



Mercer County ESC
Business Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting #1
September 14, 2023

*Serving Celina, Coldwater, Fort Recovery, Marion Local, Parkway,
St. Henry and Versailles Schools, and Business Partners throughout the Region*

The group was called to order and introductions were made. A few minutes were given to share commitment updates and why attendees chose to come to the meeting.

Informational Insights

Google sheets summarizing the August 3 Kick-Off were shared as well as how the session notes were used in SWOT analysis. It was also explained how the suggestions offered will help inform the plan, bylaws and future meeting structures.

- [August 3, 2023 Kick-Off Data Summary](#)
- [Class of 2023 ESC High School Graduation Data](#) (also used to inform our plan development) and Regional In-Demand Jobs Update

Attendees were asked to consider submitting the state-wide In-Demand Jobs Survey:

<https://topjobs.ohio.gov/survey/in-demand-jobs-survey#/>

Work Session: Finalizing our 2023-24 BAC Plan (Due September 30, 2023)

Attendees were asked to review the top strategies and action plans for each strategy, using their table worksheets to indicate which action items were most appealing, possible and cost-effective. Discussions on each quality practice took place.

Worksheet 1: Initiatives/Action Steps to “Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers”

- Discussion of event and tour ideas took place, then turned to hand-out describing “soft skills”
 - [Skill Development Hand-Out: What do “soft skills” look like for you?](#)
No consensus was reached in the language best to define these skills. Suggestions included: Connecting Skills, Essential Life Skills, Life Skills, Human Skills, Life Readiness Skills. It was agreed that intentional instruction and time needs to be dedicated to this.

Worksheet 2: Initiatives/Action Steps to “Build Partnerships”

- Discussion regarding BAC awareness and job shadow best practices took place. The conversation included barrier identification, such as transportation.
- **New* Mercer County SOAR with STEM Ecosystem*
 - Missy McClurg, ESC Personalized Learning Specialist, introduced this grant opportunity

Worksheet 3: Initiatives/Action Steps to “Coordinate Experiences”

- Discussion about Pre-Apprenticeship awareness and grant opportunities took place.
 - Tammy Eilerman provided information about this program for the group to consider at their tables
 - Tables made notes of other areas where pre-apprenticeships might be explored such as health care, IT, and Ag.

- Discussion about [Industry-Recognized Credentials](#), Seals and Graduation Requirements, presented by Tony Stahl, Superintendent, Fort Recovery Local Schools and Brian Stetler, Assistant Director, Tri Star Career Compact
 - Notable ideas included tying this topic back to the discussion of “Soft Skills” as a “Leadership Skills” IRC was discussed by the group. It was suggested that the BAC review how to make 3-point credentials more meaningful and perhaps worth more point values in the future.

Moving Forward: By-Law Approval, Next Steps and Concluding Thoughts

- By-laws were explained, including the informal yet structured approach. Draft approved by Wendy Gabes.
- Save the Date for Quarterly Meeting #2: Thursday, November 30, 7:30-9:30 am
- For future meeting agendas, minutes, and updates, please go to:
<https://www.mercercountyesc.org/BusinessAdvisoryCouncil.aspx>