

**Northwest Career Ready
Business Advisory Council
Joint Statement of Accomplishment
2020-2021 School Year**

Overview:

Northwest Career Ready (NCR) serves as joint business advisory council meeting obligations under state law for the following school districts: Seneca County: Fostoria City, Hopewell Loudon, New Riegel, North Central Academy, Seneca East, Old Fort, Tiffin City and the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center. Wyandot County: Mohawk Local, Carey Exempted Village, Upper Sandusky Exempted Village Schools. Morrow County: Mt. Gilead Local Schools. Crawford County: Buckeye Central Schools. Richland County: Shelby City and Ontario Local Schools. Vanguard Sentinel Career & Technical Centers and Terra State Community College are postsecondary education and training members. Regional business and industry partners include: Tiffin Seneca Economic Partnership, Wyandot County Economic Development, Richland County Chamber of Commerce, Representative Gary Click and Senator Bill Reineke. Additional employer and community partners are participating in each of the five counties where participating school districts reside. Those counties are: Seneca, Wyandot, Morrow, Richland and Crawford.

Northwest Career Ready provides an integrated opportunity for education and industry to interact to advance workforce preparedness and economic development in the Northwest Ohio area. The NCR partnership represents area educational, business and workforce development leaders committed to the following purpose, goal and objectives:

Purpose: The purpose of the Northwest Career Ready Business Advisory Council is to provide advice and recommendations to member districts that align the work of educators with the needs of businesses

Goal: Build stronger relationships and collaboration among business and education, ensuring the county's youth are career ready

Objectives: (as specified in ORC 3313.82)

1. Businesses will **advise** member districts about the changes in the economy/job market and changes to the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available
2. Businesses will **advocate** for the employment skills most critical to business and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills
3. Businesses will **aid and support** member districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and educators
- 4.

Key 2020-2021 Activities have included:

1. **Securing technical assistance.** NCR partners have contracted services from Jobs for the Future to facilitate planning aligned to our priorities to support implementation of NCR action plans, and to identify funding opportunities to accelerate NCR's future initiatives.
2. **Evaluating needs and partnerships.** NCR education and employer members completed a survey and discussion to determine the strengths and needs of existing partnerships among regional

agencies, school districts, higher education and businesses. Members discussed strategies to maintain and improve collaborative efforts, especially as pertains to NCR initiatives.

3. **Supporting partner efforts.** NCR members have prioritized involvement in related county organizations and initiatives by attending meetings and events of partner organizations, contributing to partner activities and aligning efforts of NCR to ensure that the business advisory council is an active contributor to efforts aligned to its priorities. Examples include:
 - a. Engagement with Wyandot County Education Task Force
 - b. Participation in NCO Regional Industry Manufacturer Workforce Alliance;
 - c. Attendance at Attract & Retain for the Future virtual series
 - d. Participation in Ohio’s U.S. Department of Education Statewide Longitudinal Career Data System Review
4. **Bylaw Revision.** NCR was established by merger in January, 2021. Revisions to bylaws reflected a need for closer alignment to the recommended roles for business advisory councils and to the specific opportunities for education and workforce development in the region.
5. **Expand Industry Credential Opportunities.** A RemotEDx grant was awarded to Northwest Career Ready, with Terra State College as the fiscal agent to increase the number of students who earn remote and blended pandemic proof credentials.
6. **Career Exploration, Planning and Experience.** Planning has begun to support activities aligned with the Ohio Career Connections framework. The Work Based Learning Subcommittee identified six (6) activities that are being planned for the 2021-2022 school year. These projects are led by business-education teams of 5 people who check in on progress every 30 days. Project categories include: Senior hiring event, employer-student classroom connections and teacher-employer events and externships. Additional programming available for next year will include:
 - a. Training for districts/employers who want to engage in job shadowing
 - b. ODE Training on Ohio’s Work Based Learning Toolkit for those districts who are not able to participate in the BRAG Program
 - c. Free professional development in PBL Works project based learning for teachers to build lessons that connect classroom to careers
 - d. Access to Nepris for NCR schools
 - e. Terra State College’s “Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal” Course

Northwest Career Ready convenes at least quarterly to plan, monitor progress and collaborate to reach these objectives. The following meeting schedule was observed:

September 17, 2020	October 15, 2020	November 19, 2020	December 19, 2020
Post-Merger Meetings	January 21, 2021	February 18, 2021	April 15, 2021
Asynchronous Meetings	May 20, 2021		