

Hardin County Business Advisory Council – Joint Statement – 3/1/2019
A Sub-Committee of the Hardin Economic and Community Development Committee

During the 2018-2019 school year, the following school districts have participated under the leadership of the Midwest Regional Educational Service Center in the Hardin County Business Advisory Council:

- Ada Exempted Village Schools
- Hardin Northern Local School District
- Kenton City Schools
- Ohio Hi Point Career Center
- Ridgemont Local School District
- Upper Scioto Valley School District

The Hardin County Business Advisory Council is made up of the following representative businesses and agencies:

- All Aboard Ohio
- Cessna Transport
- Charles Construction
- Hardin County Combined Board of Health
- Hardin County Job and Family Services
- Hardin County Library
- Hardin Memorial Health
- Health Makers
- Kenton Hardin Health Department
- Mid-Ohio Energy Cooperative
- WKTN / Hometown Media
- 1879 Electric

The Mission of the Hardin County Business Advisory Council is to create partnerships between Hardin County businesses, Hardin County/City schools, and the educational service center that will enhance communication between the business and educational community. The partnership will augment educational opportunities for students in the community by providing information, instruction, and training that will help to establish and sustain a talented workforce in Hardin County.

The purpose of the Hardin County Business Advisory Council is to:

- To foster cooperation among schools, businesses, and the communities they serve
- To ensure that the work of educators aligns with the needs of businesses
- To enhance awareness of the labor market, promote work-based experiences within businesses and help students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities

The role of the Hardin County Business Advisory Council is to:

- To advise local school districts on changes in the economy and job market and the area in which future jobs are most likely to be available
- To advocate for the employment skills most critical to business and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills
- To aid and support local school districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations, and educators

The general goals of the Hardin County Business Advisory Council are:

- To collaboratively determine and delineate needed employment skills
- To collaboratively develop curriculum necessary to instill those skills in Hardin County students
- To advise local boards of education on the economy, the job market, and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available
- To nurture relationships and enhance communication among business, labor, and education personnel

During the 2018-2019 school year, the Hardin County Business Advisory Council has met (or will meet) several times, the dates for those meetings are listed below:

- September 24th, 2018
- February 15th, 2019
- May 17th, 2019
- July 19th, 2019

Meetings that have taken place during the 2018-2019 school year have focused on the following:

- Developing and fostering collaboration and communication between the business and educational communities
- Determining the needs of employers in Hardin County
- Determining workplace skills that are lacking in today's high school graduates and discussing strategies to improve those skills as students move through grades K-12
- Determining which workplace (soft skills) can be influenced through education
- Determining the types of data needed to inform the council's efforts to prepare students for future employment in Logan County to meet anticipated economic and job market changes

For the remaining meetings in 2019 and looking forward to 2020, the council will strategically plan goals and actions steps to address the following:

1. Prepare: How do we better prepare students to be successful in the workforce?
2. Inform: How do we better inform students and their parents so that families can make informed decisions about the graduation and career pathways for students?
3. Connect: How do we better facilitate connections between local employers and students who plan to enter the workforce upon graduation?

4. Honor: How do we do a better job of marketing workforce careers and honoring those students who choose to serve their community as part of the local workforce?

The Business Advisory Council will focus on the following activities in the upcoming months.

- Career Day for Middle School Students
- Career Expo for High School Students
- Guest Speaker Series Program for Elementary, Middle and High School Students)
- Mock Interviews for High School Students
- Job Shadowing for High School Students
- Internships for High School Students
- Curricular areas
- School presentations to BAC - what is being done at the individual schools
- How to engage the parents into the conversation about being employed in Hardin County