



## **ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council Joint Statement**

March 1, 2023

The ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council serves five member school districts: Maumee City Schools, Ottawa Hills Local Schools, Rossford Schools, Sylvania Schools and Washington Local Schools.

The initial meeting of the BAC focused on a call to action. The vision, mission and goals were reviewed with the entire committee to ensure that any action plans would align with the stated vision, mission and goals. It was determined that one goal needed to be further defined and another goal needed to be added to the original goals. The original vision, mission and goals are below.

### **Vision**

To provide meaningful guidance to the ESC of Lake Erie West area educators and develop business and industry partnerships relative to the integration of foundational work/life skills critical to career attainment and success.

### **Mission Statement**

In order to comply with ORC 3313.821, the ESC of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) BAC will advise aligned school districts and the ESCLEW on changes in the economy and the job market, advocate for the employment skill most critical to business and industry and provide guidance and support to our aligned school districts. This mission will be accomplished by creating a strong collaborative relationship with its school districts, community BAC members and the business and industry community at large.

### **Goals**

1. To provide guidance to area school districts on economic changes and job market challenges and opportunities.
2. To understand and imbed the critical employment/life skills students will need to succeed in business and industry.
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.

After input from the committee and research into desired employment skills from business and industry, goal 2 was revised to read as follows:

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.

Goal 5 was added to the overall BAC goals.

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.

**Partnerships:** The ESC Lake Erie West BAC has made a focused effort to expand partnerships with business, industry, post-secondary, and community partners. New partnerships in SY 23 include the following:

- Owens Community College
- Wood County Job and Family Services (Ohio Means Jobs)
- Northwest Ohio Junior Achievement
- Carpenters Local 351 - IKORCC

Plans for the SY 23 included the following initiatives:

#### **Initiative 1: Teacher CAMP (Creating Authentic Meaningful Partnerships)**

Teacher CAMP (Creating Authentic, Meaningful Partnerships), will highlight real-world industry experiences focused on the most in-demand employment sectors in the Toledo region. Field trips to area businesses including NSG Pilkington, Mercy Health and Mercy College, and Carpenters Local 351 will be featured along with visits from local workforce experts. Teachers will have an opportunity to reflect on their experiences and develop a plan to integrate career exploration and planning activities into their curriculum. Follow-up sessions will be held throughout the 2023-2024 school year to provide an opportunity for additional collaboration by CAMP participants. These sessions will also be open to non-CAMP participants to expand the integration of industry connections into the curriculum, along with career awareness, exploration, and planning. Teacher CAMP is scheduled for the week of June 12 and is on target for complete implementation.

The challenge of funding for participant stipends was resolved by utilizing grant funds for Teacher CAMP. An application and an application rubric has been developed to select 15-20 camp participants.

## **Initiative 2: Engage to Empower, 2.0**

Engage to Empower 2.0 will be a two-day event on June 1 and 2, 2023. Dr. Kevin Fleming will return to help districts prioritize their goals to address collaboration with business and industry, integration of career awareness, exploration and planning, and expanded opportunities for students to gain professional skills and experience. Dr. Fleming will also focus on recent research on preparing students for the workplace and post-secondary success, as well as changes in the labor market. Day 2 of the event will be facilitated by ESCLEW and SSTR1 consultants utilizing implementation science structures. Follow-up sessions will provide opportunities for districts to share implementation progress and identify additional support needed. Engage to Empower is planning and implementation is on target with selected schools invited to attend and structured plans for the two-day event.

The funding for Engage to Empower 2.0 was secured through a partnership with State Support Team Region 1 and grant funding through the ESC Lake Erie West. Invitations for Engage to Empower 2.0 were issued to teams who participated in Engage to Empower 1.0 and have continued to develop plans for expanding work-based learning opportunities and career advising for students.

## **Initiative 3: Work Based Learning (WBL) Collaborative**

Following the Engage to Empower professional development in June of 2022, several schools decided to work together to design work based learning experiences for students with local business and industry partners. By working together, the schools can collaborate and share WBL opportunities. Businesses benefit by having a unified group of schools and streamlining communication with the group facilitator. The ESC Lake Erie West BAC will support this collaboration by identifying potential partners to work with the schools and identifying professional skills needed by students to enter the workforce successfully.

All schools who are members of the ESC Lake Erie West BAC are welcome to participate in the collaborative. Several connections to business and industry partners have been made and the collaborative is in the final stages of drafting a manufacturing pre-apprenticeship program.

Working with a variety of schools with different schedules and policies has been a challenge with the Work Based Learning Collaborative. In establishing the required educational support for the pre-apprenticeship, schools are asked to meet specific benchmarks including having students earn their Certified Manufacturing Assistant credential, OSHA 10 credential and complete the requirements for the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness seal, as opposed to requiring a specific number of hours or a specific class. Transportation is an ongoing issue requiring cooperation with district transportation departments. Linking to business and industry partners that are willing to provide mentors and link to existing apprenticeship programs is a challenge that our partners at Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Owens Community College and Ohio Means Jobs, Wood County have helped to meet.

The ESC Lake Erie West BAC will continue to build on the initiatives listed above as well as develop new action plans to address the overall goals of the BAC.