



**Business Advisory Council (BAC)  
Joint Statement  
February 28, 2020**

**Mission Statement:**

*Create productive partnerships that will keep our “people” resources in Preble County and work with these resources to develop the needed skills to create productive workers and assets to our community.*

**Meeting Dates:**

October 22, 2019

January 28, 2020

March 24, 2020 - Cancelled due to COVID-19

May 26, 2020 - Cancelled due to COVID-19

The Preble County Educational Service Center has hired a Career Connections Director and through that work, the BAC has collaborated with the Preble County Workforce Development Committee, to address the current and future employment needs of businesses throughout the county. From the business perspective, the purpose of collaboration is to make students aware of the career opportunities they have in their hometowns. From an educational perspective, we see the value in having a strong business presence in our local communities and schools. By having the business presence it exposes students to options they may not know exist otherwise.

**Highlighted Activities:**

**Senior Interviews**

Our Career Connections Director interviewed over 320 seniors throughout all 5 county schools and those attending the Miami Valley CTC to help with their next steps for career planning. These interviews included career interest, local job opportunities, future education discussions, and eventually internship and pre-apprentice opportunities for some.

### **Career Fair**

This event took place at National Trail High School on November 15, 2019. During this event, over 60 businesses/careers were represented providing information and some hands on experiences for students across all 5 Preble County schools. By attending this event, students learned valuable information about career options that may or may not require post-secondary education.

### **Manufacturing Day Tours**

During this three day event in November, high school juniors/seniors had an opportunity to tour different manufacturing companies and talk with various management levels about different career options that are available in their hometowns. Students toured the facilities to see the processes and products that are produced.

### **College Fair**

This event will take place at National Trail High School on March 3, 2020. There will be 36 colleges/post-secondary institutions present to provide information to students interested in pursuing post-secondary education. Students from all 5 county schools across Preble County will be in attendance.

### **Internships**

Schools and Businesses collaborated to provide paid internship positions in manufacturing and small business for interested students from across the county in the past. The program has continued to grow with 9 students currently working and 2 more currently completing the interview and hiring processes.

### **Career Connection Events at the Fairgrounds**

We have scheduled and planned career events for grades 3, 4, 5, and 8. The 3rd grade event will be an Ag STEM careers day outlining STEM careers in agriculture that align with our rural county. The 4th and 5th grade events are Career Cluster Days. The 4th grade Career Cluster day will host and expose over 400 students to 8 of the 16 nationally recognized career clusters. The 5th grade Career Cluster day will cover the remaining nationally recognized career clusters for that group of 400+ students. And finally the 8th grade Hands-On Career Fair will involve 400+ students with 3 interest aligned careers in 3 separate 30 minute hands-on activities.

### **Educator Business Tours**

Educators will be able to choose to participate in the morning or the afternoon on any of the three dates (June 10, 11, and/or 12). The intent of these experiences in local businesses is to allow educators (teachers, counselors, and administrators) to see and connect these real-world experiences to their classroom curriculum and teaching.

### **Registered Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship**

We have embarked upon an exciting opportunity – a Registered Apprenticeship and *Pre-Apprenticeship Occupation of Industrial Manufacturing Technician*. This entry into manufacturing for the high school pre-apprentice portion of the program will allow for students ages 16-18 to become involved in our local companies as an apprentice. We have completed the application and been approved by ApprenticeOhio for one of these programs at Lewisburg Container of Pratt Industries. We are currently in discussion with other local manufacturers to do the same for them.

### **Preble County Junior Leadership**

A first-ever program was developed this year and is currently in operation for 18 juniors/seniors who represent all 5 county schools and our local CTC. The students have participated in a book read, discussion, and application over the course of the 5 day program (*Grit, the Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth) Students have participated at locations throughout the county to experience business, non-profit, and educational settings while learning about careers, career opportunities, life-skills, and how to modify the current “Preble County Brand.”

### **Student Registration on the local Preble Career Portal**

In collaboration with the Preble County Development Partnership our Career Connections Director has helped to register over 600 county juniors and seniors into the local job portal. Students were able to share their current job/career interests and can now upload their current resume into the portal for local business review once they release them or upon their graduation; whichever comes first.

In addition to the above highlighted events here are a few additional activities that have taken place or will be taking place in the future:

- Examination of OhioMeansJobs website to look at in demand jobs in Preble County.
- Career Signing Day
- 20 Under 20 Banquet