

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

**In partnership with the following school districts in Lawrence County:*

Chesapeake Union Exempted Village School District

Dawson-Bryant Local School District

Fairland Local School District

Ironton City School District

Rock Hill Local School District

South Point Local School District

Symmes Valley Local School District

Collins Career Technical Center

Summary of the 2018-2019 Lawrence County Business Advisory Plan

In November of 2017, the Lawrence County Educational Service Center along with the school districts of Lawrence County began the work of creating the Lawrence County Business Advisory Council. On November 17, 2017 an initial meeting was held to begin the process of creating an entity where our school districts could meet with some of our local business people and leaders to discuss how our businesses and schools could work together to fulfill the need of the skills of our local workforce through career information and possible changes in curriculum. Discussion also centered around the local job market and types of current employment along with the future outlook for jobs in and around Lawrence County.

The Lawrence County Business Advisory Council continued with the business of creating the new board with the involvement of local business, Ohio University-Southern, and our local Workforce Development officials along with our educators to include our Superintendents and Guidance Counselors in Lawrence County as well. Our Business Advisory Council meetings were held on February 7, 2018, April 11, 2018, June 6, 2018, September 6, 2018, November 1, 2018, and February 13, 2019. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2019. We have also held sub-committee meetings concerning our Career Symposium. These meetings were held on December 18, 2018, January 15, 2019, and February 26, 2019.

Through the work conducted by our board members through these meetings, we developed the board, assigned the board members to term limits, discussed at length the work opportunities in our county and the needs that the business leaders are seeing when it comes to the type of skills and knowledge our graduating students in our county currently exhibit.

The BAC also planned for activities for students that centered on and around career exploration. In the Fall of 2018, students from our county “Talented and Gifted’ Programs were given the opportunity to visit one of our local technical schools (Mountwest Community and Technical College). While there, our students were given information and tours on the many degree programs offered at the technical school and curriculum information.

In the Spring of 2019 a Career Symposium is planned for the current 2018-2019 high school 9th graders in our county (approximately 650 students). This event will take a different spin on the traditional career fair. With cooperation and collaboration from Ohio University-Southern, students will be presented with information from not only careers and career programs offered in our area college campuses, but also programs currently offered in our technical colleges and technical schools. Students will also be hearing presentations on human resources information, employee drug testing procedures, interview skills, and information on the resources and services offered through OhioMeansJobs website.

Through the work of our BAC we also began the process of having the opportunities for students to complete internships with our local businesses. By working through and with our high school counselors, the “Student Job-Shadowing/Internship Form was created and work continues on securing our business partners in this endeavor.

While developing the Lawrence County Business Advisory Council Plan for our 2018-2019 school year, the BAC board members developed a plan to incorporate attainable goals for our newly formed council, as well as having goals that continue into the future “Plans” for the up and coming school years.