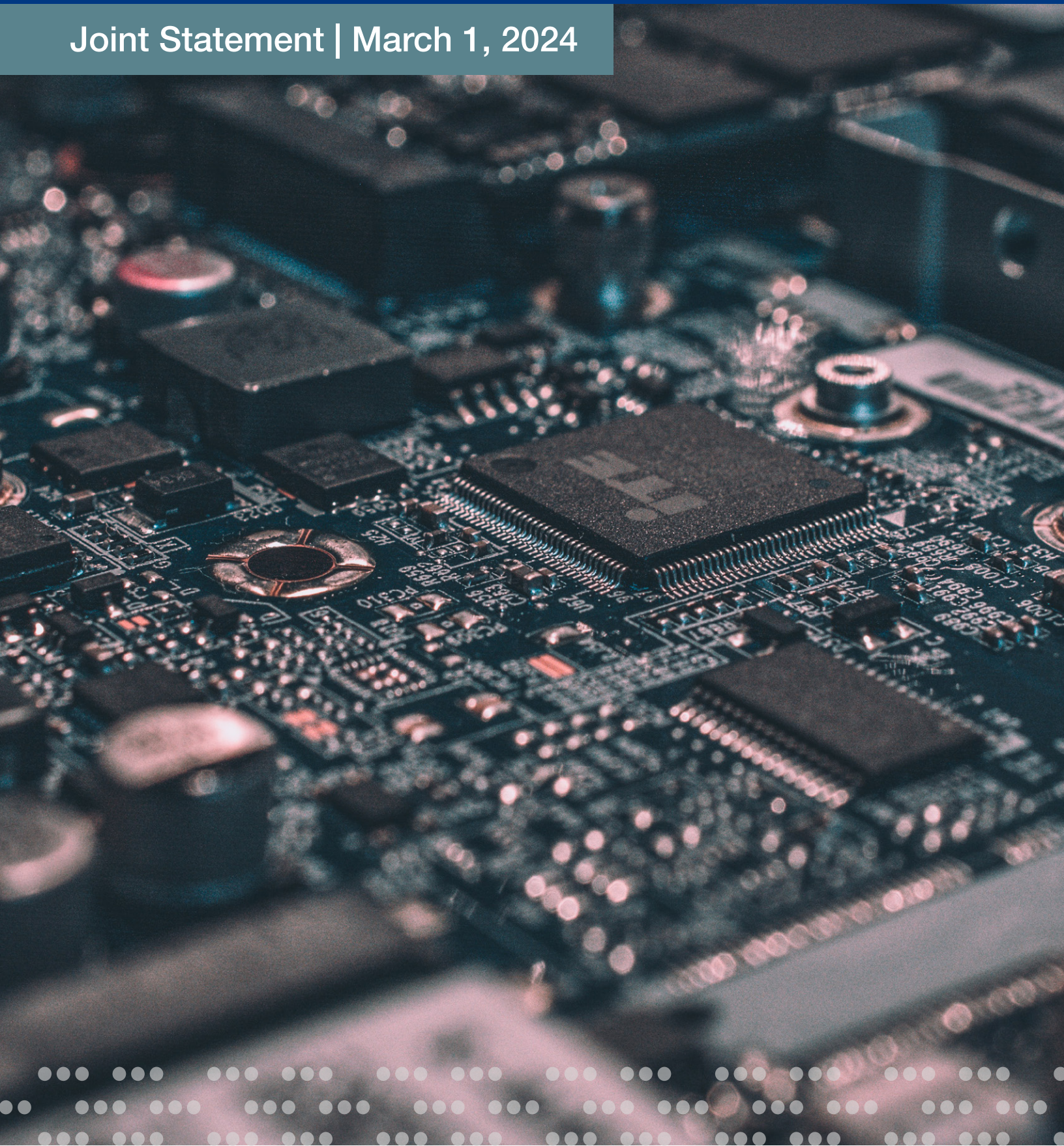


BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Joint Statement | March 1, 2024





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 2023-24 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 19, 2023 | the Grange Insurance Audubon Center [BAC Presentation and Agenda](#) | Career Z Challenge and Healthcare ISP Presentation

The meeting opened with a welcome from the new Director of College and Career Success, Robb Gonda. This was followed by a work-based learning overview from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce coordinator, Emma Waymire. She shared attributes of work-based learning that would interest both K-12 school systems and businesses. Additionally, she provided her contact information and shared the resources available to discuss WBL ecosystems. After her presentation, there were a few brief announcements from the ESC of Central Ohio, including a new podcast being produced that highlight both education and business partnerships in Central Ohio and the kickoff of the Career Z Challenge being sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The ESC of Central Ohio is one of the 100 semi-finalists selected to participate in the challenge and will use the BAC to help with communities of practice and fact-finding throughout the school year.

Windy Murphy, from the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio, shared their Career Quest program focused on in-demand jobs in the fields of healthcare, advanced manufacturing/biomedical, warehouse distribution, and technology. She shared the goal of the project is to connect job seekers to in-demand jobs, and the employers in attendance can get involved right away. The call to action was for those interested to provide contact information, and she or a member of the work board would be back in touch after the meeting.

Robb Gonda ended the meeting by introducing ESC College and Career team members, sharing impact data of BAC projects, discussing parent/community awareness resources available through the upcoming communities of practice opportunities, internship opportunities, new pre-apprenticeship programs, upcoming opportunities for BAC engagement, and a call to action.



December 14, 2023 | Community Impact Center BAC Presentation and Agenda

The meeting started with a representative from Lead the Way Learning Academy discussing their program and facilities, while also providing a warm welcome. The agenda then initiated with an overview of the current activities of COWRC (Central Ohio Workforce Readiness Collaborative), highlighting collaborative efforts to address workforce challenges and promote community engagement.

Wendy Williamson and Lena Mokbel presented the Nationwide Children's Hospital Summer Experience and Career Academy section. This segment illuminated the hospital's commitment to fostering experimental learning opportunities for students, thereby bridging the gap between education and real-world career experiences.

Jessica Weitham then took the stage to provide an update on the Central Ohio Per-Apprenticeship Hub, emphasizing recently collected data, dedication to developing skills through pre-apprenticeships, and how businesses can get involved in the project. Her presentation was followed by Dr. Jonathan McCombs, who presented insights into Cyber and IT learning pathways through Franklin University. Highlights included the university's focus on cybersecurity education and commitment to staying on the forefront of technological advancements, providing students with cutting-edge educational opportunities.

The meeting concluded with a spotlight on the High School Tech Internship 4.0 program, highlighting the ESC of Central Ohio being named one of six intermediaries selected throughout the state of Ohio. This program is led in collaboration with BridgED, which provided details to the audience on how to get involved as either a business or school partner. ESC of Central Ohio Business Lead John Hambrick closed the meeting and provided instructions for structured network time.



February 14, 2024 | Columbus State Community College

Harnessing Human Centric AI to transform Business and Education

The third business advisory council meeting kicked off with a welcome from Dr. Tom Goodney, Superintendent of ESC of Central Ohio. Robb Gonda, Director of College and Career Success, then introduced our featured speaker, Brian Gonzalez, the Executive Director of Global Initiative at Intel. Brian shared some insights in his presentation titled “The Future is Now: Harnessing Human-Centric AI to Transform Business and Education,” also highlighting details about Intel’s partnership with Khanmigo.

After Brian’s talk, Scot McLemore, the Executive in Residence at Columbus State Community College, discussed “Ohio’s Advanced Technologies Renaissance.” He shared some of the programming at Columbus State Community College and provided attendees with information on what K-12 districts and businesses in Central Ohio should consider when thinking about student programming.

The meeting’s final topic was the “Career 2 Classroom Educator Workforce Boot Camp,” led by Jama Cobb, Work-based Learning Coordinator at ESC of Central Ohio. Our panelists, including Erica Bachman from CGI, Kelly Fuller from Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Lisa Jones from SWCS, Hallie Sisko from Gahanna Jefferson, and Debbie Stith from SWCA, shared their experiences.

To conclude, our business liaison, John Hambrick, shared some program highlights, including the High School IT internship program, before guiding us into a networking session.



COMING UP
Next Meeting: April 2024

PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

In order to meet the wide needs of our BAC members, we have taken a regional approach to leverage and connect to the work that is happening across Central Ohio. We have done this by working in partnership with the Central Ohio Compact, Workforce Development Boards, Chambers of Commerce, the New Skills for Youth Initiative, the Central Ohio Pre-Apprenticeship Hub, non-profit organizations, and workforce development agencies. We have created regional programs and plans to expose students to in-demand careers, earn industry recognized credentials, scaled internship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities for students as well as supported regional mentoring programs to connect students directly to business and industry mentors.

The Business Advisory Council has done this work through focusing on three quality practices:

- Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers
- Build Partnerships
- Coordinate Experiences.

Business Advisory Council work for academic year 2023-2024 to Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers

- BridgED Pilot I Buckeye Valley Local School District, Delaware City School District, and Olentangy Local Schools participated in a pilot with BridgED to bridge the gap between K-12 education and the business community. Through the partnership, BridgED connected the districts with nearly a dozen Delaware County and Central Ohio businesses that have an interest in supporting education and a desire to fulfill workplace needs. The companies represent a diverse range of industries to ensure students, teachers and parents know what's available in the marketplace, and how to best prepare for future opportunities. For example, the program included teacher externships, work-based learning, parent communication, career days, classroom engagement, capstone programs and more. The BAC plans to expand this partnership to other districts based on data outcomes from the pilot.
- CTE Program Support/Alignment I BAC members supported CTE programs located in member district comprehensive high schools by serving on pathway-specific advisory councils, providing feedback on curriculum and valued recognized industry credentials and providing WBL experiences.
- Central Ohio Healthcare Sector Partnership Career Exploration Event I This first-time event was planned and organized by BAC members and the ESC of Central Ohio's College and Career Team. The event is focused on bringing together 1,000 freshmen to explore five in-demand healthcare jobs on March 7, 2024, at the Columbus Convention Center. All 33 member districts were invited to send students to this event.
- Regional Mentoring Opportunities I The BAC has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters to expand their Big Futures program into Delaware and Union Counties. The Big Futures program provides support and resources to high school-aged students as they work towards graduation. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio partners with community businesses and organizations to promote career and college readiness and mentoring for students and their families as they explore post-graduation opportunities.
- Regional Industry Credentialing Opportunities I The BAC has partnered with Goodwill Industries to provide industry credentialing training to Franklin and Delaware County school districts resulting in over 200 students earning customer service and IT recognized industry credentials.
- Careers 2 Classroom Teacher Bootcamp I The BAC is implementing its 2nd annual week-long teacher boot camp to be held the first week of June 2024. This Boot Camp will promote modern manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, and construction pathways in Central Ohio. During the Boot Camp, educators will have an opportunity to tour and learn from industry leaders throughout Franklin County. BAC business/industry partners will share what they do, what skills are needed, and how to prepare students to help fill workforce needs.

Business Advisory Council work for academic year 2023-2024 to Build Partnerships

- Central Ohio Compact I The BAC worked in partnership with the Central Ohio Compact to plan and facilitate conversations/events to connect K-12, business and industry, and higher education.
- New Skills for Youth I The BAC worked in partnership with the JP Morgan Chase New Skills for Youth initiative by providing support for career awareness and WBL experiences.
- Pre-apprenticeship Hub I In partnership with the Central Ohio Pre-apprenticeship Hub, pre-apprenticeship programs were expanded to six additional school districts and 10 additional industry partners.

- Non-profit Partnerships to Provide Mentoring and Credential Training | Partnerships with Goodwill, Smart Mobility, and Big Brothers Big Sisters were developed to provide industry credentialing training, mentoring, and STEM education.
- Central Ohio Workforce Readiness Collaborative Communities of Practice / Activities- Throughout the year COWRC provided opportunities for both K-12 and Business partners to come together through communities of practice around focused topics on the expansion of Work-Based Learning. In addition to these CoP's previously created and new resources were put together into a new workforce readiness website to better connect opportunities throughout the Central Ohio Region.

Business Advisory Council plans for year 2023-2024 to Coordinate Experiences

- Development of Pre-apprenticeship Programs | Six additional districts have developed ApprenticeOhio recognized pre-apprenticeship programs. The BAC has also had 10 additional business/industry partners participating in pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Regional Internship Supports | The BAC promoted and participated in the tech internship program through the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation.



CENTRAL
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ACTIVITY SUMMARIES

- Held 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 and Workforce's SuccessBound.
- Supported district councils by attending their meetings for information sharing and providing needed information and resources. (Many districts participate in the ESC BAC and also have local smaller employer advisory councils.)
- Facilitated conversations between districts and business partners for WBL program development.
- Held 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.
 - Ongoing professional development and support in creating and facilitating effective career-based intervention programs.
 - Partnered with ODEW to promote their Career Pathway Workshops and Highlight Work-Based Learning support through the department with BAC members.
 - Virtual regional College Credit Plus (CCP) informational events were coordinated, providing parents and students CCP information. Higher education partners 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 and business/industry partners coordinating pathway development including needed employment skills and curriculum, access to grant opportunities, and facilities
 - The BAC supports the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's Career Connections Career Readiness Leaders Meet up by providing local education, business, and community support. Additionally, the ESC of Central Ohio hosted both statewide gatherings during the 2023-2024 school year on November 14th and March 19th.



ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

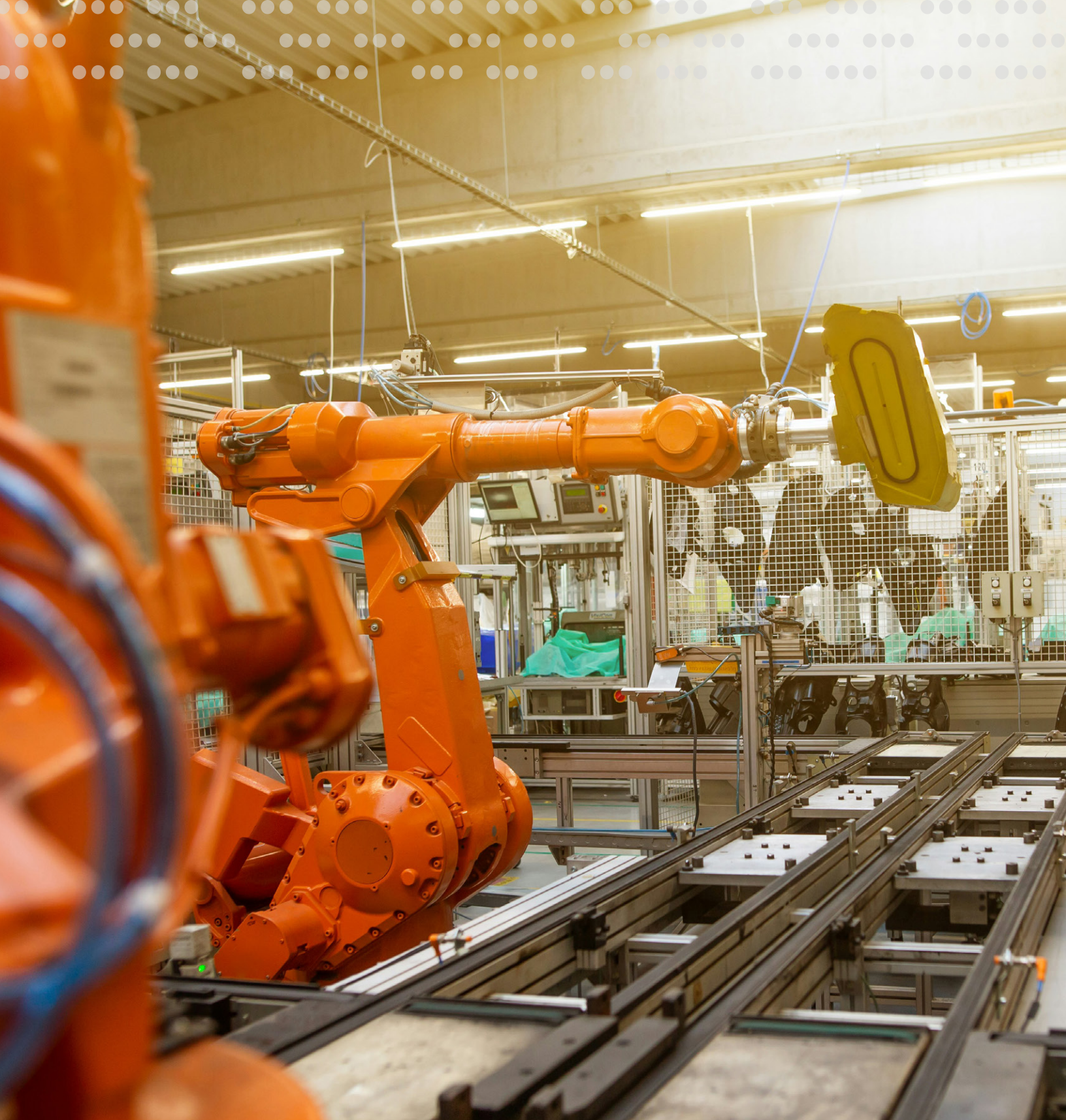
Throughout the Central Ohio region, there continues to be a “skills gap” due to a mismatch between job seeker skills and employer needs. To fill this gap, the region must continue to focus on promoting collaboration between education and business and industry, establishing regional workforce and career exploration and counseling collaborations, expanding 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, in planning for their future careers, and in taking stock of what skills and resources they need for those careers. They would like to see the parent awareness work continue as part of this effort.

BAC council members 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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