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## Trump attends Shale Conference



*Supporters and protestors gather in Pittsburgh*

AVAERIE FITZGERALD

President Donald Trump spoke at the Shale Conference on Oct. 23 in front of supporters and non-supporters.

**AVAERIE FITZGERALD**  
AU-Live Managing Editor

Police barricaded the roads surrounding the David. L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Penn. on Oct. 23 in preparation for the Presidential Keynote Address. The Marcellus Shale Coalition Insight Conference brought President Donald Trump to discuss his plans for oil and gas companies and the future of pipelines.

Before the speech began, protestors lined the streets, blocked the roads and raised their signs high in the air to counteract the event — shouting, “You are not welcome

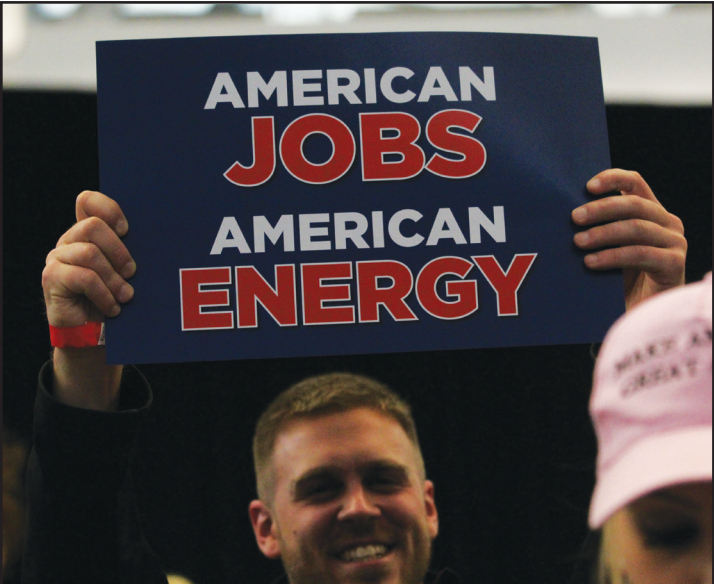
here Donald Trump.” Although the protests remained peaceful throughout the day, ultimately 14 people were taken into custody for blocking the streets and refusing to move. Inside the building, speakers were on and off the stage throughout the day talking about natural gas development, areas that rely on the pipeline, marketing strategies and more. These speakers were part of the two-day conference, Oct. 23-24, where major corporations and companies were in attendance to learn more about the advancements of the oil and gas industry as well as network with others from

all over the nation. Harold G. Hamm, chairman and chief executive officer of Continental Resources, introduced the President as he took the podium for this conference again, the first took place in 2016 as he was running as a presidential candidate. Trump stated that in his first week in office he approved the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, which in turn created 48,000 jobs. A crowd of pipeline workers, welders and helpers (some that worked on those very pipelines) sat to the left and right of Trump on the stage. While it was an open registration event, attendees were primarily from the three surrounding states: Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. These three states are known as the Appalachian Basin states. Justin Hornback, an organizer of the Pipeliners Union 798, shook Trump’s hand as he stood on stage next to the 20 other members from his group. “It was great to be a part of [the event] and to be able to shake hands with the President and see him talk about workers in the oil and gas field,” Hornback said. “It was a wonderful experience for the members and myself.” The Pipeliners Union is part of the United Association, and 798 covers the largest area. The group

has approximately 8,300 members that travel and work on the pipelines all across the country. “The President has done a lot for the industry as a whole, including when he first got into office. [He] helped push through the approval for the Keystone XL and the Dakota Access,” Hornback said. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), brought up by Hornback, is one resource for understanding the levels and reports for any spillage. “It’s been determined that the pipeline is the safest mode of transportation and one of the most efficient ways to transport oil, natural gas and liquids of almost any kind,” Hornback said. A highlighted topic throughout the conference was the reduction of methane emissions and the job opportunities for pipeline workers. “[PHMSA] has a statistic saying 99.99 percent of all product being pipelined gets to where they are going safely,” Hornback said. While efforts for clean energy are in the works around the U.S., Trump said in his speech that “the clean energy act was a disaster,” to which the audience responded with cheers. He continued, stating, “it would have cost the American people nearly 40 billion dollars a year and caused electricity prices to soar to double digits, while cutting coal production by almost 250

million tons.” Attendee Leatra Harper, attended both days of the conference, but she went for a different reason than most. She founded a non-profit organization which collects information, such as public record requests, to make available to the public called “The FreshWater Accountability Project.” Harper said she considered herself to be the “person in question” throughout the entire conference.

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LEAH BURTSCHER

A supporter in the crowd holds up an “American Jobs, American Energy” sign as they wait for Trump.



LEAH BURTSCHER

A protestor outside of the venue holds a sign that reads “deregulation kills jobs.”

## AU MBA grad Abiy Ahmed receives Nobel Peace Prize

**PAUL MURRAY**  
Reporter

In 2012, Dr. Ray Jacobs and his wife attended a meeting on a medical mission in Ethiopia. While there, Dr. Gemechis Buba, the President of Leadstar College, approached Dr. Jacobs and Ashland University and asked if they would be willing to partner with Leadstar to develop a new MBA program. Jacobs and AU accepted. They provided Leadstar with program and curriculum design, instructional material, as well as personal feedback. Jacobs has made numerous trips to Ethiopia, meeting with Leadstar staff and government officials

while working to create a more informed and educated society. In August 2015, Jacobs was asked to speak at the first-ever Leadstar graduation ceremony. Leadstar’s motto is “Producing Transformative Global Leaders.” One of the inaugural classes would take this motto to heart. Amongst the graduates, in his cap and gown, was Abiy Ahmed. At the time, Ahmed was a member of the Ethiopian House of Peoples’ Representatives, but would soon go on to win a Nobel Peace Prize for his work as Ethiopian Prime Minister. “Prime minister Abiy Ahmed is an outstanding graduate and has more than lived up to their motto,” Jacobs said. “It was very exciting for me to hear that he had won the

Nobel Peace Prize, he has done a phenomenal job.” Ahmed was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 11 for his work on peace and reconciliation with neighboring Eritrea. Ethiopia and Eritrea had been at odds for almost 20 years, with more than 80,000 soldiers and civilians killed in the conflicts. The war forced many citizens of Ethiopia to the streets, protesting the former ruling government. Ahmed took office amid the protest in early 2018 and immediately setup talks with Eritrean leader Isaias Afewerki. Within a few weeks, the two signed a peace agreement that went into action in September 2018. In his own country, Ahmed has granted amnesty to thousands of

political prisoners, lifted the censorship on media, and has dismissed those in places of power who have been connected to corruption. “Abiy Ahmed has initiated important reforms that give many citizens hope for a better life and a brighter future,” The Norwegian Nobel Committee said. In a tweet after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Ahmed said, “I am humbled by the decision of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. My deepest gratitude to all committed and working for peace. This award is for Ethiopia and the African continent. We shall prosper in peace!” This rise of Ahmed has not been without strife. Within weeks of being elected, he narrowly escaped an assassination attempt during a

rally. Many opposing political and ethnic groups have been very hostile toward Ahmed, but the prime minister keeps working to make changes. Since receiving the award, the prime minister has continued to increase communication with Eritrea and the people of Ethiopia. Multiple visits have been made between governing officials who are working on reconnecting the two countries in trade. “I am very proud of the role that Ashland University has played in assisting Leadstar in creating an MBA program that has had such a positive impact by educating many current and future leaders in Ethiopia,” Jacobs said.

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