



Chris Keylor, Superintendent
Megan Atkinson, Treasurer

**Ohio Valley Educational Service Center
Business Advisory Joint Statement
March 1, 2019**

The following information is a summative and anecdotal account of the 2018-2019 work by the Ohio Valley ESC Business Advisory Council and its partner school districts that include: *Cambridge City School District, East Guernsey Local School District, Rolling Hills Local School District, and the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District*. The council meets on the third Thursday of each month. The council has supported and directed the many activities that have taken place to positively impact all involved partners in the region.

The Ohio Valley Educational Service Center's Business Advisory Council Mission is to provide connections between its education partners and business and manufacturing partners within, and around the Ohio Valley Educational Service Center region that will inform current and future workforce needs in order to position our region for dynamic, global economic growth. Connecting business and industry partners with education will provide a sustainable, trained workforce meeting the needs of the changing region. We will train and retain our local talent to positively impact the climate and culture of our communities. It is a collaborative group that strives to address any needs of issues facing manufacturing and other local businesses. The plan includes initiatives to include: preparing and providing a better workforce through partnerships with area school districts, career centers and skill partners; providing industry specific information on grants and other available funding; providing program opportunities and connections that benefit local businesses; foster open discussions on issues and concerns facing regional manufacturing and business; provide opportunities for networking and the sharing of industry best practices; and present information about industry specific local training and educational opportunities.

Goal #1 of the plan is to increase the percentage of students who are “skill ready” for college and/or careers. This will be accomplished by establishing awareness and interest in workplace opportunities with students, parents, unemployed, underemployed and those looking to relocate to our region to live and work. Business and industry partners along with education partners will work together to connect learning (relevance) to workforce/career readiness. A program implemented by education that is collaboratively created and supported by business and industry to improve the professional skills required for workforce and career success will be developed. Authentic workplace experiences, expectations, information, internships, externships, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships will be provided to allow individuals to thoroughly and thoughtfully plan and explore career opportunities to inform career path choices.



Goal #2 of the plan is to create an area-wide Electronic Career Opportunities Portfolio that is supported by local business partners and skill partners will be created. Business and industry partners, along with Pre-K through 20 education partners will work together to connect learning to workforce and career pathways. With input from all partners, a plan and design to create the electronic tool to support the thorough and thoughtful plan to explore local career opportunities will be developed.

Goal #3 of the plan is to secure the necessary funding to place a Career Pathways Specialist in each partner school district for three (3) years. By establishing an Education/Workforce Foundation, communicating its existence and structure to all stakeholders, appropriate funding and grant opportunities can be submitted to support and sustain current plan goals.

The Ohio Valley Business Advisory Council has received a tremendous amount of input on economic trends and opportunities in the region from a number of sources. Current information for hot careers or in demand jobs in the region shows the need for 400 registered nurses, individuals possessing a commercial driver's license, machinists, maintenance technicians, CNC operators, and technology positions including cyber security. Most local manufacturers simply state the need for potential employees to demonstrate appropriate "soft skills", be able to come to work regularly and on time, and be able to pass a drug test. Most significantly is the information to support the changing economic conditions in the region due to massive energy sources uncovered in the region. The Shale Crescent USA group is specifically targeting the top 100 energy companies in the world to do business in our region that is being marketed as the Shale Crescent. Their research projects the potential for 100,000 new jobs in our region by 2025. The jobs will be high-paying blue collar jobs requiring specific credentialing and skills, but not necessarily college and/or university degrees. Understanding that the total population of the four county region supported by Ohio Valley BAC is not much more than that total, then the magnitude of the future opportunities for our young people, and the impact on current local manufacturing and business, the need for an intentional focused plan to connect business partners and education partners is absolutely necessary. With the advent of jobs in the energy industry, stress was placed on local manufacturers and business as the turnover rates increased to about 35%. At the same time, one of our business partners stated that he had gone through 400 temporary employees in that year, yet had only received one applicant from approximately 1800 graduating seniors representing all of the local high schools. This was a trend that was communicated over and over again by local business partners. Parents and students did not know what opportunities were available to them locally, were unaware of the skills required to gain successful employment. As a result, the region has seen a steady decline in village populations, and nearly all of the partner school districts have been trending to decreased student enrollments for more than three decades.

The 2018-2019 activities associated with the OVESC BAC to meet plan goals to support “skill readiness” and reflect implementation progress in the region include:

- Established a Career Pathways Specialist in the region October 1, 2015. At this time there were zero (0) intentional business partnerships to provide students with authentic workplace experiences, expectations, information, internships, externships, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships. As of February 1, 2019, the number of partnerships has reached 110 and growing.
- 101 Job Shadowing experiences involving students through February 1, 2019.
- 118 Business Tours involving students through February 1, 2019
- 3 Career Expos (one each in Rolling Hills Local School District, Cambridge City School District, and Noble Local School District) through February 1, 2019.
- 1535 students have benefitted from information presented by business and higher education speakers through February 1, 2019.
- Traveled to Winchester, Kentucky and Lexington, Kentucky to visit to manufacturing companies to discuss with Human Resource personnel their implementation of Youth Employment Solutions enabling 16-17 year-olds to have paid work experiences (internships). The HR executive from Sekisui (Winchester, KY) later was a guest speaker at the October 2018 Southeast Ohio Manufacturing Council Quarterly Breakfast meeting.
- January 2019 37 local educators representing 10 school districts and two educational service centers traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi to observe and discuss the implementation of an intentional and focused plan in the Gulfport School District, and the Petal School District to rebuild the area following Hurricane Katrina. Ohio Valley ESC’s Career Pathways Specialist position was designed from the Gulfport model.
- Creating an intentional PreK-12 Professional Skills program to support the recommendations identified in the Ohio Department of Education’s Readiness Seal for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Partner with Muskingum Valley ESC and Mid-East Career and Technology Centers on an Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association grant to pilot an Advanced Manufacturing Credential in five area high schools.
- Created Careers in My Community Project targeting students in PreK through College, parents, the unemployed, underemployed, and individuals who will relocate as a result of the changing economic climate in the region. It is designed to allow individuals to thoroughly and thoughtfully plan and explore career opportunities in our region, as well as connecting them with the local skills partners for training and credentialing for local jobs. Connecting business and industry partners with education partners will provide a sustainable, trained workforce meeting the needs of the changing region. We will train and retain our local talent to positively impact the climate and culture of our communities. Our tagline, “Building Futures—Changing Lives” will be the outcome for future



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- generations to call our region “home”. Visit www.careersinmycommunity.org to learn more.
- Connected with Local Plumbers & Pipefitters Union to establish pre-apprenticeship program in two local school districts in the region (Noble Local School District and Rolling Hills Local School District).
 - Met with Local 18 Operating Engineers to connect with area career center seniors to inform them of their apprenticeship opportunities. One area career center is establishing a Heavy Equipment Operator program to support local employment needs.
 - Successfully submitted a local development district grant (OMEGA) to support the implementation of a Career Pathways Industry Coordinator position in the region. It will support the Careers in My Community Project by recruiting Business and Skill Partner sponsorships to support the CiMC electronic tool. The funds generated through sponsorships will be used to support and sustain the goals of the Ohio Valley BAC.

The Ohio Valley BAC will continue to monitor progress, to inform expansion, improvements and elimination of current plan goals, objectives, strategies and actions as the needs of the region change.