



NwOESC Business Advisory Council Annual Report March 1, 2020 Joint Statement

The following District Boards of Education and the Northwest Ohio ESC agree that the NwOESC’s Business Advisory Council shall represent the business of the school districts consistent with the authority granted by the Ohio General Assembly. This agreement is in effect until the Board(s) or ESC terminates the same by formal resolution.

DISTRICT	COUNTY
Archbold-Area Local	Fulton
Ayersville Local	Defiance
Bryan City	Williams
Central Local	Defiance
Defiance City	Defiance
Edgerton Local	Williams
Edon Northwest Local	Williams
Evergreen Local	Fulton
Fayette Local	Fulton
Hicksville Exempted Village	Defiance
Holgate Local	Henry
Liberty Center Local	Henry
Millcreek-West Unity Local	Williams
Montpelier Exempted Village	Williams
Napoleon Area City	Henry
North Central Local	Williams
Northeastern Local	Defiance
Patrick Henry Local	Henry
Pettisville Local	Fulton
Pike-Delta-York Local	Fulton
Stryker Local	Williams
Swanton Local	Fulton
Wauseon Exempted Village	Fulton

Membership:

- District Superintendents
- Four County Career Center
- Northwest State Community College
- Economic Development Directors from Defiance, Henry, Fulton, and Williams Counties
- STEAM Coalition Members
- NwOESC Administration
- NwOESC Business-Education Liaison

BAC Mission and Vision:

- NwOESC BAC Vision: A well-prepared workforce that contributes to the economic growth and development and improved quality of life throughout the Northwest Ohio region.
- NwOESC BAC Mission: The mission of the Northwest Ohio BAC is to bring together on a regional level key stakeholders in business and education to advise, support and enhance the awareness, instruction and experiences students are provided in striving to gain relevant, in-demand job skills as part of their preparation for future career success.

BAC Meetings

The BAC shall meet Quarterly at the NwOESC. These meetings shall occur prior to the NwOESC Superintendents meetings in September, December, March, and June.

2019 Meetings:

- March 5, 2019 NwOESC BAC
- June 4, 2019 NwOESC BAC
- September 10, 2019 NwOESC BAC
- December 10, 2019 NwOESC BAC

1. The council’s plan and implementation progress:

- a. PRIORITY #1 - Fostering collaboration beyond the Council, among business, labor and education personnel. OCCURRING AND ONGOING
- b. PRIORITY #2 - Publicizing and communicating local economy and job information, including activities designed to inform students, educators and the community about changes to the local economy and which jobs will be most in demand. OCCURRING AND ONGOING

c.

2. Brief summaries of specific activities the council conducted:

- a. Business Spotlights at each meeting – an opportunity for area businesses to share information related to operations, challenges, and successes as partnerships are strengthened with education
 - i. Mike Tisovic, CEO of Chase Brass
 - ii. Niki Mosier, Director of Human Capital of Spangler Candy
 - iii. Peter Beck, CEO of Automatic Feed
 - iv. Pam Mohler, NW Ohio Skilled Trades

- b. Education Spotlights at each meeting – an opportunity for education to share practices and initiatives designed to bring awareness, experiences, and instruction to students as they prepare for future career success
 - i. Chris Lake, Swanton Local School District on Career Coaching
 - ii. Josh Biederstedt, Patrick Henry Local School District on Business Breakfast
- c. Economic Development Director updates at each meeting – an opportunity for each county director to provide information and updates to connect business and education stakeholders. A key focus is on communicating local economy and job information.
 - i. Matt Gilroy/Kelly Carey
 - ii. Jerry Hayes/Carla Hinkle
 - iii. Megan Hausch
 - iv. April Welch/Jennifer Arps
- d. NwOESC BAC Liaison – Investment in personnel to support regional endeavors and further education/business linkages.
 - i. Mike Remer serves part-time in this capacity
- e. Manufacturing Boot Camp, to be held June 8-11, 2020 - an opportunity for teachers to learn in-depth about area businesses and subsequently implement what they have learned into their curriculum and instructional practices. This idea was sparked by Governor’s Liaison, Lu Cooke and is being implemented primarily through the work of the ESC (Kris Dobbelaere and Mike Remer) and the Economic Development Directors (Jerry Hayes/Carla Hinkle, April Welch, Megan Hausch, and Matt Gilroy) in our area. As the planning continues, the NwOESC BAC will provide input and guidance as needed to ensure this initiative is a success.
- f. An email distribution list makes it convenient for BAC members to pass along information about events and offerings that would be beneficial for the group.
- g. Fostering collaboration, beyond the Council, among business, labor and education personnel.
 - i. Information and updates provided are leading to other efforts under development such as:
 - 1. Guided Pathways (12-point Credentialing) for Graduation project
 - a. Manufacturing
 - b. Healthcare
 - c. Business
 - d. Information Technology
 - 2. Increasing the opportunity for apprenticeships in NW Ohio
 - 3. Graduation Seals - collaboration and local design elements

3. The nature of the council’s advice and recommendations, if any, on needed employment skills and curriculum development to instill those skills:

- a. Focus on the development of basic employment skills/soft skills – reliable attendance, coworker interactions, problem-solving, organization, conflict resolution, etc.
- b. Drug free – start young to combat this problem. Resources are needed to be effective in this endeavor. The K-12 Prevention Funding could be used to expand programming in this area.
- c. Providing youth with opportunities to expand upon strengths and interests through avenues such as robotics clubs, eSports, STEAM learning labs, are vital as student grow and develop.

- d. Students electing to go into the skilled trades must take strong math and science coursework in high school to obtain foundational skills and increase problem-solving skills necessary for this career path. Mentorships and apprenticeships can be initiated to help ensure success.
- e. With the new graduation requirements, there is a need to grow and strengthen partnerships that will lead students to careers they are passionate about and skilled at performing. Some students will choose to show competency in career focused activities (including 12-point Industry credential, pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship, work-based learning, Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal). Students may elect to show readiness through seals giving them the chance to demonstrate academic, technical and professional skills and knowledge that aligned to passions, interests and planned next steps after high school.

4. The nature of the council's advice and recommendations, if any, on economic and job market changes and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available:

- a. Manufacturing continues to be a huge industry sector in NW Ohio. Parents and students need information on how this sector has evolved over time, with many employment opportunities for skilled and high paying positions. Parents need to see and experience the vocational school and business/industry settings to better understand what they offer. There is a continual struggle to bridge the gap between career, college, and workplace.
- b. Consideration should be given to conducting a study regarding the in demand/in supply job market and the mismatch of the labor pool in the four county area. IN PROGRESS
- c. Continue to build upon and further develop STEAM activities and initiatives across the four county area at all levels P-16.

5. The nature of the council's advice and suggestions, if any, for developing working relationships among businesses, labor organizations and educational personnel:

- a. Explore funding through each County Job and Family Services – Ohio Means Jobs to establish a Business/Education Liaison in every county to prioritize and strengthen the connections between education and business & industry. This concept is showing success in Fulton County and beyond, but could be more effective if capacity was increased to 1 position per county. This position would work to ensure students are aware of and connected to regional opportunities and businesses and education are better aligned to meet area work force demands.
- b. Continue to use the NwOESC BAC meetings as an opportunity to share successful strategies, network and learn from one another, and build understanding and respect for the challenges faced by education and business/industry in Northwest Ohio.

*Kerri Weir
NwOESC Superintendent and BAC Chairperson*