



YOUR source for local  
news, information  
and fun!

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [www.goerie.com](http://www.goerie.com)  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back to article](#)

---

Article published Jan 3, 2001

## Investment in Erie's future

Planning for the center goes back a decade. When those plans are fulfilled, a new, 160,000 square-foot building will house Behrend's School of Business and its School of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Behrend has announced that "through education and training programs, and research and technology transfer projects, researchers from all of the region's colleges and universities, as well as company representatives, will have access to REDC facilities and specialized, high-tech equipment."

This is more than an advantage to Behrend -- it is a benefit to all the Erie area.

Dr. John Lilley, Provost and Dean at Penn State Erie, said that "this vital investment will result in new, knowledge-based jobs in Northwestern Pennsylvania, and we are enormously grateful to Gov. Ridge for his leadership and support in funding this project. The REDC ... will provide support for a variety of collaborations with other colleges and universities in the region."

And Ridge himself announced, "Today we make a powerful pledge to our talented young Pennsylvanians: 'Stay here. ...' For too long, we've watched as our best and brightest have left Pennsylvania for opportunities that didn't exist here. But, today, those opportunities -- those good-paying jobs -- can be found right here at home. That's why I'm proud to support the Research and Economic Development Center -- so our students can find the kind of jobs they're looking for right here in Erie."

Of course, we expect superlatives and enthusiasm whenever academics and politicians announce plans such as this. But superlatives seem merited.

It benefits all of us -- all of us from Albion to Albania -- to increase and promote knowledge. Knowledge will benefit the students who come to Penn State Erie, and others who use its facilities -- knowledge is a good in itself, and modern academic training also brings its students careers and professions.

And hopefully the center will benefit the Erie area by creating new kinds of jobs, new sorts of opportunities here. Too often laments over a lack of opportunity in our area are really laments over the good, old days of manufacturing jobs. Living in the past and lamenting it is no way to prepare for the future.

An institution like Behrend's *is* such a way.

Last changed: Dec 29, 2000

---