

Shelby County Business Advisory Council – Joint Statement – 3/1/2020
A Subcommittee of the Sidney/Shelby County Workforce Partnership

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 Shelby County Business Advisory Council:

- **Anna Local Schools**
 - Superintendent: Andy Bixler
 - High School Principal: Joel Staudter
- **Botkins Local Schools**
 - Superintendent: Jeff McPheron
- **Fairlawn Local Schools**
 - Superintendent: Jeff Hobbs
- **Fort Loramie Local Schools**
 - Superintendent: Dan Holland
- **Hardin-Houston Local Schools**
 - Superintendent: Ryan Maier
- **Jackson Center Local Schools**
 - Superintendent: Bill Reichert
- **Russia Local Schools**
 - Superintendent: Steve Rose
- **Sidney City Schools**
 - Superintendent: Bob Humble
 - High School Principal: Denny Morrison
- **Midwest Regional ESC**
 - Superintendent: Scott Howell

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

- Area Energy and Electric: Brian Moloney
- Detailed Machining: John Bertsch
- Emerson Climate Technologies: Don Baird
- Ferguson Construction: Mick Given
- Freshway Foods: Tony Arnold
- Honda of America: Karl Schimmoeller
- Kirk National Lease: Deb Hovestreydt
- Slagle Mechanical: Bob Snarr
- Wayne Trail: John Campbell
- Wilson Health: Mark Klosterman

The mission of the Shelby County Business Advisory Council is

to create a partnership between Shelby County businesses, Shelby 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 Shelby County.

The purpose of the Shelby 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 Shelby County Business Advisory Council has met (or will meet) on the dates listed below.

- August 14, 2019
- October 10, 2019
- February 5, 2020
- April 15, 2020

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

- We have worked on goals and initiatives related preparing students for the workforce or higher education, inform students about career options, connect students with local business and industry partners to explore career opportunities in Shelby County, and to honor students for making an informed, career choice that leads them to enrolling in higher education, enlisting in the military, or seeking employment in the workforce.
- Developing and fostering collaboration and communication between the business and educational communities
- Determining the needs of employers in Shelby 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
- Facilitating discussions regarding strategies for informing students and families about workforce and career opportunities available for students in Shelby County
- 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

- The districts have shared initiatives that are underway in the districts regarding workforce training and curriculum
- Created a county-wide position of Career Counselor to work specifically with seniors who have no direction or plan for life after high school.

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.

- Sponsored two community luncheons to inform the community about the work that's being done in partnership with the school districts to improve workforce education.
- Partnered with districts to install workforce classrooms in several of the Shelby County districts in order to provide instruction in workforce curriculum.
- Sponsored a Career Exploration Academy during the summer months.
- Implemented a Career-A-Month focus in the schools.
- Providing job shadowing opportunities for students.
- Conducting Mock Interviews
- Held a Power Lunch for students to interview with businesses who are looking to employ.
- Received the "Expanding Opportunities for Every Child" grant to provide workforce education opportunities for students and graduation pathways.
- Sponsored the "Inspire – Career Connect" event for high school juniors and seniors.
- Sponsored the "Ultimate Killed Trades Ninja Challenge" at all Sidney/Shelby County school districts.
- The BAC will determine additional activities for the coming school year.