



2025 Joint Statement Template for Business Advisory Councils
Joint Statements must be made publicly available by March 1, 2024

Name of Business Advisory Council: Lake County Business Advisory Council

Primary Contact: Jennifer Felker, Superintendent ESC of the Western Reserve

Secondary Contact: Nancy Santilli, Assistant Superintendent ESC of the Western Reserve

1. Are there any changes to your Business Advisory Councils' structure or leadership since you submitted your plan for this academic year?

There have been no changes to the Business Advisory Council structure or leadership since the plan was submitted for this academic year. However, new members representing fields which have been void of past councils have been added (ex: military, healthcare, technology)

2. Of goals submitted in your 2025 Business Advisory Council Plan, on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being goal accomplished. What goals were you able to accomplish?

Goal 1: Professional Skills Development for Future Careers

- Increase awareness and understanding of AI technologies.
- Explore AI applications specific to the industry.
- Discuss ethical considerations and AI governance.
- Foster networking and collaboration opportunities.

Rating Scale: 10

Comments:

The BAC has taken significant steps to increase awareness and understanding of AI technologies while fostering meaningful collaboration between education and industry. Our

initiatives have provided educators and community members with firsthand exposure to AI applications, ethical considerations, and career pathways.

- **Raising Awareness & Understanding:** We successfully hosted an inaugural AI Summit, which drew nearly 200 educators and community members. This event featured expert speakers, interactive discussions, and real-world AI applications, equipping attendees with knowledge about AI's growing role across industries.
- **Exploring AI Applications:** Our BAC has actively engaged with AI-focused businesses, welcoming ISSQUARED as a new partner. This collaboration has allowed us to deepen our understanding of AI's role in various fields through site visits, hands-on exploration, and industry-led discussions.
- **Discussing Ethics & Governance:** Through our AI Summit and ongoing statewide engagement, including BAC team members serving on the AI Champion Taskforce, we have facilitated discussions on AI governance, ethical considerations, and responsible implementation in education and the workforce.
- **Fostering Collaboration & Networking:** We have expanded opportunities for educators and businesses to connect, including hosting a BAC meeting at ISSQUARED and integrating ISSQUARED as a host tour site for this year's Educator Business Bootcamp. These efforts ensure that AI professionals and educators continue to engage in dialogue about workforce needs and skill development.

Through these initiatives, the BAC has made substantial progress in preparing students and educators for AI-driven career opportunities while strengthening partnerships between education and industry.

Goal 2: Building Partnerships: Expanding partnerships with the military and healthcare sectors can provide significant benefits for a business advisory council, including access to new markets, resources, and innovations.

- Identify and engage with key stakeholders in both sectors.
- Develop mutually beneficial partnership agreements.
- Leverage partnerships to drive innovation, improve services, and expand market reach.

Rating Scale: 9

Comments:

The BAC has made significant progress in establishing and strengthening partnerships with the military and healthcare sectors, aligning with our mission to provide students with meaningful career exploration and workforce preparation. By engaging key stakeholders, integrating military and healthcare professionals into regional career initiatives, and expanding mentoring and

training opportunities, we are ensuring that students and families gain exposure to high-demand career pathways.

Key Actions Taken:

- **Engaging Stakeholders:** This year, we have expanded BAC membership to include representatives from the Army, National Guard, Marines, and Signature Health. These additions bring valuable expertise and industry insight, ensuring that our students have access to career-aligned mentorship and guidance.
- **Integrating Military Partnerships in STEM Education:** Our military representatives will actively participate in NEOSTEAM Day at Lake Erie College on March 10. High school students will rotate through hands-on STEM stations led by faculty and have the opportunity to interact with military recruiters, gaining insight into STEM-related careers within the armed forces.
- **Promoting Career-Focused Events:** The BAC has actively collaborated to support career events that highlight military and healthcare professions, including:
 - **Annual All-County High School Job Fair (April 25, 2025):** Hosted at Chardon High School, this event will connect students with 60+ employers, including representatives from military and healthcare sectors, to explore job opportunities and career pathways.
 - **Career Open House:** The BAC is promoting this event as a key opportunity for students and families to engage directly with industry professionals and learn about high-demand career fields. [Event Link](#)
 - **STEM to Career Night:** The BAC is coordinating with Partners in Science Excellent and the Alliance for Working Together to host a STEM to Career event at Swagelok on March 12. This event is designed for educators to learn more about manufacturing and how STEM skills taught in K-12 classrooms are needed in this field. Activities will include a plant tour and a STEM activity that educators can take back and use in their classrooms
- **Family Involvement & Education:** By supporting career-focused events and open houses, we are ensuring that students and their families have the resources needed to make informed decisions about future career paths in military and healthcare fields.

Impact & Future Steps

Through these efforts, the BAC has strengthened workforce connections, expanded mentorship opportunities, and increased student awareness of career pathways in military and healthcare fields. Moving forward, we will continue to leverage these partnerships to provide hands-on training, internship opportunities, and direct career pipeline connections for students interested in these high-demand sectors.

Goal 3: Coordinating Experiences -

- Design industry-specific challenges
- Integrate challenges into coursework
- Organize pre-apprenticeship information sessions

Rating Scale: 9

The BAC has taken significant strides in coordinating industry-specific experiences that align with workforce needs, ensuring students gain meaningful exposure to career pathways in manufacturing, IT, artificial intelligence, and other high-demand fields. Through corporate challenges, curriculum integration, and strengthened workforce-based tracking, we are deepening the connection between education and industry.

Key Actions Taken:

- **Designing Industry-Specific Challenges:**
 - We have launched **corporate challenges** for area high school students, directly pairing classroom learning with real-world business applications.
 - Companies such as Buyers Manufacturing and IT Logically have engaged students in solving industry-related problems, fostering critical thinking, collaboration, and career awareness.
- **Integrating Challenges into Coursework:**
 - We have collaborated with superintendents to review and update elective offerings at the high school level, ensuring coursework reflects industry needs.
 - This has resulted in the development of an Artificial Intelligence pathway course, providing students with structured learning opportunities in emerging technology fields.
- **Organizing Workforce Readiness Experiences:**
 - **Pre-Apprenticeship and Simulation Training:**
 - BAC partners, such as ISSQUARED, are hosting AI and cybersecurity simulation events where students rotate through hands-on training experiences at industry sites.
 - We are collaborating with organizations such as AWT to promote STEM programming for students during breaks and non-school days, expanding access to career-focused learning.
 - **Strengthening Workforce Data Collection & Seal Tracking:**

- The BAC has enhanced data collection systems to better track student participation in workforce-based learning experiences and industry-recognized credentialing.
- **Expanding Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Initiatives:**
 - Local schools have hosted informational meetings for school leaders on best practices in workforce development programming and curriculum design.
 - The BAC has applied for the Battle Manufacturing Grant, which, if awarded, will help expand student-facing apprenticeship programs in schools.
 - We have partnered with curriculum vendors such as Interplay Learning to explore VR simulation training in high-demand fields, further enhancing career exploration opportunities.

Impact & Future Steps

By aligning education with industry needs, we are providing students with tangible workforce experiences, skills training, and career pathway exposure. Moving forward, the BAC will continue to expand corporate challenges, strengthen industry partnerships, and enhance workforce-based learning opportunities to ensure students are prepared for high-growth careers.

a. What challenges have you experienced implementing your goals?

The greatest challenge is Council members' time to devote to initiatives and implementation of projects.

3. What new partnerships have your Business Advisory Council formed for the SY23?

We have created new partnerships with the following:

ISSQUARED

Signature Heath

U.S. Army

U.S. Marines

U.S. National Guard

Lubrizol

ORDtech.com

4. Have you added or removed any goals submitted in your SY25 Business Advisory Council Plans? If so, please provide details.

We have not added or removed any goals submitted in our SY25 Business Advisory Council Plan.

5. Have you received any media coverage or participated in any case studies as a Business Advisory Council? If so, please share.

No, we have not received any media coverage or participated in any case studies as a Business Advisory Council.

A full list of accomplishment and current initiatives of the BAC can be found in the plan addendum that can be accessed here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jkCKorQ7ytGnIES3chX4GtFTEYwJcw1BfflxW2gvtRg/edit?usp=sharing>