- Training & Education: Reflects the education and training needs of youth and adults.
- Career Entry: Helps workers from underrepresented populations find IT jobs and feel valued.
- Career Advancement: Highlights clear pathways for career advancement and peer support and builds a sense of community within IT occupations.

Key to the success of this rollout will be Delaware's ability to align state policies and resources to accelerate the impact of the IT talent strategy. The strategy proposes establishing an employer training tax credit and establishing a work share program that uses unemployment insurance for part-time layoffs so employers can hold on to key employees and use reduced workloads to provide needed training.

It also proposes that dislocated workers receive unemployment when training for a high-demand occupation and that working adults receive credit for skills training provided by the state's public institutions. In terms of ongoing industry-workforce connections, the strategy proposes that the state's workforce board partner with industry to fund and support sector councils and strategies, advocates for programs that integrate wrap-around services with training to increase access for low-income residents and encourages policies that also help justice-involved citizens gain skills that will lead to employment.

"There are a lot of exciting things going on in Delaware, and this tech talent pipeline plan to place opportunities in front of people who may not yet even know that a tech career could be in their future is one of them," said Kurt Foreman, president and CEO of DPP, which is itself a public/private partnership.

WSFS and **BMBC** merge

TRANSACTION SOLIDIFIES TOP POSITION IN THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA AND DELAWARE REGION

WSFS Financial Corporation and Bryn Mawr Bank Corporation (NASDAQ: BMTC), jointly announced on March 10 the signing of a definitive merger agreement whereby Bryn Mawr Bank Corporation (Bryn Mawr) will merge with WSFS Financial Corporation (WSFS), in a transaction valued at approximately \$976.4 million. Simultaneously with the merger, The Bryn Mawr Trust Company (BMT), the wholly owned subsidiary of Bryn Mawr, will merge into WSFS Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of WSFS. The combination of two of the high performing, locally-based financial services companies in the Greater Philadelphia and Delaware region solidifies WSFS' position as the preeminent, locallyheadquartered bank for this region. With nearly \$20 billion in assets and an approximately \$43 billion Wealth Management business as of December 31, 2020, WSFS believes that following the merger it will be the only bank in the region with distinct market-share advantages, including market knowledge, local decision-making, a full-service product suite and a balance sheet to compete with larger regional and national banks.

Under the terms of the agreement, stockholders of Bryn Mawr will receive 0.90 of a share of WSFS common stock for each share of Bryn Mawr common stock. The per share value equates to an implied value of \$48.55 for Bryn Mawr stockholders based on the closing price of WSFS stock on March 9, 2021.

"This combination aligns with our strategic plan," said Rodger Levenson, WSFS' Chairman, President and CEO. "Combining with Bryn Mawr allows us to accelerate our long-term strategic objectives, including scale to continue to invest in our delivery and talent transformations. This combination also creates the premier wealth management and trust business in the region and the sixth largest bank-affiliated wealth management and trust business nationwide under \$100 billion in assets. Together, we are poised and positioned to continue to serve and outperform for all our constituents, and to deliver sustainable high performance for years to come."

Frank Leto, President and CEO of Bryn Mawr, said, "We strongly believe in the value creation by combining with WSFS and enhancing the strengths of our institutions. This is a sound decision for Bryn Mawr, our stockholders, our Clients and the communities we serve. We are combining with WSFS because it is an established institution with deep roots in the region and the utmost focus on doing the right thing for our Clients."

The combination is WSFS' ninth since 2010, including traditional banks and other fee-based businesses in southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. WSFS' proven track record of successful integrations, combined with its strong organic growth and purposeful expansion into the Greater Philadelphia region, has resulted in significant community and economic investments.

DELAWARE BUSINESS | May/June 2021