



NwOESC Business Advisory Council Annual Report March 1, 2021 Joint Statement

The following District Boards of Education and the Northwest Ohio ESC agree that the NwOESC's Business Advisory Council shall represent the business of the school districts consistent with the authority granted by the Ohio General Assembly. This agreement is in effect until the Board(s) or ESC terminates the same by formal resolution.

DISTRICT	COUNTY
Archbold-Area Local	Fulton
Ayersville Local	Defiance
Bryan City	Williams
Central Local	Defiance
Defiance City	Defiance
Edgerton Local	Williams
Edon Northwest Local	Williams
Evergreen Local	Fulton
Fayette Local	Fulton
Hicksville Exempted Village	Defiance
Holgate Local	Henry
Liberty Center Local	Henry
Millcreek-West Unity Local	Williams
Montpelier Exempted Village	Williams
Napoleon Area City	Henry
North Central Local	Williams
Northeastern Local	Defiance
Patrick Henry Local	Henry
Pettisville Local	Fulton
Pike-Delta-York Local	Fulton
Stryker Local	Williams
Swanton Local	Fulton
Wauseon Exempted Village	Fulton

Membership:

- District Superintendents
- Four County Career Center
- Northwest State Community College
- Economic Development Directors from Defiance, Henry, Fulton, and Williams Counties
- STEAM Coalition Members
- NwOESC Administration
- NwOESC Business-Education Liaison

BAC Mission and Vision:

- NwOESC BAC Vision: A well-prepared workforce that contributes to the economic growth and development and improved quality of life throughout the Northwest Ohio region.
- NwOESC BAC Mission: The mission of the Northwest Ohio BAC is to bring together on a regional level the leaders in business, education and government to advise, support and enhance the awareness, instruction and experiences students are provided in striving to gain relevant, in-demand job skills as part of their preparation for future career success.

BAC Meetings

The BAC shall meet Quarterly at the NwOESC. These meetings shall occur prior to the NwOESC Superintendents meetings in September, December, March, and June.

2020 Meetings:

- March 10, 2020 NwOESC BAC
- June 2, 2020 NwOESC BAC (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
- September 8, 2020 NwOESC BAC
- December 8, 2020 NwOESC BAC

1. The council’s plan and implementation progress:

- a. PRIORITY #1 - Fostering collaboration beyond the Council, among business, labor and education personnel. OCCURRING AND ONGOING
- b. PRIORITY #2 - Publicizing and communicating local economy and job information, including activities designed to inform students, educators and the community about changes to the local economy and which jobs will be most in demand. OCCURRING AND ONGOING

2. Brief summaries of specific activities the council conducted:

- a. Fostering collaboration, beyond the Council, among business, labor and education personnel.
 - i. Business and Education Spotlights at each meeting – Business spotlights provide opportunity for area businesses and to share information related to operations, challenges, and successes as partnerships are strengthened with education. Education spotlights provide opportunity for education entities to share practices and initiatives designed to bring awareness, experiences, and instruction to students as they prepare for future career success

1. Matt Gilroy - Amazing Shake; Fulton County implementation
 2. Larry Freshour – NwOESC/Stryker Local Schools – Career and Employability district initiative
 3. Doug Lange – North Star Steel
 4. Jim Drewes and C.J. Pierce – Northwest State Community College – Project Alura
 5. Cara Leininger – OhioMeansJobs|Fulton County Coordinator
- b. Economic Development Director updates at each meeting – an opportunity for each county director to provide information and updates to connect business and education stakeholders. A key focus is on communicating local economy and job information.
 - i. Matt Gilroy/Kelly Carey
 - ii. Jerry Hayes/Carla Hinkle
 - iii. Megan Hausch
 - iv. April Welch/Jennifer Arps
 - c. NwOESC BAC Liaison – Investment in personnel to support regional endeavors and further education/business linkages.
 - i. Mike Remer serves part-time in this capacity
 - d. An email distribution list makes it convenient for BAC members to pass along information about events and offerings that would be beneficial for the group.
 - e. Manufacturing Boot Camp – The planning team made the determination to cancel the event originally slated for June 8-11, 2020 due to COVID-19. A decision to reschedule for the summer of 2022 will be made by December 31, 2021. The event would provide an opportunity for teachers to learn in-depth about area businesses and subsequently implement what they have learned into their curriculum and instructional practices. This idea was sparked by Governor’s Liaison, Lu Cooke, and would be implemented primarily through the work of the ESC (Mike Remer) and interested Economic Development Directors in our area. As the future of the event is determined and planning evolves, the NwOESC BAC will provide input and guidance as needed to ensure this initiative is a success.

3. The nature of the council’s advice and recommendations, if any, on needed employment skills and curriculum development to instill those skills:

- a. Continue to focus on the development of basic employment skills/soft skills – reliable attendance, coworker interactions, problem solving, organization, conflict resolution, etc.
- b. Build upon efforts that promote work ethic and civic pride.
- c. Drug free – prevention efforts remain critical.
- d. Providing youth with opportunities to expand upon strengths and interests through avenues such as robotics clubs, eSports, STEAM learning labs, are vital as student grow and develop. COVID-19 has created obstacles to some of these types of activities.
- e. Increase credentialing and apprenticeship opportunities for students.

4. The nature of the council’s advice and recommendations, if any, on economic and job market changes and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available:

- a. Manufacturing continues to be a huge industry sector in NW Ohio. Parents and students need information on how this sector has evolved over time, with many employment opportunities for skilled and high paying positions. Parents need to see and experience the vocational school and business/industry settings to better understand what they offer. There is a continual struggle to bridge the gap between career, college, and workplace.
- b. Large Retail and the Construction industry weathered COVID fairly well.
- c. Utilize available data on in demand jobs/labor pool needs in critical conversations with employers, students, families and other stakeholders.
- d. Continue to build upon and further develop STEAM activities and initiatives across the four county area at all levels P-16.

5. The nature of the council's advice and suggestions, if any, for developing working relationships among businesses, labor organizations and educational personnel:

- a. Explore funding to prioritize and strengthen the connections between education and business & industry. Ideally, there would be resources to support one person/position per county to work to ensure students are aware of and connected to regional opportunities and businesses and education are better aligned to meet area work force demands.
- b. Housing study and impact on the labor pool in the area – continue to share information.
- c. Continue to use the NwOESC BAC meetings as an opportunity to share successful strategies, network and learn from one another, and build understanding and respect for the challenges faced by education and business/industry in Northwest Ohio.

Kerri Weir
NwOESC Superintendent and BAC Co-Chair

Mike Remer

NewOESC Co-Chair