

**GEAUGA COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, February 18, 2025 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM**  
**ISSQUARED Technology Center, 100 7th Ave., Chardon, OH 44024**

**Mission Statement (Per ORC 3313.84):** *The mission of the ESWR Business Advisory Council (BAC) is to foster cooperation among our member schools, businesses, and the communities they serve to make our education system more aware of the local labor market; promote work-based experiences within businesses; and help students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities.*

**Minutes**

**1. Opening Items:**

- a. Roll Call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Welcome any New and or invited guests – [Resolution](#)
  - i. Sergeant Josie Paponetti, Recruiter for Geauga County, US Army Ohio National Guard
    1. The US Army National Guard proudly serves the West Geauga Community, with outreach programs to engage local schools.
    2. The educational benefits are offering 100% tuition coverage for college, providing a significant financial opportunity for students pursuing higher education.
    3. The National Guard also provides valuable training in various trades, helping individuals build skills.
    4. The Ohio National Guard organizes an annual event to connect with the community, share information and offer opportunities for prospective recruits.
- d. Approval of the November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes – [Link](#)
  - i. Tim Snyder approved the minutes and Jack Cunningham seconded the motion.
- e. Geauga County [Bylaws](#)

**2. Guest Speaker – Neil Singh, Senior Business Development Executive at ISSQUARED Technology Center**

a. ISSQUARED, a \$120 million global company, is leading the charge in the evolving world of AI and technology, particularly in education and cybersecurity. With offices in LA, Arizona, Seattle, Ohio, and around the world, the company specializes in high-end security appliances and custom software solutions to protect data. Committed to growth and community, ISSQUARED plans to create 100 jobs at its facility in the next five years.

Through programs like Techvibes, ISSQUARED is helping train the next generation with bootcamps, tech credentials, and hands-on experience. Next week, 60 students from Geauga County will participate in training simulations. The company also emphasizes the responsible use of AI and works on compliance with GDPR, federal mandates, and risk management strategies to safeguard against cyber threats. These initiatives were

highlighted during a recent tour for BAC members, showcasing ISSQUARED's efforts toward a more secure future.

3. **Time Sensitive: Industry-Recognized Credential Survey for Quarter 4 of 2024** - Linked below you will find the survey for Industry-Recognized Credential Applications. We count on these survey responses to make informed, industry-focused decisions as to whether to accept these credentials onto the state-approved list. Please fill out the survey so that we at the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce can continue to be a steward of education and business.
  - a. [Q4 IRC Survey](#)

Kelly Moran spoke of the Industry Recognized Credential survey asking individuals to participate and spread the word.

4. **Workforce Development Survey** - [Link](#)
5. **BAC Seal Tracking** - [Link](#)
6. **LEC STEM Event for your students, March 10, 2025**
7. **Annual All County High School Job Fair** - OhioMeansJobs-Geauga County, Chardon High School and The Chardon Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce our annual All-County High School Job Fair, happening on the morning of Friday, April 25th, 2025, Friday, April 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM : This year's Job Fair will be located at its new location; Chardon High School, 151 Chardon Ave., Chardon, OH This year's event will feature approximately 60 businesses eager to connect with students about job opportunities and career pathways.
8. **Career Exploration Open House:**
  - a. This is a great opportunity for your students to network with local employers and learn more about their career opportunities right here in Geauga County. The event site is linked [HERE](#) which includes all event information.
9. **Group Discussion**
  - a. Dean Tiffany Kpart from Kent State Geauga introduced herself and highlighted the college's efforts in supporting workforce development and credentialing for high school students. She also led a discussion on competency-based learning in higher education, contrasting it with the traditional "sit-and-get" lecture model.
  - b. Auburn updates - preparing to hire new position next year, working on

new allied health improvements, new public safety building that has just opened up and are planning on a celebration open house and event, board office has moved into renovated space across the street.

- c. ESCWR updates
  - i. Nancy Santillie provided information on the Emotional Poverty Training over 100 people, principal leadership network.
  - ii. Kelly Moran provided updates on Business Bootcamp.
- d. Jack Cunningham Superintendent of Cardinal Schools reported on the work being done at Cardinal related to Workforce Development and supporting them so that they stay local after graduation.

**10. GGP Updates**

**11. Tutoring opportunities**

**12. Celebrations and Gratitude**

**13. Individual Updates as needed**

- a. Military credentialing program that pays for individuals to excel in their military and civilian career and helps to support individuals in rooting and returning to Ohio.
- b. Chris Mitchell motioned to adjourn the meeting.  
Jack Cunningham seconded the motion.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

- Geauga BAC Meeting - Tuesday, April 08, 2025 at 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
Location - 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, OH 44024
- 2025 Geauga County High School Job Fair - Friday, April 25, 2025 at 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
New Location - 151 Chardon Ave., Chardon, OH 44024
- Geauga BAC Meeting - Tuesday, May 13, 2025 from 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
Location - 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, OH 44024