ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council
and ESC Lake Erie West Governing Board Joint Statement
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The ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council serves seven school districts: Anthony Wayne Local Schools, Maumee City Schools, Ottawa Hills Local Schools, Rossford Schools, Springfield Local Schools, Sylvania Schools and Washington Local Schools. Representatives from all member school partners serve on the Business Advisory Council along with community partners and business and industry members.

ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council Goals

1. To provide guidance to area school districts on economic changes and job market challenges and opportunities.

2. To support schools in embedding critical employment/life skills students will need to succeed in business and industry such as reliability, critical thinking, communication and time management.

3. To create or align curriculum that will introduce and reinforce critical employment skills needed in business and industry on local, regional, state and national levels.

4. To develop relationships between education and business that will provide a sustainable well-trained workforce.

5. To promote work based learning opportunities as defined by the Ohio Department of Education to include the following: job placement, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship, remote or virtual placement, entrepreneurship, school based enterprise, simulated work environment.

Initiatives for the 2025-2026 school year are in progress:

Teacher CAMP (Creating Authentic Meaningful Partnerships) 2026

Teacher CAMP is on track to deliver another successful business and industry immersion experience for area educators. While the core structure of the program remains consistent, Teacher CAMP is refined annually based on participant feedback and evolving workforce needs in Northwest Ohio. The five-day experience includes field trips and guest speakers representing the region's most in-demand employment sectors: health care, construction, manufacturing, and hospitality. Participants will be eligible to earn three hours of Ashland University college credit or 35 hours toward CEUs.

Now in its fourth year, Teacher CAMP has addressed and resolved many initial challenges. A continued priority is ensuring the program aligns with local workforce demands while also meeting the interests of participating educators. For the past two years, teachers have been able to earn three college credit hours at no cost through Ashland University using grant funding. While confirmation of this option is still pending for this year, participants will be offered either three credit hours at a reduced rate or 35 CEU hours if grant funding is unavailable.

With business and industry partners identified and committed, applications distributed, and the schedule finalized, Teacher CAMP is currently accomplished at a 7 out of 10 level. The initiative will be fully accomplished once participants are selected and have successfully completed the week-long workshop.

The Amazing Shake Challenge

Educator packets, including an implementation framework, were developed by the Amazing Shake subcommittee and shared with district representatives and school-based staff interested in implementing or continuing a professional skills development program inspired by Ron Clark's *Amazing Shake*.

Sylvania School District's McCord Junior High School has held an Amazing Shake Challenge for several years and has generously shared resources with the Business Advisory Committee. Two additional districts have implemented a program this year based on their district curriculum and needs, utilizing the materials developed through the Business Advisory Committee. Ottawa Hills High School held a Soft Skills Showdown for their Junior students and Springfield Local Schools implemented an Amazing Shake competition for some of their 11th grade students. At least two other schools are in the planning process to hold their first event next school year.

There are some challenges in implementing the Amazing Shake including building support for the Amazing Shake Challenge, gaining staff buy-in, preparing students for the event, and recruiting judges to assist with the event. Schools need to have an enthusiastic staff member to design and organize the event along with strong administrative support. While these are significant challenges, schools that have moved forward in implementation have reported positive feedback from staff, students, and community members.

When more schools host Amazing Shake events, the BAC intends to hold a district competition as an advancing step for the top performing students from each school. At this point the Amazing Shake Competition is accomplished at a rate of 5/10. When more schools are participating and there is enough local participation to support a district event, the initiative will be fully accomplished.

Supporting Pre-Apprenticeships:

The ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Committee continues to support pre-apprenticeships that provide students with meaningful opportunities to engage in workforce training and begin a pathway toward career success. The Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship has experienced significant growth during its three years of implementation. During the 2025–2026 school year, 25 students successfully completed the program.

Despite this progress, challenges remain in implementing the initiative. Traditional school schedules and transportation limitations can create barriers to students completing all pre-apprenticeship requirements. In addition, establishing a direct link between the pre-apprenticeship and a registered apprenticeship program has proven difficult. The previous sponsor, Maumee Stamping and Assembly, is currently undergoing leadership transitions due to new ownership. The Committee continues to collaborate with partners at the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Wood County Job and Family Services, and Owens Community College to secure a registered apprenticeship connection to support the ongoing success of the Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship.

The Wood County Job and Family Services Peer Specialist Apprenticeship has also faced funding challenges that limit opportunities for pre-apprentices to participate. Similar barriers related to school schedules and transportation continue to impact student participation in this program as well.

Currently, Angela Dietrich, the facilitator of the ESC Lake Erie West BAC, is exploring an opportunity to link a teaching pre-apprenticeship with Kent State's Pathway 2 Teach apprenticeship. There is interest in developing this relationship from both Kent State and school districts who are part of the BAC.

Given both the challenges associated with expanding pre-apprenticeship opportunities and the demonstrated success of the Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship, this initiative will remain ongoing. At this time, it holds an accomplishment rating of **7 out of 10.**

Expanding Partnerships:

The ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council continues to strengthen and expand partnerships that enhance collaboration among schools, community organizations, and business and industry. Kasey Stopler, an instructor from Washington Local Schools with expertise in working with at-risk students and students with disabilities, has joined the Council. Kasey brings a valuable and unique perspective to the membership, with a strong focus on connecting education and career development while expanding career opportunities for individuals with disabilities.