NPESC's Business Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

NOECA, 219 Howard Dr. Sandusky, OH 44870
Wednesday, June 17, 2026
9:00 AM

I. Welcome & Introductions - Andrea Smith and Introductions

II. Roll Call of Members

- Present: Kenzie Blumensaadt, Daryl Deering, Andy Horn, Dr. Paul Lockwood, Tom Lucha, Marilyn Mosinski, Amy Walters, Jim Rinaldo, Jeff McClellan, Katherine Adams, Chris Singerling, Laramie Spurlock, Carol Kern, Ed Kurt, Troy Parks, Taylor Robinson, Mariam Batke, Pam Mohler, Angie Morelock, Will Snyder, Dr. Alia Carter, Jarvis Cole
- Absent: Brian Hall, Rob Monak, Beth Hannam, Brian Fritz, Ben Chaffee, Kyleigh Lash, Sarah Ross, Eileen Buhlan, Pam Mohler
- Guest - Ashley Aston - Senator Husted's office

III. **Motion to accept the following new member filling the seats Stacy Maple (Steering Committee Roles & Responsibilities):**

i. Hospitality & Tourism/Ottawa County Business Representative:
Kenzie Blumensaadt, Co-Owner of The Orchard Bar & Table on Catawba Island.
Established in - 2014 - with 78 employees on 27 acres. Grape vines, apple trees etc.

- Motion by: Daryl Deering
- Second by: Ed Kurt

IV. **Introduction of Visitors**

Ashley Astton - representative from Senator Husted's Office. Ashley is based out of Toledo and covers a 21 county region.

V. **Motion to approve** meeting minutes from 3-17-26

- Motion by: Jim Rinaldo
- Second by: Katherine Adams
- Needed changes: N/A

VI. I**NFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following information was shared about regional BAC Exposure since the last meeting:

- Ashley Spangler has been heavily involved with the CPSN network. Every Tuesday, whether meeting in person or via zoom, Ashley has met with representatives from Lorain County to discuss Career Readiness efforts within the CPSN network, which is Erie, Huron, and Lorain counties. Through this work, Ashley has shared and listened to best practices and innovative ideas to better build a larger region of Career Readiness.

- Ashley Spangler is also part of the 157 member Ohio Career Readiness Leaders group. This group meets every second Tuesday of each month, either in person or via zoom, to discuss everything Career Readiness across Ohio.

VII. **Old Business - Items for Information - Andrea Smith reviews our Regional Goals from the 2025-26 School Year.**

- **2025-26 Annual Activity Report Highlights:**

i. REGIONAL GOALS to **Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers** included**:**

1. *Every high school student will take the YouScience Discovery Assessment in the fall of freshman or sophomore year. The number of middle school students taking the YouScience Snapshot tool will increase during 2025-26.*

    a. All member districts continued to implement YouScience Discovery. The number of districts utilizing Snapshot grew from 10 to 14 in 2025-26

2. *All BAC sponsored activities will be documented in the digital tool, PortfoliOH and more high schools will utilize the tool during the 2025-26 school year.*

    a. PortfoliOH was used to collect data for BAC sponsored activities PortfoliOH was utilized in the Teacher Business Boot Camps last year to give teachers exposure to the tool from a student perspective; Creator Jeff McClellan is working with all of the Economic Development Directors in June to train these individuals on how to better utilize the tool moving forward in the upcoming year.

3. *The BAC will promote the expansion of additional academy, IRC programs, pre-apprenticeship and internship programs in the region*

    a. There are four Pre-Apprenticeship Programs including: Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, Healthcare, and Finance. The pre-apprenticeship programs started as a pilot program in 2024-25 with 2 students completing. In the 2025-26 school year, we had 48 students complete the pre-apprentice programs.
    b. Ottawa County Hospitality and Tourism Academy launched with 7 students for 2025-26
    c. Data is continuing to be compiled on IRC programs & internships.

ii. REGIONAL GOALS to **Build Partnerships** included:

1. *The BAC will partner with NPESC to host professional learning opportunities for regional educators to expose them to local companies, make contacts and expand their knowledge of career pathways, STEM related careers, and local opportunities for students.*

    a. Four School Summits held impacting over 300+ educators (Three High School Summits & One Middle School Summit)

b. Teacher Business Boot Camps held in June & August of 2025 and June & August of 2026 impacted nearly 100 educators thanks to continued support from the Governor's office.
c. Hosted and educated regional career coaches and counselors about IRC's and how to connect these opportunities to local businesses
d. Hosted (3) virtual "Lunch & Learns" regarding IRC's and career pathways seen across Ohio
e. Hosted collaborative virtual meetings sharing Pre-apprenticeship programming, new to NPESC, across Ohio
f. Connected schools with programs such as "Future Plans", and "Soche" to connect students to career opportunities

2. *The BAC will continue involvement with existing partners/projects and explore new opportunities for partnerships & new BAC members. .*

a. New Partnerships formed with Future Plans, SCORIA, Soche, Greater Cleveland Partnership, The ESC of Central Ohio, BB2C, HSTI, & SST2

iii. REGIONAL GOALS to **Coordinate Experiences** include:

1. *The BAC will continue to host existing career readiness opportunities and develop new experiences for students as part of the regional exposure pipeline.*

a. NEW experiences included: Middle School Road Show was implemented and successful. NPESC Robotics League for VEX IQ and V5 which included students in grades 4-12, from 11 different school districts, and over 230 students.
b. Student Career Camps – a total of 19 held impacting over 440 students
c. Hosted RISE Youth Pitch Challenge - 25 pitches & 54 students from 9 schools
d. Career Showcases, THINK Manufacturing & Job Fairs held impacting over 2000 students regionally

VIII. **Committee Updates (provided by Economic Directors, Business & Education Partners)**:

- ***Sandusky County update*** -
  - *i. Carol Kern discusses the completion of the teacher business boot camps and the impact made from a teachers perspective as well as a business owner.*
  - *ii. Carol shares; Student boot camps are scheduled. One a month for a total of eight for next school year.*
  - *iii. Carol shares a NEW event taking place in the 2026-27 school year. "The Pinnacle," November 5th, 2026. This is a senior only, students that lead, event. 1826 Photography will be present to do headshots, students will bring business cards, and dress professionally.*
  - *iv. Andy Horn - from Motion Controls Rototics, shares his involvement with the Teacher Business Boot Camp. Andy shares that Kyle Mackenzie, a previous Clyde graduate who now works at Motion Control, spoke with the teachers for 45 minutes regarding his progression through high school with Career Coaches, Laurie Good and Blayze Behney. Kyle shares his involvement with student career camps, job shadows, the career fair, an internship, to finally getting hired at motion controls.*

- ***Erie County update*** -
    i. *Jarvis Cole shares information on an international grant they have received through the BAC GEOTrack Foundation. Freudenberg NOK will be heavily involved to get students on sites. This will be a pilot program.*
    ii. *Jarvis Cole speaks on his "Intern on The Bay" program.*
- ***Huron County update*** -
    i. Troy Parks speaks on their *Youth Leadership Council.*
    ii. *Troy discussing the finishing plans for the upcoming Teacher Business Boot Camp.*
    iii. *Troy shares a survey that was sent out to schools regarding what CTE programs are being offered in their schools and what programs do they need help gaining access.*
- ***Ottawa County update*** -
    i. Katherine Adams discusses Ottawa counties thoughts on this year's Teacher Business Boot Camp. Katherine their desire to venture out to the Islands next year for a 2.0 Teacher Business Boot Camp experience. Katherine would like our teachers to see Hospitality/Tourism and the OSU Fishing/Wildlife programs.
    ii. *Katherine shares, in the fall, one of Ottawa County's student career camps will take place on South Bass Islands, checking out Put-in-Bays Hospitality/Tourism and Transportation workforce sector.*
    iii. *Katherine discusses a new pilot program, Advanced Air Mobility. She shares that it's getting ready to kick off for the 2026-27 school year.*
    iv. *Chris Singerling shares information regarding a large grant that is being compiled. Chris discusses collaborative efforts being made by; the New Jersey Institute of Technology, The Erie/Ottawa International Airport, Bowling Green State University, our local career tech centers, & NPESC. This grant will fund programs such as Drone Maintenance. This will be a two year grant worth roughly 1-2 million dollars.*
- ***NPESC BAC related PD update*** -
    i. NPESC is striving to educate businesses on what's happening in schools.
    ii. *Deeply infusing our school counselor network with our career coaches.*
    iii. *During our Teacher Business Boot Camps, NPESC used all but two seats this year.*

IX. **Business Partners Update on your Industry** (Hospitality/Tourism, Adv. Manufacturing, Skilled Trades, Healthcare)

- ***Advanced Manufacturing -***
    i. Andy Horn - with Motion Control Robotics - Happy to report that sales are on track for the first part of the year.
    ii. Andy shares that they are already full, as far as student co-ops, through 2028. They will continue to attend career fairs but not to hire, simple to educate.
    iii. Andy shares that Advanced manufacturing is booming across our region. Andy recently toured a local company, Logistiq, and found that it had changed so much and is growing by leaps and bounds.
- ***Healthcare -***
    i. Mariam Batke - with Fisher-Titus Medical Center - shares her Love of the Teacher Business Boot Camps and the Student Career Camps.
    ii. Mariam discusses a change to next year's Career Intern Program. Mariam shares that funding has been a real challenge. She shares that there's grant funding opportunities

that they're still discussing but they may be changing their process to a week long or two week long healthcare camp at their facility. This change will still show great entry level opportunities. Mariam discusses with Ashley (from Governor Husted's office) how grateful they've been for Governor Husted's support in healthcare.

iii. Angie Morelock chimes in that if funding isn't found, the exposure piece will be impactful. Angiel shares that she would love the one-two week camps for their students.

- ***Hospitality/Tourism -***
  i. Kenzie Blumensaadt shares that local businesses aren't seasonal anymore. Businesses are staying open. Kenzie shares how reliable employees set the tone for a great business.

X. Higher Ed/School Partners Update

- ***RPED Grant Application***
  i. Dr. Carter - President of BGSU Firelands - discusses the STEM grant. It was a concept, and now it's in full action. This grant will cover material based sciences. Collaborative partners are looking to redesign the curriculum in Science with peer to peer instruction. The first phase is for students, 8:30-4:00 on July 28th-31st. The last phase is for educators from 6:00-8:00. Teachers will receive a $250 stipend.
    1. Educational pathways - great partners. Federal Grant - state wide systems. 4 yr. grant. 2.5 million. Rural counties can qualify.

XI. **Education Partners Update**:

- *Will Snyder - from Western Reserve- shares how they are getting very creative at Western. Will discusses how they are trying to keep kids on campus. They are being very intentional in student conversations. Work based learning is a huge priority but they need a full time staff member, while deciding to not bring back five positions for next year. They want their students to SEE what's out there so their learning is very intentional. Will shares that they are very rural but they can still find opportunities around their own community. Kids are planning now starting in 7th grade. They want to know their futures. Giving them ownership in their education is exciting.*
- *Laramie Spurlock - from Danbury - discusses that their school might be small but the area business has been great to work with. For 2 years every senior has had an internship opportunity. This allows them to figure out what they do and don't want to do. Danbury's, "Anchoring My E," night has been a huge success. 8th-12th graders are invited with their parents. Danbury has also discussed keeping seniors in school… It's hard, but they have figured out a method that is working.*
- *Angie Morelock - from Vanguard Sentinel Career and Technology Center, discusses their staffing update and finalizing positions. Angie shares that CTE still continues to see growth each year.*
- *Tom Lucha - NPESC board member, shares that it seems that they continue to add more and more in education. Will Snyder responds that yes this is true and man power is always a struggle.*

XII. **New Business: Andrea Smith Shares the Goals/Strategies for 2026-27 School Year**

- New Business:
  i. DRAFT: Goals/Strategies for 2026-27

  Motion to accept Goals/Strategies as presented or with corrections:

a. Motion by: Will Snyder - with corrections
b. Second by: Mariam Batke
c. Discussion: create a framework for future career coaches / through creating regional LAUNCH events.

ii. Andrea Smith shares, those able and willing to attend the BAC Townhall meeting in July are all welcome. BAC Townhall - **July 20, 2026, from 7:30 - 11:45 am** at the Hilton Columbus - Easton. Registration is FREE and open to Councils throughout the state and business partners.

iii. For Your Radar: SB 328

XIII. Open Forum:

- Career Exploration Blog Post
- StartSole/PortfoliOH - Jeff McClellan - shares no big updates but appreciates being involved in these meetings.
- Future plans - Pam Molner - appreciates the collaboration this BAC always has.
- Manufacturing Works - Marilyn - shares her involvement and willingness to collaborate with future pre-apprenticeship and apprentice programs. Future plans loved working with Jarvis at Erie/Huron County career showcase. Marilyn also wanted to mention that they do employee training if businesses are interested.
- Andrea Smith shares that our funnel is going to be "redone" and will include Career Coaching.
- Katherine Adams shares a prospective inactive for the future. They'd like to see a mentoring program. Mentors from a business perspective. Community members or business partners. (Chris Singlering will look into this around Ohio while Pam Mohler will look into best practices.

XIV. Motion to adjourn the meeting

- Motion by: Dr. Carter
- Second by: Tom Lucha

XV. Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM at NOECA (219 Howard Drive, Sandusky)
- Wednesday, DECEMBER 16, 2026 at 9:00 AM at NOECA (219 Howard Drive, Sandusky)
- Wednesday, MARCH 17, 2027 at 9:00 AM at NOECA (219 Howard Drive, Sandusky)
- Wednesday, JUNE 16, 2027 at 9:00 AM at NOECA (219 Howard Drive, Sandusky)