



**MEDIA EVENT: PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** Saturday, September 20, 2014

**Time:** 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

**Location:** Downtown Erie; Erie Downtown Partnership 140 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**ERIE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATES IN INTERCOASTAL CLEANUP**

**Erie, PA-** The EDP will be joining Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Verizon Telecom Pioneers, the Ocean Conservancy, local organizations and businesses, and volunteers around the world for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC). ICC is the oldest and largest volunteer shoreline cleanup of its kind.

During this cleanup volunteers will get a first-hand look at the trash that is littering the community and ending up in Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay, and our rivers and streams. Along with cleaning up the litter, volunteers will document what is found in order to use the information to learn what needs to be improved upon in keeping our shorelines clean.

The DEP has joined with local organizations and community leaders to help improve the Lake Erie watershed during the Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup. For the past 11 years, over 11,000 dedicated volunteers removed more than 60 tons of debris and trash from the Lake Erie shoreline and watershed. Four years ago volunteers began separating and tallying recyclables and have collected over 3 tons of recyclable materials from Lake Erie shores.

The Intercostal Clean Up plays an important role in the mission of the Erie Downtown Partnership. Our core program, Clean & Green, focuses on a daily cleanup of downtown, removing debris, litter and cigarette trash from the streets and public spaces to create a vibrant community. On this one day, the EDP coordinates over 100 student volunteers and that assist with the clean-up of downtown.

One hundred percent of our volunteers come to us via Gannon GIVES day. This important initiative is just another way that Gannon University is such an important partner and outstanding citizen.

The Erie Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Erie by improving its image, business climate, physical environment and design.

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