

**Hardin County Business Advisory Council – Joint Statement – 3/1/2020**  
**A Subcommittee of the Hardin County Career Taskforce**

During the 2019-2020 school year, the following **school district personnel** have participated under the leadership of the Midwest Regional Educational Service Center in the Hardin County Business Advisory Council:

- Ada Exempted Village Schools – Superintendent – Meri Skilliter
- Hardin Northern Local Schools – Superintendent – Jeff Price
- Kenton City Schools – Superintendent – Jennifer Penczarski
  - Christina Cross – Career Readiness
- Ohio Hi Point Career Center – Superintendent – Rick Smith
- Ridgemont Local Schools – Superintendent – Sally Henrick
- Riverdale Local Schools – Superintendent – Jeff Young
- Upper Scioto Valley Local Schools – Superintendent – Craig Hurley
- Midwest Regional ESC – Superintendent – Scott Howell

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

- North Central Ohio Region Industry Manufacturers Workforce Alliance – Frank Gibson
- Cessna Transport – Kirk Shepherd
- Hardin County Public Library – Sam Norris
- Hardin Hills Health Center – Deb Percell, Rhonda Switzer
- Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance – Jessie Percell, Holly Underwood
- Lt. Governor’s Office – Lu Cooke
- Hardin County Job and Family Services – Annette Shirk, Jordan Rupert
- Ohio Means Jobs – John Folk
- Ohio Health – Hardin Memorial Hospital – Kim Reisinger
- Graphic Packaging – Sonya Fry
- Kenton Nursing and Rehab – Kaleb Moneer

**The mission of the Hardin County Business Advisory Council (H.C. Career Taskforce) is**

to create a partnership between Hardin County businesses, Hardin County/City schools, and the educational service center that will enhance communication between the business and educational community and 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**

1. Delineate employment skills and to develop curriculum to instill the identified employment skills.
2. Explore and understand changes in the economy and job market, and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available.
3. Develop a working relationship among business, labor and education personnel.

During the 2019-2020 school year, the Hardin County Business Advisory Council has met (or will meet) on the dates listed below.

- August 21, 2019
- October 9, 2019
- December 11, 2019
- February 12, 2020
- April 18, 2020
- June 10, 2020

Meetings that have taken place during the 2019-2020 school year have focused on the following:

- During the 2018-2019 school year, the Hardin County BAC operated as a subcommittee of the Hardin County Community and Economic Development Committee. In this setting, the BAC had difficulty gaining any traction. Over the summer, a new Hardin County Committee was formed to align with the BAC called the Hardin County Career Taskforce. Therefore, much of the work that has been done you would have expected to see accomplished during year one.
- Much time has been used to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the BAC and the three main required areas according to Ohio Revised Code.
- 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 Hardin County to meet anticipated economic and job market changes
- The BAC is utilizing the Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio Means Jobs to explore changes in the economy and its impact on the job market.
- The committee has explored the use of "Strategic Doing" to enhance our ability to get things done.

**Several events, activities, and initiatives have been discussed, planned, and executed as a result of the council's work during the 2019-2020 school year.**

- Manufacturing Day is a celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers. Manufacturing Day occurred in October 2019.
- The Hardin County Job Fair provides Hardin County high school students with an opportunity to meet and interact with representatives from dozens of local area businesses. The job fair took place at the Hardin County Fairgrounds. Students had the opportunity to investigate possible career and summer job opportunities.
- Hardin County Signing Day will highlight all seniors in Hardin County who have made the career decision to Enroll in higher education, Enlist in the military, or become Employed in the workforce. Students will be recognized and honored for making the best choice possible to secure a successful future. This event will be highlighted in each district with local media involvement.
- The BAC will determine additional activities for the coming school year.