

Governor, Lt. Governor Recognize Business-Education Partners for Connecting Students to Professional Skills and Real-World Experiences

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Stephen D. Dackin today announced Ohio's [2024 Business-Education Leader Awards for Excellent Business Advisory Councils](#). The Business Advisory Councils being honored demonstrate excellence developing professional skills for the future, building partnerships, and coordinating experiences, which contribute to preparing students for success.

“Ohio recognizes the vital role of Business Advisory Councils in fostering strong partnerships that benefit students across the state,” Governor DeWine said. “These councils serve as bridges between classroom learning and real-world experience, creating dynamic learning environments that prepare students for future careers.”

“I always say that those who collaborate best win and Business Advisory Councils are a prime example of that because they allow businesses to directly help schools better understand how to prepare students for career opportunities right in their local communities,” said Lt. Governor Husted. “This helps businesses create a local talent pipeline and helps more students prepare for careers without college debt.”

This application-based set of awards recognizes educators, business partners, staff, schools, businesses, educational service centers, joint vocational school districts, and communities that come together to create dynamic, career-focused learning environments for students. Award levels are detailed in the graphic below.

Business Advisory Councils



Four-star councils implement all quality practices throughout the year to create a culture of career-focused opportunities in alignment with in-demand occupations and provide supporting data.



Three-star councils implement many quality practices throughout the year to create a culture of career-focused opportunities for all students.



Two-star councils implement few quality practices and/or show insufficient evidence of implementation. Some quality practices are present; however, there is room for growth in implementation.



One-star councils are in the beginning stages of implementing quality practices or implement very few quality practices.

“Business Advisory Councils create engaging opportunities for students to gain practical skills, connect with mentors, and learn about in-demand career skillsets in their communities,” said Stephen D. Dackin, director of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. “Partnerships between businesses and education are crucial for preparing

students to be career ready upon graduation.”

Ohio is proud to be home to 85 Business Advisory Councils that engage with schools and collaborate about business and workforce needs, as well as educational programming that responds to those needs. To highlight the work of these councils, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, in partnership with the [Ohio Business Roundtable](#), [Ohio Chamber of Commerce](#), [Ohio Chapter of the National Federation of Independent Business](#), [Ohio Farm Bureau](#), [Ohio Manufacturers' Association](#), [Ohio Excels](#), [Ohio Restaurant Association](#) and [Ohio Council of Retail Merchants](#), developed Ohio's Business-Education Leader Awards for Excellent Business Advisory Councils. To learn more about the work of Business Advisory Council, visit the [Business Advisory Councils webpage](#).

Business Advisory Council Excellence Award:

Ohio's 2024 Four-Star Business Advisory Councils:

- BB2C
- Montgomery County ESC
- Noble Local Schools
- North Point ESC

Ohio's 2024 Three-Star Business Advisory Councils:

- Barberton
- ESC of Central Ohio
- Champaign County
- Tri-County ESC
- Athens-Meigs ESC
- Cincinnati Public Schools
- Columbiana County ESC
- Goshen Local Schools
- Hancock County ESC
- Lorain County ESC
- Marion Area Workforce Acceleration Collaborative
- Mercer County ESC
- Mid-Ohio ESC
- Muskingum Valley ESC
- New Lexington City
- Northwest Career Ready
- Piqua City Schools
- Preble County ESC
- Southern Ohio ESC
- Van Wert County BAC
- ESC of Northeast Ohio
- LinkedUp BAC