

**Joint Statement Between the ESC Governing Board and the Lorain County
Business Advisory Council
March 2020**

The Lorain County Business Advisory Council has met three times to date and has a future meeting scheduled for March 24 to conclude the 2019-20 school year. The council met on September 24, 2019, November 26, 2019, and January 28, 2020. In attendance were the superintendent or designee of the following school districts: Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Columbia, Clearview, Elyria, Firelands, Keystone, Lorain County JVS, Midview, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Sheffield, Wellington. Also in attendance were representatives from Lorain County Community College, Lorain County Chamber of Commerce, Lorain County Workforce Development Board-OhioMeansJobs, and a business representative from the majority of our school districts. The meetings were facilitated by the ESC of Lorain County.

The meeting on September 24th covered the details of the Aligning Opportunities Executive Summary from Team Northeast Ohio. The group had in depth discussions regarding the need to create a pipeline to manufacturing, healthcare, and IT. The business community stated it is very important for schools for our schools to teach the skills necessary to be successful in the workforce, specifically the soft skills.

The BAC discussed 16 ideas the schools could implement easily in their schools to bring awareness to careers and job opportunities. The districts were encouraged to try one new activity for the 2019-20 school year. The activities are as follows:

1. Flex Factor (Sprints and 5 week Program)
2. Participation in In-Demand Jobs Week
3. October Manufacturing Month and Day
4. Global Entrepreneur Week (Nov 11)
5. Career Fairs
6. Career Speakers During Lunch
7. Common PD Day for Teachers
8. Staff Meetings for Teachers to Learn
9. JA Soft Skills Engagement
10. Naviance Tools

11. My Plan
12. SDEV 102 with Career Exploration
13. LC Metro Parks Activities and Career Exposure
14. Teacher Tours for Teachers
15. Student Groups to Determine Interests
16. LCCC Career Exploration Programming

The council had several members of the manufacturing sector visit the November BAC meeting to share the opportunities and challenges in their sector. The President of Thogus products, Larry Sansom, shared the work they do at his company and cleared up many misconceptions. There are good paying jobs, many openings, and opportunities to advance. He spoke about the manufacturing sector not just being a place where people work on an assembly line as they have jobs in IT, HR, and sales. This led the Firelands School district to take their school leaders and teachers to several manufacturing sites including Riddel and RW Beckett to learn more about their companies and the opportunities they provide. The positive feedback from that experience led the BAC to take tours of four manufacturing sites in January. Members visited AJ Rose, Thogus, Ridge Tool, and Bettcher Industries. The connections made on the tours have led to the ESCLC and the sector partnership to partner.

The BAC is aware that Lorain County and Northeast Ohio have in Demand jobs in manufacturing, healthcare, and IT based on information gathered from Ohio Means Jobs and Team NEO. We encourage businesses to connect with our schools to provide opportunities for shadowing, internships, and job opportunities. In turn the school community recognizes that we must provide students awareness of the careers available to them and teach them the skills to be successful. This can be done by contacting your local school district administrators and to express your interest in volunteering or making a partnership. All of our Lorain County school districts are eager to engage our local businesses and professionals.

Two examples of activities that our county will participate in are “In Demand Jobs Week” as well as “Manufacturing Month”. During these activities districts engaged in various activities that included guest speakers, panel discussions, and classroom activities led by those from the field.

The council plans to bring together a steering committee as was done in 2019 to plan the initiatives for the upcoming year.

Below is a sample of activities from our Lorain County Districts.

North Ridgeville is planning a job/career fair at NRHS as well as scheduling field trips for students to multiple sites.

Firelands Local had a professional day for over 20 staff members to visit four manufacturing sites. The staff also held a career fair with over 20 employers in attendance.

Keystone Local had two middle school science teachers go to Space Bound Inc. create a relationship with the middle school to give students feedback on their learning. The vision is for KMS students to Space Bound to learn about opportunities and work there. Space Bound female engineers and other employees will assist the KMS team with the KMS STEM day. School counselors at KHS organized a local manufacturing panel where employees from those manufacturers shared about the job opportunities in their companies. The KHS counselors selected students to attend and help guide them with probing questions that led to great conversations. Those same students then talked with the applicants with the intention of applying for summer jobs that can lead to bigger things.

Midview Local completed the following items this year:

1. Continued participation with BAC
2. Created a partnership with AJ Rose and Thogus to help with pathway development and possible internships
3. Created career exploration courses through Naviance at the HS and MS
4. Partnering with JVS and LCCC to build out CTE pathway at HS for computers, business, Bio-med, engineering, and STEM.
5. Career day at the HS

Amherst changed their practice to take all tenth graders to the JVS rather than just those who express an interest. The high school principal and school counselor also participated in the manufacturing tour and because of that experience plans to take the entire staff on a tour next school year. Finally their personal finance instructor has added career awareness activities in the course. This is a required course for graduation.

The Lorain County JVS had the following activities:

Building Trades Expo in collaboration with the BIA. Trade and vendor shows with training available to all students in attendance.

CT Signing Day for those students signing an employment agreement with a company for a new position.

Excel Camp - The LCJVS ExCEL (Exploring Careers through Education and Learning) Career Camp is a career exploration program for students in grades 8-10.

Summer Engineering Camp taught by LCJVS PLTW Instructor at LCCC

St. Joseph Academy PD Day – JVS lab Instructors went to St Joseph school to teach students and staff on different content topics

Columbia Local completed the following activities:

1. Students can take a college visit, they can set up a shadowing experience or complete community service hours.
2. All sophomores are required to shadow an occupation that they would like for a school day. All core subject teachers grade them based on several factors.
3. There is a partnership with Southwest where our students can shadow employees at the hospital and they come to our school to talk to our students.

Elyria City completed the following activities:

Implementation of a job shadowing program for grades 10-12. Students are able to use a school day to go and shadow someone in a career of interest.

There is a current project where students interested in architecture, interior design, and culinary are helping to redesign the Rathskeller and WiFi Café. The students will be working with architects and interior designers from AVG on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Students have applied for the FBI Future Agents in Training program. The district will learn in April if they've been accepted.

Field Trips to Ridge Tool and LCCC's FabLab occurred this year.

Participation in the FlexFactor project with LCCC and Ridgid. Below is a link to a short video:

<https://www.lorainccc.edu/college-credit-for-highschool/flexfactor-fhes-manufacturing/>

Held a college and career fair which will include a handful of new companies participating this year which allows students to learn about different career paths.