

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**JARI HIRES CONSULTANTS
TO PLAY KEY ROLES IN VISION 2025**

As part of the Vision 2025 initiative, JARI also announced the members of the steering committee, who will act as advisors to Vision 2025.



JOHNSTOWN, PA – JARI today announced that Walter Burlack and Ryan Kieta will play crucial roles in the development and implementation of Johnstown’s Vision 2025 plan.

Burlack and Kieta have been working from JARI’s office in downtown Johnstown since Oct. 1.

Burlack has over 25 years of experience directing organizations and projects in the chemical, energy, manufacturing, mining, environmental, and non-profit sectors.

He comes to Vision 2025 as the director of Renewable Manufacturing Gateway (RMG), a Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and the Community Growth Fund of the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG). His previous experience includes: the midwest regional vice president for the Student Conservation Association Inc., the largest national organization dedicated to engaging young people in conservation work on public lands; executive vice president for WEG, Inc., an industrial, hazardous, and waste material engineering and management company; director of environmental, health, and safety management for Mt. State Bit Service, Inc., a regional mining and drilling service company; and as a senior scientist at the Center for Hazardous Material Research. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown and his Masters of Public Management (MPM) from the Heinz College of Carnegie Mellon University.

Burlack is on the board of directors and serves as treasurer for Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden, Construction Junction, and the Pennsylvania Resources Council. He also is a board member for the Outdoor Classroom, Peoples Oakland, and the Friends of the Forest Preserves.

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Kieta serves as an independent consultant for JARI, leveraging his experience in landscape architecture and urban planning to assist Vision 2025 as a community developer. A native of Salix, PA, Kieta earned a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) from the Pennsylvania State University. Previously, Kieta was employed as a senior land planner by The Faux Group of Annapolis, Maryland. Kieta is a licensed landscape architect in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He owns Real Design Landscape Architecture (RDLA), a land design, planning, and real estate development consultancy.

JARI today also announced the members of a steering committee, who will act as advisors to JARI for this initiative: Scott Becker of the 1889 Foundation and Conemaugh Health System; Mike Kane of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies; Mark Pasquerilla of the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership; Carlos Gunby of the City of Johnstown; and JARI President Linda Thomson.

Thomson said both Burlack and Kieta bring special skills and a great deal of enthusiasm to their positions. “I am excited to have these talented individuals work in conjunction with the JARI team of economic development professionals,” she said. “JARI is grateful for the support of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and a major, anonymous donor for providing the resources necessary to implement the Vision 2025 plan.”

This week, Vision 2025 announced a Public Visioning Session will be held 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16 in the basement of First Lutheran Church, 415 Vine Street in downtown Johnstown. The free event is open to the public and will serve as the next step in implementing the strategic vision.

ABOUT JARI

JARI is a non-profit economic development organization that has been a devoted partner of the business community in Cambria and Somerset Counties since 1974. JARI's team of business professionals has a combined 155 years of experience in economic and entrepreneurial development. Our agency provides value-added services and connections to the right people in government, commercial lending, equity investing, real estate and other regional, state and federal economic development groups.

ABOUT VISION 2025

Vision 2025, led by the Vision 2025 Governance Committee of the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership, serves to launch a community-wide revitalization movement. With the assistance of a study conducted by Carnegie Mellon University's Remaking Cities Institute, Vision 2025 aims to answer the question of how Johnstown can engage its resources and energy to transform the city and region into a vibrant, resilient community.

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