

# Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Clinton County Business Advisory Council 2024 Joint Statement



## 2024 Business Advisory Council

*The Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council is proud to be recognized as a **2024 3-Star Business Advisory Council** by the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce through the 2024 Business-Education Leader Awards for Excellent Business Advisory Councils.*

*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.

### **Business Advisory Council:**

- Southern Ohio Educational Service Center/Clinton County Business Advisory Council

### **Primary Contact:**

- Curt Bradshaw, Assistant Superintendent, Southern Ohio Educational Service Center

### **Secondary Contact:**

- Ruth Brindle, Clinton County BAC Chair, Workforce & Data Specialist, Clinton County Port Authority

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

There have not been any changes to our Clinton County Business Advisory Council's structure since our plan was originally submitted for this academic year. However, since the submission of our BAC plan, the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center has hired a Clinton County Workforce Development Director in February 2024 who will be coordinating with the leadership of the Business Advisory Council and Clinton County Workforce Collaborative Steering Committee to support, facilitate, and lead continued workforce development efforts outlined in our Business Advisory Council plan and workforce development strategic plan. This addition of a Workforce Development Director in Clinton County increases the capacity for the Workforce Collaborative, as a whole, enabling the Steering Committee, Working Group team leads, and Working Group

members to continue their involvement with the Workforce Collaborative in a more efficient and effective manner.

**2. Of goals submitted 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? What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?**

The Clinton County Business Advisory Council of the Southern Ohio Educational Service and the Clinton County Workforce Collaborative – *an initiative of the Clinton County Port Authority, OhioMeansJobs-Clinton County, Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, and the Wilmington-Clinton County Chamber of Commerce* – tackles critical and multi-faceted workforce needs by bringing together business, education, non-profit, government, and economic and community development leaders to create solutions that work for Clinton County. Through conversation with local business, education, and service agency leadership, the Workforce Collaborative has identified three overarching areas of focus and established correlating Working Groups, each with specific projects and goals - **Barriers to Work, Education & Training, and School & Community Connections.**

The **Barriers to Work Working Group** brings employers and service providers together to explore cooperative solutions to the challenges of workforce mobility, childcare, housing, and broadband accessibility. The Barriers to Work Working Group began the 2023-2024 school year with one ongoing initiative on its agenda: *Access to Childcare*. The initiative has two components; the first being a Childcare Awareness Campaign to connect those in need of childcare with current licensed childcare providers in Clinton County. The campaign was concluded in December 2023, and the Working Group is currently working with “4C for Children” to gather “open seat” information in an effort to determine what impact the awareness campaign had on the providers. The second part of the initiative is the exploration of a partnership to provide before- and after-school care utilizing the labor of students enrolled in post-secondary early childhood education programs in the county. Following initial exploratory conversations in the Fall between Clinton County Community Action, Wilmington College, and Southern State Community College, the proposed model has evolved into a tentative partnership between Wilmington City Schools and Wilmington College. The details of this partnership are still being negotiated, with the goal of using the model as a blueprint for exploratory conversations with other school districts in the county. *(The initial campaign is complete - 10, and the tentative partnership for a childcare model utilizing the labor of students enrolled in post-secondary early childhood education programs is ongoing into Spring 2024 - 7 ongoing.)*

In January 2024, the Barriers to Work Working Group was approached by Clinton County Job & Family Services for assistance with raising community awareness of their Prevention, Retention, and Contingency program to provide work supports for those in the workforce in need of temporary work-related assistance. The Working Group has developed a plan for outreach to employers, service providers, and the public via direct emails, direct mail, targeted digital marketing, tabling at events, press releases, and posters, which will begin in Spring 2024 and continue through Winter 2024. *(This community awareness campaign is underway and is ongoing into Spring 2024 - 6 ongoing.)*

The **Education and Training Working Group** identifies skill needs among the existing workforce and students and assists individuals and employers in finding appropriate training and credentialing to meet those needs. During the 2023-2024 school year, the Education and Training

Group has most recently been meeting with school counselors to identify which career assessments and aptitude/interest assessments (i.e., the GRIT Assessment, YouScience, LinkedUp, and OhioMeansJobs) are currently being utilized in each school. This team is partnering with school counselors in each of the schools in Clinton County to offer assistance with specific school needs, which have currently included information for types of assessments available, internship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities, credentialing, and career pathways. Next steps for the Education & Training working group this school year is to meet with employers to identify their specific and individual needs for hiring and types of skills/credentials required. This team will be working to bring the conversations together between the schools and the identified employers to ensure the schools are better equipped to prepare students for career pathways and the future workforce in our local communities. *(Meetings and resource sharing with the schools have been accomplished [and continue to be ongoing] - 10 and meetings with the employers are ongoing into Spring 2024 - 5 ongoing.)*

The **School and Community Connections Working Group** connects employers and schools to bridge workforce development gaps by attracting and retaining students for the current and future workforce. This Working Group fosters meaningful partnerships between schools, businesses, and the local community. One of our notable accomplishments during the 2023-2024 school year is the ongoing development of our comprehensive “School & Community Connections Resource Guide,” effectively bridging the gap between 8 educational districts, technical schools, and higher education institutions and 39 businesses. This guide serves as a valuable tool, facilitating connections and collaborations between these schools and local enterprises to identify and expand workforce development opportunities for youth and adults in our community. The Working Group is currently expanding the guide to include community service providers and surveying all Clinton County Workforce Collaborative members to increase participation and the breadth of information provided. *(Updates to the resource guide have been accomplished - 10 - and expansion of the resource guide is ongoing into Spring 2024 - 6 ongoing.)*

Additionally, the Working Group has continued to organize impactful Student Immersion Tours. By facilitating direct interactions with local businesses, students gain invaluable insights into various industries, sparking interest and fostering career exploration. In the 2023-2024 school year, middle school and high school students from 5 schools have participated (or are scheduled to participate) in tours with 10 different businesses, more than triple the number of participating businesses from the 2022-2023 school year. We will have total student numbers participating in the Student Immersion Tours by late May 2024 at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. *(Several Student Immersion Tours have been accomplished this year and some are ongoing into Spring 2024, to be completed prior to the end of the 2023-2024 school year - 10.)*

The second annual “Career Exploration Fair,” held on October 11, 2023, facilitated an opportunity for 600+ participating students (representing every school district in the county in addition to nontraditional GED students) to gain hands-on experience and insight into various high-demand industries, all conveniently located in Clinton County. 38 employer exhibitors engaged with the future workforce by presenting interactive displays where professionals and experts from their field shared their experiences and knowledge and provided valuable guidance about potential careers. Planning is already underway for the 2024 Career Exploration Fair, scheduled for October 9, 2024. *(The Fall 2023 Career Exploration Fair has been accomplished - 10. Planning is underway and ongoing for the Fall 2024 Career Exploration Fair.)*

Furthermore, the “Job and Community Resource Fair,” also orchestrated by this Working Group, has proven to be another pivotal community event. This fair links the current workforce with local job openings and valuable community resources that can be instrumental in job retention, such as childcare, housing, and transportation. This event is held in the spring in conjunction with Ohio’s In-Demand Jobs Week. The inaugural event was held on May 3, 2023, with over 40 participating local businesses promoting over 500 open positions and 19 local community service providers, and a successful turn-out of an estimated 225 community job seekers. The 2024 fair will be held on May 8th, and registration will open for both businesses and resource providers on March 8, 2024. *(Planning is underway for the Spring 2024 Job and Community Resource Fair and will be completed prior to the end of the 2023-2024 school year - 7 ongoing.)*

*Current Challenge/Opportunity of the BAC: With the recent hiring of a Clinton County Workforce Development Director, the Steering Committee of the Clinton County Workforce Collaborative and Business Advisory Council is currently onboarding the new director to familiarize the Director with current projects, goals, and initiatives of the Business Advisory Council, while also leveraging the new perspective that an additional team member brings to workforce development efforts in Clinton County.*

**3. What new partnerships have your Business Advisory Council formed for the 2023-2024 school year?**

**New partnerships** formed for the 2023-2024 school year now participating in our monthly Workforce Collaborative Meetings include: Honda/LG, Clinton County Juvenile Court Resource Center, City of Wilmington, Nutrien Ag Solutions, HealthSource of Ohio, and TechSolve.

**New partnerships** formed for the 2023-2024 school year participating in our Career Exploration Fair include: Nontraditional GED students in partnership with the Clinton County Resource Center, Wilmington Christian Academy, City of Wilmington, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Wilmington Saving Bank, Wilmington Public Library, Diverse Building Solutions, Ohio Valley Electrical Services, Shafer Heating & Cooling, HealthSource of Ohio, and Honda/LG.

**New partnerships** formed for the 2023-2024 school year for our Student Immersion Tours include: Wilmington Christian Academy, iES (Innovative Engineered Solutions), Ferno, Champion Bridge, Clinton County Sheriff’s Office, Orchard Veterinary Care, NJC Salon, Nippon Seiki/New Sabina Industries, and Wilmington College.

A **new partnership** formed for the 2023-2024 school year in our Education & Training Working Group Leadership includes: TechSolve.

**4. Have you added or removed any goals submitted in your 2023-2024 Business Advisory Council Plans? If so, please provide details.**

No additional goals have been added or removed from our 2023-2024 Business Advisory Council Plan since the plan was submitted in September 2023.

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

The Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, in partnership with the Clinton County Business Advisory Council, was recognized by the Mid-America Economic Development Council at the 2023 Mid-America Competitiveness Conference, which was held November 29 - December 1, 2023, in

Indianapolis, Indiana. The Workforce Collaborative received the **Workforce & Talent (Large Division) Award** in acknowledgement of the rapidity and effectiveness of the projects and initiatives brought forward by the Workforce Collaborative's participating members. The panel of judges especially noted the ability of our Workforce Collaborative to mobilize the necessary resources in a rural county.

**Media Coverage:**

<https://www.wnewsj.com/2023/12/14/clinton-co-workforce-collaborative-receives-economic-development-award/>

The Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, in partnership with the Clinton County Business Advisory Council, spoke to the Wilmington Rotary Club in August 2023.

**Media Coverage:**

<https://www.wnewsj.com/2023/08/28/brindle-rogers-talk-workforce-collaborative-at-rotary-club-meeting/>

The Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, in partnership with the Clinton County Business Advisory Council, spoke to the Clinton County Commissioners in August 2023 to discuss needs for funding to support workforce development efforts in the county.

**Media Coverage:**

<https://www.wnewsj.com/2023/08/24/group-seeks-countys-financial-support-for-workforce-development-program/>

The Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, in partnership with the Clinton County Business Advisory Council, hosted the second annual Career Exploration Fair in October 2023.

**Media Coverage:**

<https://www.wnewsj.com/2023/10/13/exploration-fair-provides-students-career-opportunities/>

Updates from the Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, in partnership with the Clinton County Business Advisory Council, were shared with the Clinton County Commissioners in November 2023.

**Media Coverage:**

<https://www.wnewsj.com/2023/11/09/economic-development-low-income-housing-discussed-at-commissioners-meeting/>

Updates from the Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, in partnership with the Clinton County Business Advisory Council, were shared with the Clinton County Commissioners in January 2024.

**Media Coverage:**

<https://www.wnewsj.com/2024/01/11/roth-provides-commissioners-with-jan-economic-development-update/>

Furthermore, the Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, through the Business Advisory Council, publishes a monthly eNewsletter to share updates and success stories with members of the Business Advisory Council, as well other partners and stakeholders in the communities served by the Business Advisory Council. We have not participated in any case studies as a Business Advisory Council during the 2023-2024 school year.

Please see the attached resource to get involved or learn more about the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center's Clinton County Business Advisory Council and Clinton County Workforce Collaborative.





## Clinton County (Ohio) Workforce Collaborative

The Clinton County (Ohio) Workforce Collaborative tackles critical and multi-faceted workforce needs by bringing together business, education, non-profit, government, and economic and community development leaders to create solutions that work for Clinton County.

Through conversation with local business, education, and service agency leadership, the Collaborative identified three over-arching areas of focus and established correlating Working Groups, each with specific projects and goals:

**Barriers to Work**—Bringing employers and service providers together to explore cooperative solutions to the challenges of workforce mobility, childcare, housing, broadband accessibility, and more.

*Understanding the Needs of the Local Workforce:* In 2022, the working group conducted multiple surveys designed to gather specific information about the workforce mobility and child care needs of employees in Clinton County. Data collected from the survey was shared with relevant service providers to support crafting solutions that work for employers and employees in Clinton County.

*Child Care:* In 2023, working with Clinton County Community Action—the sole provider of Head Start programs and one of only two providers of non-in-home child care in the county—the working group conducted a public awareness campaign regarding available child care options to increase enrollment with licensed child care providers. In 2024, the working group is facilitating the exploration of a partnership to provide on-site before- and after-school care utilizing the labor of students enrolled in post-secondary early childhood education programs in the county.

*Workforce Mobility:* In 2023, Wilmington City Transit—the sole provider of public transportation in the county—undertook a feasibility study regarding the expansion of its services. The working group played an active role in the study process, ensuring that the concerns and needs of local employers and employees were considered, and provided additional data as needed.

*Work Supports:* In 2024, the working group is partnering with agencies like Clinton County Job & Family Services to raise community awareness of a variety of programs that provide work supports for those in the workforce in need of temporary work-related assistance. The plan for outreach to employers, service providers, and the public includes direct emails, direct mail, targeted digital marketing, tabling at events, press releases, and posters.

**Education & Training**—Identifying skill needs and assisting individuals and employers in finding appropriate training and credentialing to meet those needs.

*Assessing Current Training and Credentialing:* The working group provides information to local schools on career assessment tools, internship and pre-apprenticeship programs, and credentialing options to fit identified career pathways, while also working with employers to identify skills and credentials required for their hiring needs, with the end goal of helping schools align their student services with the employer needs.

**School & Community Connections**—Connecting employers and schools to bridge workforce development gaps by attracting and retaining students for the current and future workforce.

*Clinton County Career Exploration Fair:* The annual Clinton County Career Exploration Fair gets high school students excited about their futures by exploring career opportunities in high growth industries in Clinton County. The Fair gives employers an opportunity to build a pipeline between their company and the young people in our community, their future employees. The 2024 Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 9, at Laurel Oaks Career Campus.

*Clinton County Job & Community Resource Fair:* Because sometimes it is not about finding—or not finding—a job, but about having access to the support systems that enable individuals to obtain and maintain employment, the annual Clinton County Job & Community Resource Fair includes community resource organizations alongside employers. In 2023, over three dozen employers recruited for over 500 open positions, and over a dozen resource providers were included in the event to provide access to resources like transportation and child care that can equip individuals—and their families—with the services they need to enter the workforce. The 2024 event will be held on Wednesday, May 8, at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. Wilmington City Transit will be providing free transportation within the City limits to and from the event for individuals who schedule a ride at least 24 hours in advance.

*School & Community Connections Resource Guide:* The School & Community Connections Resource Guide makes it easier for employers, local schools, and community agencies to identify and expand workforce development opportunities for youth and adults in Clinton County.

*Student Immersion Tours:* Since Spring 2022, almost 400 students from three high schools, five middle schools, and Head Start toured a dozen businesses, allowing them to learn about career opportunities in high-growth, in-demand industries like 21st century agriculture, advanced manufacturing, aviation, and healthcare, all right here in Clinton County.

### **Clinton County (Ohio) Business Advisory Council**

The Clinton County Workforce Collaborative is an extension of the Clinton County Business Advisory Council (BAC), under the umbrella of the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center. The work of the Clinton County BAC is guided by the Clinton County Business Advisory Council Plan ([bit.ly/CCBAC2324](https://bit.ly/CCBAC2324)), which is submitted to the Ohio Department of Education annually. As a result of the work of the Clinton County Workforce Collaborative, the Clinton County BAC was named a 3-Star Business Council in 2023 and 2024.

The Clinton County Workforce Collaborative is an initiative of the Clinton County Port Authority, OhioMeansJobs Clinton County, the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center, and the Wilmington-Clinton County Chamber of Commerce.



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