



Board Update 12.11.24

Mid Ohio Educational Service Center *Director of Grants & Special Projects*

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) held a productive meeting on November 20, 2024, with several updates and announcements beneficial to our district's growth and workforce development initiatives.

Key Highlights from the Meeting:

- **District Engagement:** A reminder was shared regarding the BAC survey for career awareness, exploration, and planning. Principals are asked to complete the survey, with follow-up phone calls scheduled by an intern from Area 10 Workforce Development. We also welcomed Wynford Local Schools as the newest BAC district member.
- **Educator Boot Camp:** Applications for the Summer 2025 Bootcamp will open in April, offering free Ashland Graduate Tuition for teachers, sponsored by the Lt. Governor's Office, and hopefully community partners IST, and the Richland Education Foundation will also sponsor this year.
- **Speech-Language Pathology Career Mentoring Program:** Mid-Ohio ESC has secured a \$30,000 grant from the Richland County Foundation's Connections Fund for the SLP High School Internship Program, which will launch in January 2025. This initiative aims to address the growing shortage of Speech-Language Pathologists by providing high school students with mentorship, job shadowing, and coursework aligned with state licensure requirements.
- **Workforce Academy Pre-Apprenticeship Program:** The Workforce Academy is currently serving 11 students in the fall cohort, offering training in construction and manufacturing. Spring enrollment opens in January 2025, providing students with practical experience and a head start in skilled trades.
- **TurboCert Program:** The TurboCert Program, set to launch on January 10, 2025, will establish a Community High School Credentialing Hub at the North Central State College Crawford Success Center in Bucyrus. This program enables students to earn industry-recognized credentials in Advanced Manufacturing, Advanced Mobility, or Information Technology in just one semester. There are currently 18 students on the enrollment list.
- **Business Leader Co-Chair 2025:** Traci Oswald, Senior HR Manager at Ohio Mutual Insurance, will be joining as our new Co-Chair in February 2025. Traci expressed her enthusiasm for working with the council and looks forward to officially joining us in the new year.

Presentations:

- Jason Spoon, Senior HR Director at Stoneridge, provided insights on Vehicle Intelligence Manufacturing, emphasizing the importance of skilled labor in the sector.
- Rich Granger, Managing Director at Drive Ohio, presented on Ohio's Advanced Mobility Strategy, highlighting new educational tools to prepare the workforce for future mobility advancements.

County Action Team Reports:

- **Richland County:** Clint Knight, Director of Area 10 Workforce Development, updated the council on the upcoming survey outreach to school districts.
- **Crawford County:** Lisa Marcum shared the success of the WAGE Tours, which engaged 500 students across six school districts with hands-on career exploration in manufacturing, healthcare, and agriculture.
- **Morrow County:** Randi Spoon reported on the successful Morrow County Career Expo, which provided 400 9th graders with career exploration opportunities through hands-on sessions and career tracks.

Next Steps: The next BAC meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at the Ohio Health Medical Office Building in Mansfield. This meeting will include additional updates and strategic discussions on workforce development and education-business partnerships.