

**Ashtabula County Business Advisory Committee
Joint Statement 2019-2020**

The Ashtabula County school districts' Business Advisory Council represents all of the county school districts. In the spring of 2018, each of the county school districts developed and board approved an agreement to have the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center facilitate and lead the committee activities. Documentation of our plan, bylaws, activities, meeting minutes and some handouts are found on the ESC website: (www.ashtabulaesc.org).

May 2019: The committee had presentations from our local mentorship program, our local career education coordinators from our career center, and our county youth Leadership program. The mentorship program serves all of the county schools. The program allows students to explore a career path in depth over several months to determine whether or not it is the right fit. The Youth LEADERship Ashtabula County is a leadership program for high school juniors in Ashtabula County. The goal is to acquire and strengthen leadership skills while increasing community engagement. In Youth LEADERship, students learn how to lead by doing and work in teams to solve real world problems. In addition, there was discussion and a flyer with regard to the newly implemented Ashtabula Summer Manufacturing Institute Camp.

October 25, 2019: The committee met and due to the retirement of the John Rubesich, County Superintendent, the committee accepted the assignment of Mike Candela, the new County Superintendent, as the Co-Chair with Craig Sernik. A presentation from Krista Shean with the Ashtabula Area City Schools was provided with regard to the Workforce Initiative Community and Business Partnership activities being conducted. The committee discussed a potential summit in our county. Mr. Sernik provided handouts and information with regard the Ohio Means Jobs Ohio Economic Profile for Ashtabula County, the most recent Ohio Means Jobs Online Job postings, to determine the on-demand occupations for our county and the Ohio Means Jobs Occupational Focus for August 2019. Mr. Sernik also distributed a written report with regard to a countywide job fair that was held on May 2, 2019. We discussed upcoming topics and presentations for the next meetings.

January 10, 2020: The committee had two presentations. Our local Community Counseling Center that provides mental health services to our county schools provided an update as to the activities being offered in our schools. One of the county educational staff members provided information on invisible barriers to employment and school participation. There were questions about the role that the business community could assist with the barriers. There was discussion about Trauma Informed Care and the benefits of the training even in the business community. Continued discussions on the county summit. Also discussion on a spring career/job fair.

March 13 2020: We will be meeting on this date and the agenda that is planned will have a couple of presentations. One from our local Career Center (A-Tech) career advisors. They have developed and will share the results of a spreadsheet that captures workforce and career readiness activities that several county agencies are providing in our school districts. We will also have a presentation from one of our local manufacturing human resource directors with regard to a unique method they have developed in their business to help attract employees, starting with their involvement in the school districts. We will also be reviewing the Ohio TechCred program and the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program.

Our last meeting for the year will be held on May 15, 2020. Topics that we plan to discuss for this meeting are Ashtabula County Mentorship follow up to this year's program and we will also review some the activities and methods for ensuring implementation of the Ohio Means Jobs Job Readiness Seal. There will be a presentation of the OhioMeans Jobs website. We will determine next school year's meeting schedule.