

# **Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Adams/Highland County Business Advisory Council Joint Statement**

According to state law, the advisory council and its district board or ESC governing board should issue a joint statement by March 1 each year. This statement should report progress on work they outlined in the council's plan for that year, summarize actions taken and actions pending, and specify how the council and board have fulfilled their respective responsibilities under the law. At a minimum, the joint statement should reference:

- Meetings conducted by the council;
- The council's plan and implementation progress;
- Brief summaries of specific activities the council conducted;
- The nature of the council's advice and recommendations, if any, on needed employment skills and curriculum development to instill those skills;
- The nature of the council's advice and recommendations, if any, on economic and job market changes and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available;
- The nature of the council's advice and suggestions, if any, for developing working relationships among businesses, labor organizations, and educational personnel.

The Adams and Highland county school districts and the Educational Service Center will publish this statement on their respective web pages for public viewing.

## **Membership**

Public school districts in Adams and Highland Counties have chosen to align with the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council. The districts include the following:

- Adams County Ohio Valley Local School District
- Bright Local School District
- Fairfield Local School District
- Greenfield Exempted Village School District
- Lynchburg-Clay Local School District
- Southern Ohio Educational Service Center

## **2021-2022 Meetings Conducted the Business Advisory Council**

Date 1: 9/24/21

Date 2: 11/10/21

Date 3: 2/24/22

Date 4: 5/6/22

### **SUBCOMMITTEES:**

**Highland County Workforce Meeting Dates** 2/28/2022, 3/28/2022

**GRIT Meetings focus on youth** Monthly meeting on Thursday 8:00a.m.-9:00a.m.

## **The Council's Plan and Implementation Progress**

The mission of the Southern Ohio ESC, Adams and Highland Business Advisory Council is to assist in the assessment of workforce and employability skills for student success. They plan to implement tangible activities to directly impact student's knowledge of the current and future job market and improve their employability skills. The group believes sharing information via online websites (Southern Ohio ESC and member district websites) will be beneficial to the youth/adults in the communities this BAC serves.

This BAC has grown the council by adding business members, higher education officials and a diverse group of leaders from the communities. The school officials have instituted strong relationships with businesses partners. The team has developed strong goals to benefit the youth/adults of Adams and Highland counties.

## **Brief Summaries of Specific Activities the Council Conducted**

To address needs in the community and to help provide opportunities for community youth and adults, the Southern Ohio ESC, Adams and Highland Business Advisory Council worked on projects aligned with the mission of the council.

The first tangible activity the Adams/Highland BAC has been involved with is the Growing Rural Initiatives Together (GRIT) project. This grant-funded initiative helps to provide assessment, coaching and mentoring to students in rural counties who qualify for the collaboration. Adams and Highland counties have been associated with the GRIT project for several years. GRIT has components of career assessments, mentoring and coaching, counseling, training and internship opportunities. Several students in Adams and Highland counties have participated in this project and found success. Coaches are being trained throughout both counties to assist these students.

In addition to the components of GRIT being utilized to help students succeed an additional initiative involves schools providing careers classes or academy periods for students to gain more knowledge and skills to prepare them for an internship path and exposures to various careers options that meet their interest and skills.

Recently, representatives of the BAC collaborated with the Highland County Think Tank/Industrial Roundtable to garner knowledge of partnerships that can be formed which could result the development of student and community members being better informed of county wide opportunities for employment. This partnership also informs business/community partners of the needs the schools have and current practices being implemented to better prepare students. By bringing these community partners and educators together barriers can be identified, ideas can be formulated and progress can occur to bring the successful workforce to meet the needs of the businesses in Highland County.

### **The Nature of the Council's Advice and Recommendations, if any, on Needed Employment Skills and Curriculum Development to Instill Those Skills**

The BAC recognizes the diversity in the curriculum development, education and employability skills throughout the school districts. With the development of this council the collaborative efforts and opportunities will increase allowing services to be shared and effectiveness of current practices to be evaluated. Curriculum and scheduling will continue to be tweaked and developed to meet the needs of the students to become better prepared for the workforce.

### **The Nature of the Council's Advice and Recommendations, if any, on Economic and Job Market Changes and the Types of Employment in Which Future Jobs are Most Likely to be Available**

The BAC Council will continue investigate more opportunities to predict employability skills needed for future jobs in the area through ongoing conversations with the business members and gaining insight into their company's vision for growth.

### **The Nature of the Council's Advice and Suggestions, if any, for Developing Working Relationships Among Businesses, Labor Organizations, and Educational Personnel**

The BAC Council will continue collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and other community partners in the counties being served to expand the opportunities to educate and train youth and the community on workforce development and employability skills and highlight the business partner's needs in prospective employees.