



**Mercer County ESC**  
**Business Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting #2**  
**November 30, 2023**

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

**7:30 am**     ***Welcome!***

Sandi Holdheide, Mercer County ESC Career Navigator and Planning Group;  
Jared Ebbing, Mercer County Community & Economic Development Director;  
Tammy Eilerman, Lake Campus BEC & Workforce Development Director;  
Shelly Vaughn, Mercer County ESC Superintendent

*Table Introductions: Update your “why” - what do you hope to get from today?*

**7:40 am**     ***Informational Insights***

*Essential Skill Updates: Where our students are, where our businesses are, and how we can bridge this gap together!*

Shelly Vaughn and Essential Skills Development/Curriculum/Credentials Working Group  
See Google slides for illustrated research regarding where students are in this skill development. Discussion included questions about Pre-Apprenticeships and defining “Earn and Learn” options, which will be the focus of the March 2024 meeting. Discussion following the presentation included highlights of how and where we can implement these above practices into the schools and businesses.

**8:00 am**     ***Working Group Highlights*** (approximately 20-30 minutes per group)

*BAC Events/Tours/Awareness and BAC/HTO Marketing Groups: Jared and Sandi*

- October 2023 Middle School Tours Recap
  - Student survey responses were shared, including: “Thank you, so much for the tour! Our tour guide was the best and made things so interesting. It gave me the interest of doing it [this job] when I am older”
  - “I loved how you guys could do so much in such a small town. You made an impact on how I think about the world”
  - “Because I realized how much pride and care that Mercer County takes in the work in the manufacturing field.”
  - “I really liked how we learned from the experiences and can share it later on, maybe even work there.” “They did a good job getting me interested in their work and creations.” “Today's tours changed my view about careers in our area when I learned how important they are and what they do” My favorite though, really shows how important - I found the metal painting and powder spraying interesting. I did not know it was done that way. Also, my dad works there and I genuinely did not know until I saw him....
  - “I would have loved to learn more about the offices within these buildings and what kind of jobs are found in there.”

- It was noted how we will tie Tri Star tours to Middle School tours in the future.
- Proposed Event Framework and School Event Inventory
 

The discussion circled back to the Pre-Apprenticeship questions during the prior presentation. Discussed how BAC events are intended to complement what's being done in the classrooms. We are open to feedback and the schools are compiling an inventory of events to make sure we don't duplicate but enhance. While compiling, it was noted that many schools did not have events specific for juniors, and that Ohio already hosts an In-Demand Jobs week.
- Spring 2023 (Late April or Early May): *Proposed* In-Demand Jobs Event for Juniors
  - Time was allowed to discuss this option as a way to address the missing junior event mentioned above, with overwhelming approval. It was asked to clarify the intent of the event, to ensure it meets student and business goals. The importance of pre-educating students to understand the expectations was highlighted. Getting a group together to start to plan specifics and logistics is the next step.

*Job Shadow Experiences: Sandi*

- Toolkit Development Update
  - The group agreed that PDF files (possibly fillable) available on the BAC website is the best option. Discussing a parent's role in all of these activities was also a part of this conversation. It was agreed that most companies prefer that students call to make the arrangements for these experiences.

*Pre-Apprenticeships and Work-Based Learning Implementation: Tammy*

- Funding Assistance: Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) (*Sandi*)
  - A brochure about how SOCHE can connect with funding sources was provided to those interested in these options.
- “Earn and Learn” Preview for March 2024 Meeting: What do you need to know?
  - It was agreed that this should be the main topic for the next meeting.
- WSU-Lake Campus is applying for a grant to continue the Teacher Bootcamps for the Summer of 2024. More information to come.

**9:00 am Working Group Discussion Time**

*Please join with a group to share your feedback to help with their work.*

**9:20 am Moving Forward: Next Steps and Concluding Thoughts**

Share out a Best Practice or Pain Point for Discussion (Today or for A Future Meeting)  
Jared Ebbing, Tammy Eilerman, Sandi Holdheide, Shelly Vaughn

No specific additional item was discussed

- Save the Date for Quarterly Meeting #3:  
Our March 2024 Date Will Be Announced in Early January (note that we will not schedule near March 7, the Lake Campus Regional Summit date)

- The group was surveyed and chose lunch as an alternate meeting time for the March 2024 meeting.
- Planned Topic: Pre-Apprenticeships, Internships, Work-Based Learning 101: What are all these options and how can students “Earn and Learn” ?