

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Joint Statement | March 1, 2022





The ESC of Central Ohio's Business Advisory Council (BAC) issues the following Joint Statement to report on progress outlined in its plan for the 2021-22 school year, summarize actions taken and actions pending, and specify how the BAC, the ESC Governing Board, and the boards of BAC member school districts have fulfilled their responsibilities under state law.

For more information regarding the ESC of Central Ohio Business Advisory Council, please visit: <https://www.escco.org/BusinessAdvisoryCouncil>

MEETINGS SUMMARIES

October 21, 2021

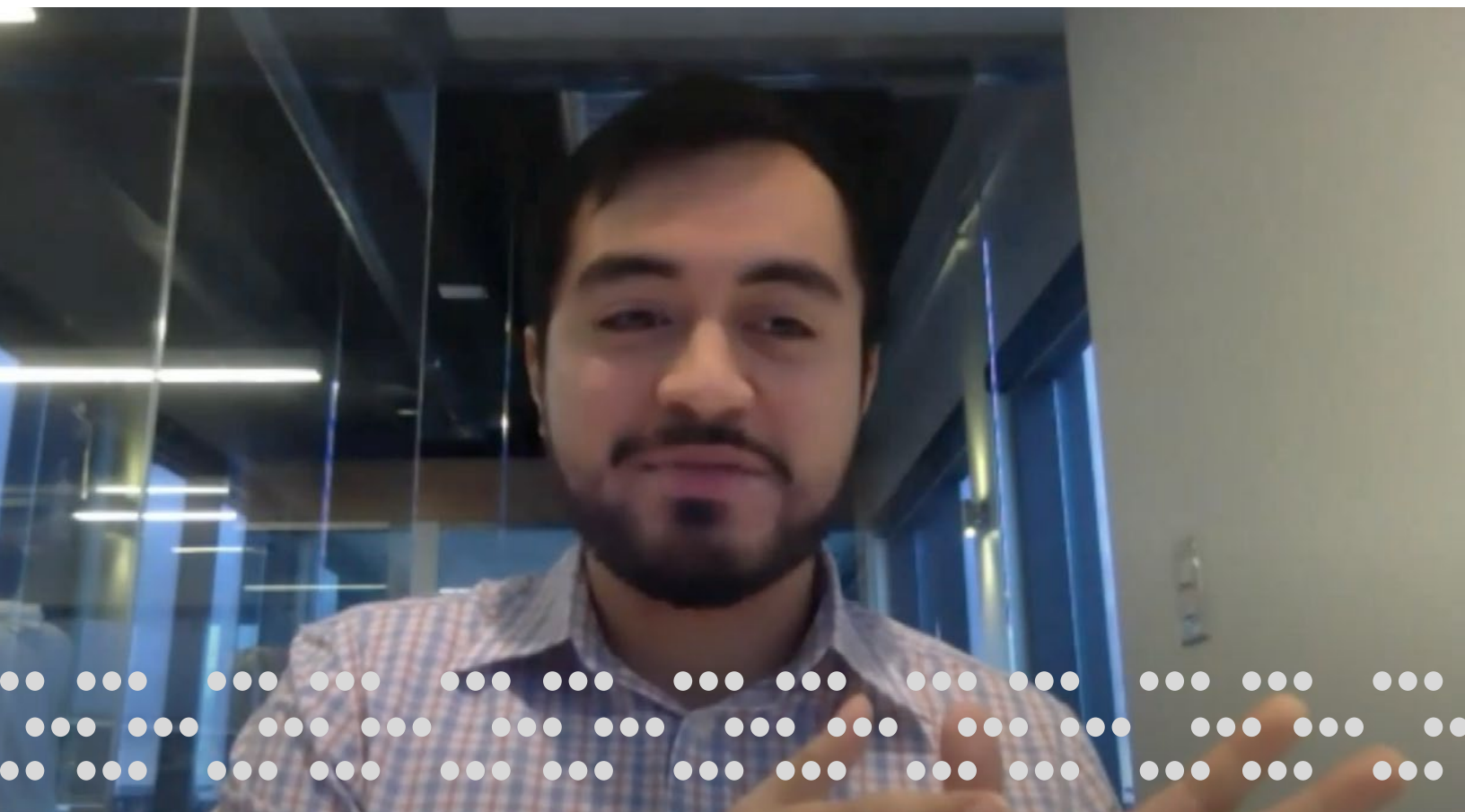
[Recording | Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland Presentation | Young Entrepreneurs Program Presentation](#)

The meeting opened with a presentation from Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland staff, led by Khaz Finley. He shared how they are working with educational organizations and museums through their outreach office and resources they have available for schools to use, including their career pathway programming and career exploration series.

Jesus Garcia Fuentes of the Youth Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) presented on their program and its work in Central Ohio. YEP offers summer internships for students along with continued support, mentorships, and networking opportunities to encourage entrepreneurship. Aaliyah Barker, a student at Columbus State and participant in the program, shared her experiences.

Christine Galvin, Director of College and Career Success at the ESC of Central Ohio, shared information regarding the BAC's Parent and Community Awareness Workgroup and its work. Kimberly Connell of Columbus State Community College and A-Jay Orr of Simple Plan IT shared their previous experiences as part of the workgroup.

Christine Galvin ended the meeting by sharing with the BAC survey results regarding upcoming focus areas for the Council, information regarding the Work-Based Learning Workgroup and pre-apprenticeship work happening in the region, and a call to action form for participants to complete.



December 9, 2021

[Recording | Workforce Innovation Center Presentation | Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio Presentation](#)

The meeting began with a presentation from Tim Harman of the Workforce Innovation Center regarding his Workforce Equity Report for the Columbus region. He shared data regarding the workforce, its diversity, racial inequities, wages, educational attainment, job trends, impacts of the pandemic, and more.

Next, Kelly Wallace of the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio shared information regarding its pre-apprenticeship hub, its goals, and how it wants to establish new programs and strengthen existing programs.

Christine Galvin wrapped up the meeting reminding participants of the ongoing workgroups and potential involvement.



February 10, 2022

[Recording | Ohio Department of Education Presentation | Marysville Early College High School Presentation | Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation Presentation](#)

Christine Galvin opened the meeting sharing the agenda and welcoming participants.

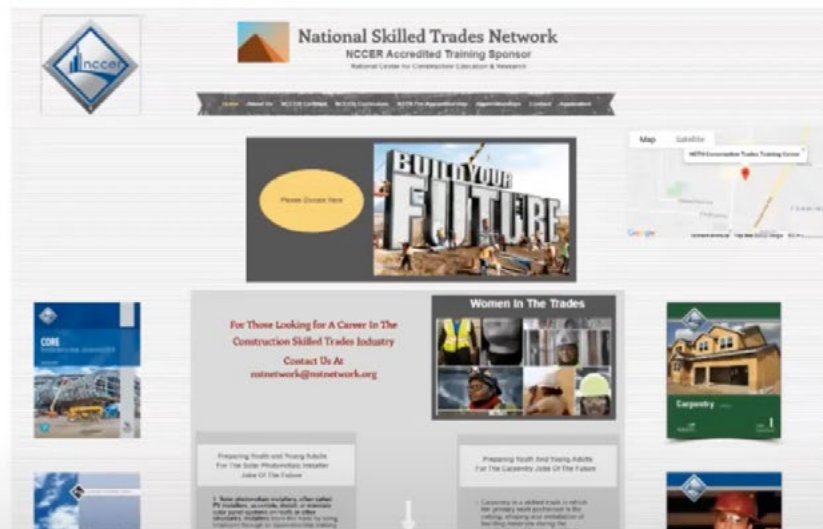
Ohio Department of Education staff members, Kayla Mack and Michelle Washington, shared data and information regarding their Office of Graduate Success and the supports it provides. Along with ODE staff, Barb Dunlap of AEP Ohio shared information regarding its high school internship program. The three presenters then hosted a jamboard and question and answer session to gather feedback from participants.

Next, Tammy Cooper of Marysville Early College High School, shared information and details regarding the school's STEM internship program. She shared information regarding starting an internship program, finding employers through networking, finding students, and making a program work.

Rachel Johanson of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation then shared information regarding its work and available programs. She provided details of Senate Bill 166 which includes several relevant provisions related to the BAC and its participants along with financial incentives for business participation in career tech programming.

John Hambrick, Work-Based Learning Coordinator at the ESC of Central Ohio, provided workgroup updates including a link to the newly developed Parent & Community Awareness Workgroup webpage.

Tapping Into Community Resources



COMING UP
Next Meeting: April 2022

PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The work and goals of the Central Ohio Compact are directly aligned with the purpose and responsibilities of the state-required business advisory councils, and its Workforce Advisory Council puts a clear focus on those goals. The Compact's Workforce Advisory Council brings together Central Ohio employer partners to anticipate infrastructure, program, and policy needs aligned with the group's goal to meet local employer demand with a highly skilled workforce. It represents a wide spectrum of industry sectors across the region, including financial services, insurance, health care, law, customer care, logistics and distribution, information technology, hospitality, and education—and its focus is on developing a regional strategy to open opportunities for all to participate in the emerging economy.

Based on this understanding, the ESC of Central Ohio has coordinated the work of its Business Advisory Council, in concert with school districts, to create efficiencies in meeting requirements of state law, while also continuing the Compact's great work and aligning to its goals and strategies. In alignment with the Central Ohio Business Advisory Council purpose document, the Business Advisory Council members are an integral part of planning and participating in the spring Central Ohio Compact Convening, the work that emerges from that convening & the continuation of the Compact work in the fall.

In addition, the purpose document outlined that the Business Advisory Council will advise school districts on changes in the economy and job market by:

- Identifying new and emerging careers
- Offering districts recommendations on needed knowledge, skills, and competencies
- Advocating for effective curriculum
- Offering work-based learning opportunities
- Making recommendations on facilities and equipment needed to teach work-based skills
- Supporting local school districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and educators

During the December 2021 BAC meeting, Tim Harmon shared information from the Workforce Equity Report sponsored by the Workforce Innovation Center. He provided regional information on the current state of the economy, changes to workforce caused by the pandemic, and the impact it may have on our partnership initiatives. He also highlighted the equity disparities in the workforce and outlined recommendations that the ESC BAC could take to advance workforce equity. Many BAC district members then shared that information in their districts through their own local employer engagement meetings.

At each of our BAC meetings throughout the year, we highlighted best practices and programs in the region that discussed the impact of developing work-based learning programs and the needed knowledge, skills, and competencies that will be necessary to meet emerging workforce needs. This resulted in the replication and spread of work-based learning programs into other districts. One example would be the development of new pre-apprenticeship programs in Dublin, Canal Winchester, Marion, Tolles, Eastland Fairfield, Columbus City and the expansion of pre-apprenticeship programs in Hilliard.



At the February 2022 meeting, regional partnerships, legislation, and initiatives were highlighted including information from the Ohio Department of Education, AEP and the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation. Each of these presentations supported local school districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and educators. Updates on the BAC workgroups were also provided on WBL opportunities and parent/ community awareness outreach.

Serving as the implementation mechanism for the recommendations of the Business Advisory Council is the ESC of Central Ohio’s Success Network, developed to link schools, partners, and communities with resources that empower students to excel beyond graduation. The Success Network has provided focused professional development sessions, technical assistance, and resources on implementing work-based learning opportunities, pathway development, industry credentialing, and developing pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship programs. This has involved facilitating in depth conversations with industry partners to develop curriculum and recommendations on needed knowledge, skills, and competencies to develop programs in the HVAC, Plumbing, Materials Handler, IT, Auto Technology, Childcare, Culinary, and Engineering fields.



CENTRAL OHIO BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS

ACTIVITY SUMMARIES

- Quarterly meetings ([See meeting agendas and notes](#))
- Connected participants to regional initiatives focused on Business Advisory Council goals: Central Ohio Compact and Ohio Department of Education's SuccessBound
- Many districts participate in the ESC BAC and also have local smaller employer advisory councils. We supported the district councils through attending their meetings for information sharing and providing needed information and resources
- Capacity building through hiring additional staff focused on the BAC work
- Facilitating conversations between districts and business partners for WBL program development
- ESC of Central Ohio Success Network events:
 - Professional development session focused on developing business and industry partnerships and developing best practice work-based learning opportunities for students.
 - Convening two ongoing BAC subcommittee workgroups focused on developing a regional approach/system to work-based learning. This includes business outreach/supports, parent awareness, and K-12 outreach/supports.
 - Partnership with the Ohio Department of Education to assist in the implementation of the new graduation requirements with a focus on development of local seals, pre-apprenticeship, and WBL opportunities.
 - Regional virtual employer engagement series was coordinated for the students and staff of Business Advisory Council districts.
 - Virtual regional College Credit Plus (CCP) informational events were coordinated, providing parents and students CCP information. Higher-ed partners involved included The Ohio State University, Otterbein University, Columbus State, Kenyon College, COTC, and Franklin University.
 - Onsite technical assistance was provided by ESC of Central Ohio staff with individual Business Advisory Council districts to coordinate pathway development including needed employment skills and curriculum, accessing grant opportunities, and facilities and equipment needs with higher education and business and industry partners.



ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout the Central Ohio region, there continues to be a “skills gap” due to a mismatch between job seeker skills and employer needs. To fill this gap, the region must continue to focus on promoting collaboration between education and business and industry, establish regional workforce and career explorations and counseling collaborations, expand business engagement opportunities for students, and more. Much of this information and related resources focused on economic and job market changes may be found on the Business Advisory Council (BAC)’s [website](#) and specifically within resources referenced in the BAC’s [purpose document](#).

BAC council members have emphasized the importance of responding to the economic needs of their communities as new large employers are moving into the Central Ohio region. Although work has begun in the area of developing educational pathways that give students the skills they need for in-demand jobs more work needs to be done to increase the scale of WBL experiences available, the number of employers involved, and the industry credentialing opportunities that are available. They also continue to emphasize reaching students and families at the middle school level to assist in exposing younger students to all types of career clusters, assist in planning for their future careers, and taking stock of what skills and resources they need for those careers so they would like to see the parent awareness work continue.

BAC council members also have emphasized the importance of taking a regional approach to the goals identified in the BAC’s purpose document while still emphasizing the need for local outreach and involvement in order to implement the information that is shared at the regional meetings.

Central Ohio Workforce Partners





educational service center
of Central Ohio

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