



## ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council Joint Statement

March 1, 2024

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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. 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 2023-2024 school year are in progress:**

**FutureFusion** is a collaborative initiative with NWO Junior Achievement. The ESC Lake Erie West BAC will host a parent event embedded within the May 8<sup>th</sup> JA Inspire career exploration event. A video featuring parents and a student who previously attended JA Inspire has been produced and is linked on a promotional postcard. The postcard will be shared with parents and community members through each of our member schools. Students will be encouraged to bring a parent to JA Inspire or to share their experience with their parents at home after attending. Schools are providing local incentives for students who involve their parents in the JA Inspire event.

JA Inspire is a one-day event that is held from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Parents may have conflicts with work schedules and/or transportation that will prevent them from attending. To encourage students to share their experience, families will have the option to complete a simple google form verifying that they had an opportunity to discuss career pathways with their child following JA Inspire.

**Teacher CAMP (Creating Authentic Meaningful Partnerships) 2024** is on track to provide another successful business/industry immersion experience for area teachers. The five-day camp features field trips and guest speakers representing Northwest Ohio's most in demand employment sectors; Health Care, Construction, Manufacturing, and Hospitality. Participants will be offered three hours of Ashland University college credit at no cost through a grant sponsored by Lt. Governor Husted's office.

**Catapult**, an intensive online professional development experience which featured 13 national keynote speakers and individual sessions with the speakers, was offered to participants of Engage to Empower 2.0 by Dr. Kevin Fleming, at no cost. While several individuals signed up for the professional development series, not all participated fully in all the events. The series was delivered from August to December on weekly basis. Educators were eager to participate in the asynchronous and synchronous professional development, however, fitting in the keynote addresses to be followed with live Q and A sessions with the presenters was challenging for most schedules.

The ESC Lake Erie West Business Advisory Council continues to strengthen and expand partnerships. This year the focus has been on ensuring that the member schools are actively represented at each meeting. Because the BAC represents districts from five different communities, district representatives are encouraged to invite business and industry representatives from their community to participate in the BAC. The BAC continues to invite other schools who are members of the ESC Lake Erie West to join the BAC allowing for more collaboration and cooperation between business, industry, community and education partners.