

2025-2026 Business Advisory Council Joint Statement

Midwest Regional Educational Service Center

Business Advisory Council (BACs) serves Logan, Hardin and Shelby Counties

Primary Contact: Dr. Rick Smith - Superintendent, MRESC

Secondary Contact Ben Vollrath – President, Logan County Chamber

Hollie Underwood – President, Hardin County Business Alliance

Deb McDermott – Director, Shelby County Workforce Partnership

There has been no change in the leadership structure of the local BACs, and they are on track to meet the majority of goals set for this year.

Each County has a Goal 1 - that involves exposing students to careers and developing plans for pathway choices. At this point, we are about 80% through our events currently with career fairs/exploration academy, career coaches, speaker series, workforce classroom lessons, and manufacturing day to name a few items.

Each County as a Goal 2 - involves contacting students with real life skills and companies. This is about 70% complete as we have complete events like Ninja Skilled Trades Challenge, Power Pace Interviews, County Career Expo, and Honda Federal Credit Union Game of Life, etc.

Our challenge is that we are working to launch a new teacher summer academy and have just started the recruitment process for our first one.

We continue to grow and add businesses that want to impact students such as Bruns Construction, D&S Construction, IEP Plastics, Crown, Ada Technologies, Wilson Sporting Goods Factory, Madriver Trucking, Farm Credit Mid America and Coperion.

We have been fortunate to have our events on social media, Sidney Daily News, Bellefontaine Examiner, Kenton Times, Peak of Ohio.com, WPKO, Workforce Partner Newsletters, and Job and Family Service publications.

Still to come this year is 3 E signing days, Honda Academic Achievement awards, The Amazing Shake and more.

All three counties have active BACs in their areas working with the local chambers, businesses, and schools in the region to provide students, parents, and the communities with a better understanding of careers, jobs, pathways and opportunities for their region.