



After School & Summer Learning Grants (SPARC Council) “READY FOR HIRE”

The After School ready for Hire program released three articles in December that highlight the program activities. You can read the articles [here](#). The image below shows students using an iPad and coding software to program and control a robot (the small silver ball) through an obstacle course.



Business Advisory Council

In partnership with the Area 10 Workforce Development Board, we submitted a proposal for the Strategic Community Investment Fund for \$3 million. This project would provide funding to pay for career readiness programs in Richland and Crawford counties for the next two years by providing career navigators, career assessments and activities embedded in the school day. Clint

Knight and I had a phone conference with Riordan McClain’s office in December, then a follow up call was made by his office clarifying locations. Mr. Kimmel then sent a letter of support to Riordan’s office directly. We are hopeful about the vibes we are getting so far about our proposal. It could be April before we hear a final response. In the meantime, we are also part of another application in partnership with Area 10 for \$100K that would support a limited amount of the same work. Funding for You Science, a career assessment software system, was part of both applications. For school districts affiliated with Pioneer, districts will leverage the DEW Career Exploration and Awareness Funds that were part of House Bill 110. These funds can only be accessed by the districts through DEW transfer to the Career Technical Planning Districts. Therefore, I will be talking with Morrow County schools who are not affiliated with Pioneer to discuss individual district desires for Mid-Ohio, and other partners to support You Science software in their schools.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

Three federal outcomes reports due at the end of January are now complete. Mid year data collection is underway. We have purchased a reading intervention curriculum and are working to schedule Restorative Practices training at the request of Galion City Schools, funded through 21CCLC grant funds. Preparation for the creation of new and continuation grants has now begun. The season begins on February 6th and all applications are due in early April. We anticipate at least two new applications in FY25.