Office of Economic and Workforce Development cordially invites you to join us at **The Nittany Lion Inn on February 3, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**, for our upcoming speaker series event, featuring our special guest speaker, Ed Morrison from Purdue University.

Morrison is a member of the staff of the Center for Regional and Development at Purdue and an Economic Policy Advisor for the WIRED initiative in North Central Indiana. He is also founder of I-Open, the Institute for Open Economic Networks based in Cleveland. Morrison has developed new models for economic development through cluster development of open innovation networks and is implementing them in several communities across the United States.

Additionally, Morrison has been working closely with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development on our Transformative Regional Engagement (TRE) initiative. It is a unique program that brings diverse stakeholders together from higher education, government, and the private sector together in order to discuss pressing issues about regional economic development and redefining the 21st Century land-grant mission. The TRE initiative is continuing to gain momentum through industry, government, policy, and university channels.

The agenda for the afternoon:

- 2:00 to 2:05 p.m. – Introduction
- 2:05 to 2:45 p.m. – Speaking program
- 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. – Question-and-answer session
- 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. – Meet and Greet/ Reception

RSVP to Eleanor Schiff (eschiff@psu.edu or 814-867-2985) by February 1. If you have faculty or professional colleagues who would be interested in attending this program, please forward this invitation to them.