

ESC NEO Works Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024



ESC NEO WORKS: A Bridge to Create a Stronger Northeast Ohio Workforce

Welcome to the first edition of the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio's ESC NEO WORKS Newsletter. Each year, the need for educating, building, and retaining a stronger Northeast Ohio workforce continues to grow. Through the ESC NEO WORKS Newsletter, our hope is to provide you with timely information, showcase innovative partnerships, and share with you information about college and career readiness, workforce development, and other professional learning opportunities.



Whether you are a K-12 educator, administrator, or student, a working adult, a NEO business, community agency, or non-profit, our hope is that the ESC NEO Works Newsletter is one that you find timely, relevant, and informative.

– Paula Kucinic, ESC NEO Director of Professional Learning and Workforce Development



Getting to Know Us! The ESC of Northeast Ohio Business Advisory Council (BAC)

Business Advisory Councils have been required by law since 1995 and can provide guidance and benefits to every school district in the State of Ohio. Business Advisory Council responsibilities under O.R.C. Section 3313.82 include advising and providing recommendations in:

- The delineation of employment skills and the development of curriculum to instill these skills.
- Changes in the economy and in the job market, and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available, and:
- Suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and education personnel.

The ESC of Northeast Ohio's Business Advisory Council (BAC) is one of the largest of its kind in the state of Ohio, with over 40 aligned school districts, 100+ partnering businesses and community agencies, spanning Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Summit Counties.



ESCNEO's BAC MISSION

The mission of the ESC of Northeast Ohio BAC is to provide opportunities where students, K-12 educators, and business and community leaders can network, collaborate and partner together in creating programs and opportunities that support and develop a stronger Northeast Ohio Workforce.

[Click here](#) to see NEO BAC member districts.

Northeast Ohio Regional Career Leaders Network

This network is for all career readiness leaders, both K-12 College and Career Readiness and Career Tech Administrators, as well as business, industry higher-education, and non-profit partners who are interested in learning the latest updates, career planning and collaborating by sharing resources and ideas related to college and career readiness. The February 29, 2024, meeting will include additional information about internships and opportunities for students through apprenticeships, as well as provide those in attendance with an opportunity to review and discuss the CTE Equipment Grant.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the February 29, 2024, network meeting.



Upcoming Events

Northeast Ohio Career Leaders Network

February 29, 2024

Location: ESC of Northeast Ohio

[Click here](#) to register.

Ohio Ed Tech Summit

February 29, 2024

Location: John Carroll University

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Success Bound 2024

April 12, 2024

Location: Corporate College East

Bringing together NE Ohio businesses and educational partners to help high school students find work-based learning opportunities in our region.

[Click here](#) to register.

Developing Student Leadership Through Character Education

April 19, 2024

Location: ESC of Northeast Ohio

Bringing secondary educators together to learn how to teach character strengths to help students improve social and emotional skills, attitudes, behaviors, and academic performance.

[Click here](#) to register.

High School Senior Hiring Fair

April 30, 2024

Location: Holiday Inn-Rockside, Independence

A hiring fair designed for high school seniors who plan to go straight into employment after graduation.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Alliance for Working Together

The Alliance for Working Together (AWT) was started in 2002 as a small, informal group of manufacturers, who met to discuss topics of interest and best practices among local manufacturers. Finding skilled workers was quickly identified as one of the top challenges for manufacturers. Promoting rewarding careers in manufacturing became their core mission. In 2012, the AWT Foundation became a 501(c)3 non-profit. The AWT Foundation now has 500+ manufacturing companies, community organizations, and school members.

With the help of our strategic partners, the AWT Foundation has developed several Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)-to-career educational programs. They have placed more than 1,000+ students into manufacturing careers

and helped over 300 5th and 6th grade students learn about and experience manufacturing careers in local communities. AWT has facilitated over 1,200 student, teacher, and parent tours of manufacturing facilities. It has been instrumental in access to transportation for manufacturing employees and providing Department of Labor and Ohio Department of Job & Family Services (ODJFS) recognized pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for manufacturing occupations including Tool & Die Maker, Mold Maker, Precision Machinist, and Tool Programmer/Numerical Control.

If you or your organization is interested in contributing to the ongoing efforts of the AWT Foundation, please contact the AWT at Contact@ThinkMFG.com or call (440) 462-1995.

AWT is the bridge between the manufacturing industry, local, state, and federal governments, K-12, career and technical education systems, and post-secondary institutions, both public and private.

In 2023, AWT introduced WorkAdvance through funding under the EDA Good Jobs Challenge Grant. This entry-level two-week boot camp-style program provides a pathway to a career in manufacturing regardless of the participant's current experience level. This hands-on interactive program covers blueprint reading, shop math, metrics and measurement, resume building, interview prep, and financial literacy. Learn more at AWTWorkAdvance.com.

AWT is partnering with educators to bring this program into the classrooms. Through our flexible format, we are able to customize the program to fit the educators' schedules, making these opportunities more accessible to the students. If you are interested in bringing WorkAdvance to your students, please contact AWT today.

ESC of Northeast Ohio's Business Advisory Council (BAC) Steering Committee

The Northeast Ohio Business Advisory Council (BAC) is guided by a steering committee representative of K-12 education, career centers, community partners, health care, higher education, manufacturing, information and technology, and tech prep. Members include:

- Mike Andric, Barberton City Schools
- Karen L. Brown, Euclid City Schools
- Michelle Cassetty-Collins, ConexusNEO
- Al DiFranco, Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland
- Eric Gordon, Cuyahoga Community College
- Laura Hebert, Ravenna Local Schools
- Kimm Leininger, Geauga Growth Partnership (GGP)
- Naima Lusane, Northeast Ohio Tech Prep
- Dave Mangas, Cuyahoga Valley Career Center
- Tom Miller, Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP)
- Jeff Ramnytz, Barberton City Schools
- Cameron Ryba, Strongsville City Schools
- Teresa Simons, Alliance for Working Together (AWT)
- John Stoddard, Berkshire Local Schools
- Patrick Ward, Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools



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