



## NwOESC Business Advisory Council Annual Report March 1, 2022 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.

| <b>DISTRICT</b>             | <b>COUNTY</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 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 the leaders in business, education and government 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 in conjunction with scheduled NwOESC Superintendents meetings.

Meetings held in 2021 included:

- Tuesday, March 9, 2021
- Tuesday, May 11, 2021
- Tuesday, September 14, 2021
- Tuesday, December 14, 2021

### **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

### **2. Brief summaries of specific activities the council conducted:**

- a. Fostering collaboration, beyond the Council, among business, labor and education personnel.
  - i. Business and Education Spotlights at each meeting – Business spotlights provide opportunity for area businesses and to share information related to operations, challenges, and successes as partnerships are strengthened with education.

Education spotlights provide opportunity for education entities to share practices and initiatives designed to bring awareness, experiences, and instruction to students as they prepare for future career success

1. Nathan Keel and Veronica Arthur - Bryan City Schools; unique Workforce Development programming
  2. Brian Feeney and Beth Behrman -ALG Health Business model in response to COVID 19.
  3. The Gerken Companies - Alan C. Bostelman, Workforce Development/Marketing Coordinator; workforce opportunities
  4. Karlee Badenhop and Grace Schnitkey - Four County Career Center; Early Job Placement Program
  5. John Mansel-Pleydell – M.ED NWOCA - Professional Learning Group Supervisor; STEAM Coalition, Career Champions List, and Advanced Manufacturing Consortium; Hands on activity with coding/programming
  6. Dr. Todd Hernandez - President/ CEO at Northwest State Community College; Strategic plan; new programs in Agribusiness, Skilled Trades, Entrepreneurial and Marketing certificates; expanded scholarship opportunities
  7. Holgate Local Schools Adulting 101 class; Instructor Cheryl Sonnenberg and several high school students provided an overview and highlighted partnership with business partner Martha Gebers, Employment Manager from Sauder Woodworking
- b.** Economic Development Director updates at each meeting – an opportunity for each county director or designee 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 – Fulton County
  - ii. Erika Willitzer/Kortney Williams – Defiance County
  - iii. Megan Hausch/Keira Grandy – Williams County
  - iv. Jennifer Arps – Henry County
- c.** NWOESC BAC Liaison – Investment in personnel to support regional endeavors and further education/business linkages. Growth and expansion continues with the goal to build capacity across all four counties.
- i. Mike Remer serves part-time as liaison
- d.** 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.
- e.** Manufacturing Boot Camp – This event will be held in the summer of 2022 (June 6-9). Through generous funding secured by Lu Cooke, Liaison to the Lt. Governor, the Boot Camp is being promoted across all four counties, accommodating approximately 20-25 participants per county. Those completing the Boot Camp will be awarded 3 semester credit hours of Ashland University of college credit at a significantly reduced rate. The goal of the event is to provide educators from across the region an in-depth learning experience on area business operations and opportunities and subsequently implement what they have learned into their curriculum and

instructional practices. On June 15 and 16, participating educators will display what they have learned through the experience.

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

- a. Continue to focus on the development of basic employment skills/soft skills – reliable attendance, coworker interactions, problem solving, organization, conflict resolution, etc.
- b. Build upon efforts that promote work ethic and civic pride.
- c. Drug free – prevention efforts remain critical.
- d. 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.
- e. Continue to increase credentialing and apprenticeship opportunities for students.
- f. Continue to provide student opportunities with job placements through the vocational school as applicable.
- g. Tap into Community College opportunities and resources to build the workforce: Tech Cred; Strengthening Community College Training Grant; Choose Ohio First program and Earn and Learn programs.
- h. Ensure students K-12 have access to technology and devices.
- i. Identify creative approaches to get manufacturing in schools to increase awareness/exposure.

**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. Retail and the Construction industry are other large sectors.
- c. Utilize available data on in demand jobs/labor pool needs in critical conversations with employers, students, families and other stakeholders.
- d. Continue to build upon and further develop STEAM activities and initiatives across the four county area at all levels P-16. Shift toward bringing in business that offers more 'quality positions', i.e. higher pay
- e. Job and Manufacturing fairs are critical and valuable events

- f. Need to retain young families by analyzing and developing amenities appealing to them in small town/rural settings.
- g. Conduct and review wage and benefits survey across the five-county area to stay competitive.
- h. Importance of programs such as 'High Five to Thrive', a county mental health campaign shared with small businesses.
- i. Area business expansions continue - AquaBounty, broadband efforts, solar field development, etc.
- j. Demand for employees is high and is expected to last for at least three years.
- k. Workforce demand is high with concerns for attraction and retention.

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

- a. Work to build capacity to strengthen the connections between education and business & industry. Ideally, there would be resources to support one person/position per county to ensure students are aware of and connected to regional opportunities and businesses and education is better aligned to meet area work force demands.
- b. Housing study and impact on the labor pool in the area – continue to share information.
- c. 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.
- d. The business community is thankful for the school's efforts to provide students with face-to-face instruction during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- e. It is noted that manufacturing has a willingness and ability to work with schools.
- f. Economic development agencies value the role schools play in attracting new businesses and residents to our area.

Kerri Weir  
NwOESC Superintendent and  
BAC Co-Chair

Mike Remer  
NwOESC Business Education Liaison  
and BAC Co-Chair