

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 2019-2020 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.

In June of 2019, the Lawrence County Business Advisory again began the process of establishing goals and objectives for the Lawrence County Business Advisory Council and the up and coming 2019-2020 school year. This work has continued through the collaborative efforts of our local business partners, Ohio University-Southern, our local educators to include Collins Career and Technical Center, and our Superintendents and Guidance Counselors in Lawrence County as well.

Our Business Advisory Council meetings were held on June 25, 2019, September 5, 2019, November 7, 2019, and February 13, 2020.

Through the work conducted by our board members and through these meetings, we expanded our board members, participated in joint ventures with Ohio University-Southern (Future of Workforce Summit) and Collins Career and

Technical Center, and 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 students and future workforce will need to be successful in our local economy.

The BAC also planned for activities for students that centered on and around career readiness. In the Fall of 2019, students from our counties ‘Talented and Gifted’ Programs were given the opportunity to visit the faculty and students in the Engineering Programs at Shawnee State University and Marshall University. While there, our students were given information, tours, and hands-on experiences centered around the many degree programs offered at the universities, along with curriculum information.

In the Spring of 2020, a Career Activity Day is planned for the current 2019-2020 high school 9th graders in Lawrence County. With cooperation and collaboration from Collins Career and Technical Center and the Career Outreach Task Force, students will be able to take part in various activities centered around mock interviews with education on sharpening their appearances and interview skills, drug testing in the workplace where students can actually volunteer to receive a drug test as would be used by employers, help and education on creating a resume, future financial planning, and sharpening their communication skills and soft skills.

Through the work of our BAC we also began the process of having the opportunities for students to complete job shadowing and/or internships with our local businesses. By working through and with our high school counselors, the work continues with securing collaboration between our business partners and student career interests in this endeavor.