

Shelby County Business Advisory Council – Joint Statement – 3/1/2019
A Subcommittee of the Sidney – Shelby Workforce Partnership

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

- Anna Local School District
- Botkins Local School District
- Fairlawn Local School District
- Fort Loramie Local School District
- Hardin Houston Local School District
- Jackson Center Local School District
- Russia Local School District
- Sidney City Schools

Several local area businesses have also participated in the Shelby County Business Advisory Council:

- Air Handling Equipment
- Area Electric
- Detailed Machining Inc.
- Emerson Climate Technologies
- Ferguson Construction
- Lincoln Electric
- Slagle Mechanical
- Wilson Health

The mission of the Shelby County Business Advisory Council is to create partnerships between Shelby County businesses, Shelby County/City schools, and the educational service center in order to 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 Logan County.

The purpose of the Shelby 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 Shelby County Business Advisory Council is to do the following:

- 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 Shelby County Business Advisory Council are:

- To collaboratively determine and delineate needed employment skills
- To collaboratively develop curriculum necessary to instill those skills in Shelby 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 Shelby County Business Advisory Council has met (or will meet) several times. The dates for those meetings are listed below:

- June 13th, 2018
- November 14th, 2018
- April 10th, 2019
- May 8th, 2019
- August 14th, 2019
- October 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 Logan 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 work place (soft skills) can be enhanced through education
- Determining the types of data needed to inform the council's efforts to prepare students for future employment in Shelby County
- To meet anticipated economic and job market changes

For the remaining meetings in 2019 and looking forward to 2020, the council will continue to develop stronger collaborative relationships and communication as we partner to build a stronger workforce in Shelby County. Districts will be asked to provide updates on initiatives that have been funded by the Workforce Partnership. Current initiatives will be discussed and evaluated, and new initiatives will be an outgrowth of these discussions.

Below is a list of events and activities that the Workforce Partnership and the BAC have conducted during the 2018-2019 school year:

- WP Night at Sidney High School: August 15, 2018
- Career Exploration Academy (Shelby County Schools Grades 8-12; approx. 1,100 attendance) : September 27th and 28th, 2018
- Inspire Career Concert (Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, & Shelby County Seniors; approx. 1,000 attendance) : October 3rd, 2018
- WP Fall Luncheon with Industry and Education: October 15th, 2018
- WP Night at Sidney Middle School Parent-Teacher Night: October 18th, 2018
- Power Lunch (Shelby County Seniors): December 4th, 2018
- Upper Valley Career Day in Workforce Academy at Sidney High School: December 7th, 2018
- Introduction to WP & Hometown Opportunity at schools: Ongoing entire year (600+ students to-date)
- Industry Speakers in the Classroom: Ongoing entire year (1500+ students to-date)