



BOROUGH OF  
**LEWISBURG**  
PENNSYLVANIA

**MAYORAL PROCLAMATION**

**“Proclamation Welcoming Appalachian Leadership Institute to Lewisburg”**

**WHEREAS**, the Appalachian Regional Commission Appalachian Leadership Institute, affectionately known as ALI, brings together leaders from across Appalachia to exchange ideas, strengthen communities, and prove that some of the best solutions are born not in boardrooms alone, but around coffee tables, community projects, river walks, and the occasional group text; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fellows of the Appalachian Leadership Institute represent the grit, creativity, hospitality, and can-do spirit that make Appalachia more than a region on a map. It is a culture, a story, and for many of us, a way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Mayor Kendy Alvarez am proud to count myself among the alumni of the Appalachian Leadership Institute and recognize firsthand that while the program may last one year, the friendships, collaborations, and occasional “hey y’all, I have an idea” phone calls continue long after graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Susquehanna River Valley has demonstrated a deep commitment to regional leadership and collaboration through the participation of four ALI alumni and one current Fellow from our region, proving that leadership development is not just something we talk about here, it is something we invest in, grow locally, and pass forward; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 5, 2026, these Fellows visit Lewisburg for a session focused on “Building Regional Culture and Tourism,” exploring how communities can preserve local identity while also creating places where visitors want to wander, linger, shop, paddle, hike, eat dessert first, and maybe even stay longer than they planned; and

**WHEREAS**, the Susquehanna River Valley proudly offers a little bit of everything: scenic river views, charming downtowns, historic architecture, farm fields, festivals, trails, arts, music, bookstores, breweries, cafés, and enough small-town character to make Hallmark movies jealous; and

**WHEREAS**, visitors are encouraged to fully immerse themselves in the culture of the region by strolling Market Street, supporting local businesses, exploring our parks and trails, enjoying the beauty of the Susquehanna River, discovering our local arts and music scene, and experiencing the kind of hospitality Appalachia is known for because around here, “y’all come back now” is not just a saying, it is an economic development strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, Lewisburg recognizes that culture and tourism are not simply about attractions, but about creating communities where people feel connected, inspired, and welcomed, because the strongest places are built through relationships, storytelling, shared experiences, and maybe a good cup of coffee along the way; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Lewisburg proudly welcomes these Appalachian leaders and celebrates the continued collaboration across our region as we work together to ensure that Appalachia’s future is as vibrant, innovative, and resilient as its people;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Kendy Alvarez, Mayor of the Borough of Lewisburg, do hereby welcome the Fellows and partners of the Appalachian Leadership Institute to Pennsylvania, the Susquehanna River Valley, and Lewisburg, and encourage all residents and visitors alike to celebrate the culture, creativity, hospitality, and entrepreneurial spirit that continue to make Appalachia a region worth exploring, investing in, and bragging about just a little bit.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Borough of Lewisburg to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.



Kendy Alvarez  
Mayor, Borough of Lewisburg  
May 19, 2026