

Business Advisory Council Joint Statement

JOINT STATEMENTS MUST BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE BY MARCH 1, 2024

Each business advisory council and its school board shall file a joint statement, not later than the first day of March of each school year, describing how the school district or service center and its business advisory council has fulfilled their responsibilities pursuant to this section and section [3313.82](#) of the Revised Code.

NAME OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL: MERCER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

PRIMARY CONTACT: SHELLY VAUGHN, SUPERINTENDENT

SECONDARY CONTACT: SANDI HOLDHEIDE, CAREER NAVIGATOR

1. Are there any changes to your Business Advisory Councils' structure or leadership since you submitted your plan for this academic year?

Yes. Due to a restructure and reassessment being done within the Auglaize-Mercer Business Education (AMBE) Alliance, their organization has shifted to more of a supportive versus leadership role. The Mercer County ESC, Mercer County Economic Development Office and Wright State University-Lake Campus provide key leadership and coordination.

2. Of goals submitting in your 2024 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being goal accomplished. What goals were you able to accomplish?

Developing Professional Skills for Future Careers

Initiative 1 Create awareness of the Business Advisory Council and its resources and events by expanding existing business ↔ student connections.

(9/10) **Planning an In-Demand Career Learning Lab for this Spring, which will be a smaller, targeted, and hands-on event. **Hosted more than 635 middle school students from 6 schools over 3 days for Manufacturing Month in October 2023, and will be hosting a 7th school in April 2024. **Participated in Fall Tri Star Career Fair and currently promoting the Spring event. **Actively adding partners and building relationships to benefit student needs as requested (such as new job shadow sites). **Establishing stronger social media presence via LinkedIn and Mercer County ESC Facebook to increase awareness.

Initiative 2 Address the Need for Essential Skills Development for Career Readiness

(8/10) **An active subcommittee is creating consistent language, exploring curriculum options and working to implement the Ohio Means Jobs Career Readiness Seal into classrooms.

**Updates to Hometown Opportunity are ongoing.

Build Partnerships

Initiative 1 Develop a communication vehicle and systematic network for businesses and Schools

(7/10) ** The Mercer County ESC BAC's website was completely overhauled with new features and updated information. **Newsletter is in final stages of development. **A SOCHE intern is in the process of being explored and finalized. **Hometown Opportunity continues to be used and expanded. **Marketing committee is still working to identify student ambassadors and consistent funding options for promotional materials.

Initiative 2 Work collaboratively to provide high quality job shadow experiences in our region

(8/10) **Hometown Opportunity Job Shadow indicator has been promoted extensively. **A Job Shadow Tool Kit, a compilation of best practices, templates and forms for job shadows from both schools and businesses, is in the final stages of development. **Follow-up strategies for students are also being developed as part of this tool kit.

Coordinate Experiences

Initiative 1 Implement Pre-Apprenticeship Opportunities for high school seniors.

(7/10) **A pilot cohort for the "Introduction to Advanced Manufacturing" Pre-Apprenticeship is in progress. **Work-based learning is the focus of the Spring BAC Quarterly Meeting and will feature an overview, funding options and a student success story as an in-depth information session. This topic is in direct response to a request by participating BAC schools and businesses.

Initiative 2 Raise awareness of industry-recognized credentials, graduation seals, and how graduation requirements can be recognized and valued in the workplace.

(8/10) **In coordination with the committee charged with evaluating essential skills development, industry-recognized credentials are being explored and promoted throughout our districts. **Options to help students unable to attend CTE, for various reasons, are being explored as alternative options for industry-recognized credentials.

- a. What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?
**Funding sources for marketing materials, assessment tools (YouScience and Find Your Grind), and transportation. **Changes in leadership impacted financial resources via AMBE.
**Hometown Opportunity web administrators are slow to implement large changes.
3. What new partnerships have your Business Advisory Council formed for the SY24?
**Relationships are being built within the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, whose staff are now attending and presenting at our BAC Meetings, as well as SOCHE, who has aided a local company with pre-apprenticeship wage funding. Additional business partnerships include the Mercer County Sheriff's Office, S&K Products, VTF, Koesters Law, Moeller Real Estate, Mercer County Commissioners, Performance Physical Therapy and Wellness, VentureLINX, Stammen Insurance, Everheart Home Hospice, Above & Beyond Daycare, Wabash Telephone and JW Production, among others.
4. Have you added or removed any goals submitted in your SY24 Business Advisory Council Plans? If so, please provide details.
No. However, the review of STEM Ecosystem grant proposals has been delayed, so that related objective may change depending on the adjusted timeline.

5. Have you received any media coverage or participated in any case studies as a Business Advisory Council? If so, please share.

Yes: **October Manufacturing Month Tours: Featured in local newspaper *The Daily Standard*, on local radio (WCSM) and social media (LinkedIn Impressions of 3 posts, 1 for each tour day: 2120, 2214, and 2662, respectively). **Additional LinkedIn Impressions: November BAC Meeting (664); District Career Day (558). **Included in "Spectrum," WCSM's local daily news program, featuring guest Jared Ebbing, Mercer County Community/Economic Development Director, in December 2023.