

MARCH 1, 2026

ANNUAL JOINT STATEMENT

TRI-COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSORTIUM



*Business Advisory Council
Plan Issued by the Tri-
County Educational Service
Center Governing Board and
the Business Advisory
Council representing
Tri-County Educational
Service Center and its
member districts.*

Tri-County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council Consortium

This consortium was formed in accordance with the provisions of Ohio law (Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.82) requiring every school district and educational service center to have a Business Advisory Council and to meet the requirements of Ohio law (Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.821) which directs the development of standards for the operation of Business Advisory Councils.



2025 Business Advisory Councils



Tri-County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council Consortium

Mission Statement:

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) is committed to building collaborative partnerships among education, business, and community. The BAC will advise school districts on curriculum and broadening exposure to the world of work in order for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom and gain the valuable essential skills needed for success after graduation.



Hospitality, Tourism, and Transportation Systems Careers

Purpose & Responsibilities:

The Business Advisory Council will support partnership between member schools and the business communities of Ashland, Holmes, and Wayne counties.

The partnership will:

- Advise** local districts on changes in the economy and job market as well as projected in-demand jobs in the region
- Advocate** for the employment skills most critical to business and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills
- Aid and support** local districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses and educators

"Our most effective Business Advisory Councils are the ones that work as a team to expose students to all the opportunities available to them so they can pursue a future that excites them in one of our state's top career paths."

— Lt. Governor Jim Tressel (Recognizing 2026 Excellence in BACs)

BAC Annual Joint Statement

Joint Statement – March 1, 2026

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3313.82 and 3313.821, the Tri-County ESC Business Advisory Council (BAC) and the Tri-County Educational Service Center (ESC) Governing Board submit this joint statement outlining how the council has fulfilled its responsibilities during the 2025-2026 school year.

Business Advisory Council Structure & Leadership

The Tri-County ESC BAC continues to operate under its current leadership and structure, with no changes to membership or governance.

Progress Toward 2025-2026 BAC Goals

The Tri-County ESC BAC set goals for the 2025-2026 school year, with a focus on:

- Developing Professional Skills for Future Careers
- Building Business-Education Partnerships
- Coordinating Career Exploration Experiences

Accomplishments

✓ Envision Your Future (EYF):

- Participation in EYF has skyrocketed, increasing fivefold from 10 students during the 2023-2024 school year, to approximately 100 students this year.
- Students have engaged in hands-on career exploration, question and answer session with panelists, and interest assessments.
- The program has successfully connected students with career pathways in employment, enrollment, and enlistment.

✓ Teacher Bootcamps:

- Continued annual versions of Vital Connections (Holmes & Wayne Counties) and 2BE Connected (Ashland County)
- Exploring more of a regional approach where participants can attend any day(s) in any county to gain a broader experience.
- Took advantage of a regional teacher bootcamp grant for participants to earn graduate credit from Ashland University.

✓ TransfrVR Career Exploration:

- The TransfrVR program has launched in elementary schools to introduce students to career pathways using immersive virtual reality experiences.
- Educators and student ambassadors from the Wayne County Schools Career Center have been trained to facilitate these experiences.

✓ NCWA Industry Sector Partnership Grant:

- The North Central Workforce Alliance (NCWA) received an Industry Sector Partnership Grant supporting key Tri-County ESC BAC initiatives.
- Funds will be utilized for partnerships with Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio and their Destination Careers Event

BAC Annual Joint Statement

Challenges & Barriers

The BAC always looks for ways to effectively communicate and share opportunities for students, teachers and the business community to increase interest and participation in our region's various events.

New Partnerships & Adjustments

The Tri-County ESC Business Advisory Council continues to explore opportunities to enhance career readiness and workforce connections.

✔ Expanding Pre-Apprenticeship Pathways

Recognizing the growing demand for alternative graduation pathways, the ESC is actively working with additional school districts to develop pre-apprenticeship programs that will provide students with hands-on workforce training and industry-recognized credentials. These programs will align with state-approved graduation options, offering students a direct connection to high-demand career fields while earning real-world experience that enhances their employability. By expanding pre-apprenticeship pathways, the BAC aims to increase student participation in work-based learning and strengthen partnerships with local employers.

✔ Ashland University Partnership – Free Graduate Credit for Teacher Bootcamps

Through a strategic partnership with Ashland University, the ESC offers complimentary graduate credits to educators participating in the Vital Connections (Wayne/Holmes Counties) and 2BE Connected (Ashland County) teacher bootcamp programs this summer. These bootcamps provide educators with immersive experiences, including on-site business tours and hands-on learning with local employers. Participants engage in research, discussions, and analyses of current job market trends, integrating these insights into curriculum development. This initiative ensures that classroom instruction aligns with in-demand career skills, effectively bridging the gap between education and industry needs.

✔ Artificial Intelligence (AI) Training for Administrators & Teachers

In a venture to offer timely and professional training for effective and ethical use of AI in the workplace, the ESC partnered with AI Owl and Ohio TechCred to host numerous full day trainings to our area's administrators and teachers. Eighty administrators have earned a credential and approximately fifty teachers are registered to earn one also.

Events, Activities, & Programs

Tri-County Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council member districts, business partners, and higher education partners work together throughout the school year for events, activities, and programs that support and uphold the mission and purpose of the Business Advisory Council.

Specifically, the Business Advisory Council school districts and business partners participated in:

Classroom to Career: VITAL CONNECTIONS 2 BE CONNECTED



WHAT IT IS:

- Get out of the classroom and into the community - tour local businesses
- Explore in-demand careers
- Learn about workplace skills
- Build real-world relevance into your teaching
- Strengthen school-to-career connections

THREE SESSIONS:

- Vital Connections: Holmes County *open only to Holmes County educators in 2025
 - June 2 & 3
- Vital Connections: Wayne County
 - June 4, 5, & 6
- 2 BE Connected: Ashland County
 - June 9 & 10

GRADUATE CREDIT OPTIONS:

Earn 1, 2, or 3 graduate credits through Ashland University. Affordable pricing (\$155-\$465).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Registration is FREE
- Lunch is graciously provided by our businesses!
- Sessions begin around 7:30 am and end around 3:30 pm each day
- Attendance is required for ALL days of the session(s) you register for
- Visit and learn about awesome businesses like:
 - Provia, Walnut Creek Cheese, Pomerene Hospital
 - Wooster Brush, Ohio Light Opera, Certified Angus Beef
 - Simonson Construction, Centerra Co-Op, Brethren Care Village
 - ...and MORE!!

HOW TO REGISTER Click the box or scan the QR code to register.

CLICK HERE Questions? Contact Beth Gaubatz tesc.bgaubatz@tccsa.net

SCAN HERE

YOUR FUTURE IS CALLING!

October 22

Get Inspired. Get Motivated. Get Started.
For Wayne County Students in Grades 7, 8, & 9

Envision Your Future

What is Envision Your Future?
Envision Your Future is a one-of-a-kind event created to inspire, inform, and empower students as they begin thinking about future careers.

Who Can Attend?
📍 Students in grades 7, 8 and 9.

What to Expect:
This event helps students start planning for their futures in a supportive, exciting, and age-appropriate way. By attending, they'll be better prepared to make thoughtful decisions about high school pathways, explore career options, and feel confident about what's ahead.

Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2025
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Location: White Oak Event Center, Orrville, Ohio

Cost FREE! Lunch will be provided

See Your School Counselor to Sign Up!







Students connect education and opportunity at Envision Your Future event

Nearly 30 local students explore career pathways through hands-on sessions, employer panels, and demonstrations highlighting the 'Three E's' — enrollment, employment, and enlistment.

📅 Labrador / Nov 6, 2025



Opening Doors and Minds on Wayne County Manufacturing

MEG DAY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Participating Businesses

COUNT#D OUT

Math is power.

Tri-County Educational Service Center presents
 A Special Screening of the Award-Winning Film
October 17, 2025
Lyric Theater in Downtown Wooster
 Doors and Concessions will open at 9:00
 Breakout sessions will follow at the Tri-County Event Center.
[Use this link to view the schedule.](#)
FREE for employees of member districts
\$25 For non-members
[Please use this link to register](#)



PHYS ED TEACHERS PD WITH ADAPTIVE SPORTS OHIO

BRAVE & BOLD

A NIGHT OF STORIES WITH SHANNON HALE

Join us for a powerful evening of courage and creativity at *Brave & Bold*. Beloved author **Shannon Hale** will share stories that uplift and empower, followed by the presentation of the 2025 Young Author Excellence Awards, honoring outstanding young writers from across Ohio. This inspiring night supports the Buckeye Book Fair's Young Authors Initiative to help nurture literacy, imagination, and confidence in the next generation.

The Wayne County Public Library has free tickets to library patrons for the community presentation on a first come, first served basis.

10/30/2025
 AT 7:00 PM

GREYSTONE EVENT CENTER
 50 RIFFEL RD, WOOSTER, OH 44691

GET TICKETS
BUCKEYEBOOKFAIR.ORG

NCWA Workforce Summit Presents:
 North Central Workforce Alliance

Mark C. Perna
 Speaker | Author | CEO

Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations

Ashland University
 John C. Myers Convocation Center

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Thursday, October 30, 2025

NCWA 10-Year Celebration & Open House
North Central Workforce Alliance

LIMITED SEATING
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Scan QR Code to Register

NCWA Members: FREE
Non-Members: \$10

GUEST SPEAKER
LT. GOVERNOR JIM TRESSEL

Mount Vernon Estate Events
1041 US-250, Ashland, OH 44805

Updated Time
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Wednesday, April 15, 2026

NCWAOH.ORG

OhioMeansJobs
Wayne County
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

CAREER EXPO
Connect with top employers in the area

Open To The Public
Free Event For Job Seekers

Save The Date
May 1st 2026
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ashland County Destination: **CAREER** featuring **JA Inspire**

2025 Destination Career: Ashland

IMPACT REPORT

Today, I got **INSPIRED**

1126 students
6 schools
48 business partners

8 in 10 students said JA Inspire incentivized them to seek employment opportunities in Ohio

Top Career Cluster Interests Among Students

- Arts, Audio/Video Technology & Communications
- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Health Sciences
- STEM

STUDENTS SAID...

"I learned that there are so many different kinds of jobs out there, and no matter what your skills or interests are, **there's a career that's the perfect fit for you.**"

"JA Inspire opened my eyes to so many career possibilities I never knew existed. Hearing from professionals and exploring different industries helped me realize that **my future is full of opportunities, and I feel more confident about finding a career that fits my passions and skills.**"

*Data based on student surveys collected after the Ashland JA Inspire event in AY 2024-2025.

DON'T MISS OUT! SAVE THE DATE FOR 2026

MAY 13 2026
Ashland University - Niss Athletic Center

2026 TRI-COUNTY ESC STEAM CAMP

Location:
Wayne County Schools Career Center, RAMTech Lab.

Time:
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost:
TBD

Lunch:
Students must bring a bagged lunch.

[Click here for more FAQs!](#)

6th-8th Grade Sessions

- July 27 & 28
Robotics Focused
- or
- July 30 & 31
Coding & Programming Focused
(Prior VEX Coding Experience Required)

3rd-5th Grade Sessions

- August 3 & 4
Robotics Focused
- or
- August 6 & 7
Robotics Focused

Registration is limited to 24 students per session!
To register, call Tiffany Miller at 330-345-6771 Ext. 248

Business Advisory Council Member Districts

District	District Primary Contact	Primary Contact Email	District Secondary Contact	Secondary Contact Email
Ashland City Schools	Steve Paramore	stparamo@goarrows.org	Ben Spieldenner	bespield@goarrows.org
Chippewa Local Schools	Tim Adams	tim.adams@chippewaschools.com	Angela Deoitte	angela.deoitte@chippewaschools.com
Dalton Local School	Steve Watkins	swatkins@daltonlocal.org	Lisa Zona	lzona@daltonlocal.org
East Holmes Local Schools	Erik H. Beun	erik.beun@eastholmes.org	Micki Krantz	micki.krantz@eastholmes.org
Green Local Schools	Dean Frank	gren_dfrank@tccsa.net	Amanda Framstad	gren_aframstad@tccsa.net
Hillsdale Local Schools	Catherine Trevathan	ctrevathan@hillsdalelocalschools.org	Alyson Baker	hill_abaker@tccsa.net
Loudonville-Perrysville EV Schools	Jennifer Allerding	jeallerding@lpschools.net	Matt Henderson	henderson@lpschools.net
Mapleton Local Schools	Scott Smith	ssmith@imountie.org	Skip Fulton	sfulton@imountie.org
Northwestern Local Schools	Julie McCumber	nrws_mccumbe@tccsa.net	Tyler Keener	nrws_tkeener@tccsa.net
Norwayne Local Schools	Kevin Leatherman	keleatherman@norwayne.net	Nicole McQuate	nmcquate@norwayne.net
Orrville City Schools	David Toth	tothd@orrvilleschools.org	Jay Bishop	bishopj@orrvilleschools.org
Rittman EV Schools	Jon Ritchie	roc_ritchie@tccsa.net	Nick Evans	ritt_nevans@tccsa.net
Tri-County Educational Service Center	Jon Ritchie Brett Lanz	tesc_ritchie@tccsa.net tesc_blanz@tccsa.net	Beth Gaubatz	tesc_bgaubatz@tccsa.net
Triway Local Schools	Nate Schindewolf	nschindewolf@triway.us	Joshua Stutz	jstutz@triway.us
Waynedale Local Schools	Jon Ritchie	soea_ritchie@tccsa.net	Holly Mastrine	holly.mastrine@waynedale.us
Wooster City Schools	Gabe Tudor	wstr_gtudor@woostercityschools.org	Brian Madigan	wstr_bmadigan@woostercityschools.org

Business Advisory Council Advisors

BAC Member	Business/Agency	Email	Industry
Cammy Thomas	American Augers	cthomas@americanaugers.com	Manufacturing
Amy Daubenspeck	Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce	cvb@ashlandoh.com	Chamber of Commerce
Cameo Carey	Ashland Area Economic Development	cameo@growashland.com	Workforce Development
Joe Reep	Ashland Comfort Control	joe.reep@ashlandcomfort.com	Architecture & Construction
Tammy Hendershot	Artiflex	THendershot@artiflexmfg.com	Manufacturing
Renee Alfred	Aultman Orrville Hospital	Renee.Alfred@aultman.com	Healthcare
Mindy Scurlock	Brethren Care Village	mcurlock@brethrencarevillage.org	Healthcare
Karen Alsop	Centerra Co-Op	kalsop@centerracoop.com	Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Jen Smith	Certified Angus Beef	jeichel@certifiedangusbeef.com	Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Mayor Matt Miller	City of Ashland	Mayor@ashland-ohio.com	Government & Public
Rod Cheyney	Heartland Technical Education Center	cheyneyr@acwhcc.org	Education & Training
Tiffany Gerber	Holmes County Chamber of Commerce	tiffany@holmescountychamber.com	Chamber of Commerce
Josh Lehman	Junior Achievement	joshua.lehman@ja.org	Community Partner
Erv Howard	North Central Workforce Alliance of Ohio	ehoward@ncwaofohio.org	Workforce Development
Barbie Lange	Next Step, Next Home	RealtorBarbieLange@gmail.com	Human Services
Josh Nolan	Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club	jnolan@oabgc.org	Community Partner
Dan Franks	Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce	dan@orrvillechamber.com	Chamber of Commerce
Laura Neill	Ohio Light Opera	lneill@wooster.edu	Arts, A/V Tech & Communications
Sarah Reith	O'Huddle	sreith@ohuddle.org	Community Partner
Denise Robinson	Schaeffler	denise.robinson@schaeffler.com	Manufacturing

Business Advisory Council Advisors (continued)

Dan Moore	Simonson Construction	dmoore@simonsonconstruction.com	Architecture & Construction
Todd Geren	Sutton Bank	toddgeren@gmail.com	Finance
Dennis Miller	Sutton Bank (retired)	millerlife1025@zoominternet.net	Finance
David Deemer	Transformation Network	david@transformationnetwork.org	Human Services
Julian Coblenz	Walnut Creek Cheese	jcoblenz@walnutcreekfoods.com	Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Lynn Moomaw	Wayne County Schools Career Center	lmoomaw@wcsc.org	Education & Training
Maribeth Burns	Wayne Economic Development Council	mburns@waynecountyedc.com	Workforce Development
Tammy Adams	Will-Burt	tadams@willburt.com	Manufacturing
Bill Besancon	Wil-San Holstein Farm	wilsan5693@yahoo.com	Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
Samira Zimmerly	Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce	szimmerly@woosterchamber.com	Chamber of Commerce
Steph Martinez	Wooster Brush	StephMartinez@woosterbrush.com	Manufacturing
Danielle Bender	Wooster Community Hospital	dbender@wchosp.org	Healthcare
Donald Hall	Wooster Police Department	dhall@woosteroh.com	Law, Public Safety & Security



TransfrVR at Parkview Elementary in Wooster



Meeting Schedule

The following meetings are scheduled to take place involving the Business Advisory Council or significant factions of its membership.

NORTH CENTRAL WORKFORCE ALLIANCE OF OHIO: EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

MARCH 11, 2025

DECEMBER 3, 2025

JUNE 10, 2026

TRI-COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER: SUPERINTENDENT MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

OCTOBER 20, 2025

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

JANUARY 23, 2026

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

MARCH 20, 2026

APRIL 17, 2026

JUNE 5, 2026

TRI-COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER: GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS

JULY 14, 2025

AUGUST 11, 2025

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

OCTOBER 13, 2025

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

DECEMBER 8, 2025

JANUARY 12, 2026

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

MARCH 9, 2026

APRIL 13, 2026

MAY 11, 2026

JUNE 8, 2026