



2024 Joint Statement for Hancock County Business Advisory Council (BAC)

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The Hancock County BAC's original leadership and structure led a consistent mission throughout the 2023-2024 academic year. The mission continues to be: *Assist in building a viable and productive relationship between the schools and employers in Hancock County through increased awareness, cooperation, and involvement.*

Our BAC services: Arcadia, Arlington, Cory-Rawson, Findlay City, Findlay Digital Academy, Liberty-Benton, McComb, Millstream Career Center, Riverdale, Van Buren, and Vanlue school districts.

Status of Initiatives and Accomplishments

- Initiative 1: Expand use and applicability of digital career resources (i.e., PathwaysOS, Pathful Explore, and YouScience) to help students understand professional skills.
 1. 10/10 – Initiative Met
 2. Multiple districts added digital career resources to their curriculum to support students with career exploration. Districts currently using one or more of these digital career resources includes: Arlington, Cory-Rawson, Findlay City, Findlay Digital Academy, Liberty-Benton, McComb, Millstream Career Center, Van Buren, and Vanlue.
 3. Raise the Bar® is collecting data from the career aptitude and interest assessments and analyzing results to drive future programming and strategy.
- Initiative 2: Communicate workplace trends and expectations to Hancock County's Educators
 1. 9/10 – Initiative Mostly Met
 2. Raise the Bar® releases a monthly newsletter, [On the Rise](#), to connect employers with educators on workplace trends and expectations. The next edition of *On the Rise* will include county-specific labor data, how companies market open positions (Indeed, LinkedIn, Social Media, etc.), and various internship and apprentice programs.
 3. BAC members representing diverse industries share industry-specific data on topics such as in-demand credentials, degrees vs. certificates, skill level expectations, current and future hiring practices, etc.
- Initiative 3: Diagram existing employer:employer and employer:education relationships
 1. 10/10 – Initiative Met
 2. The BAC completed a facilitated exercise of mapping relationships (using Padlet). The purpose of the exercise was to (1) understand the connections employers have to other businesses in the community; (2) understand broader industry connections that may be used by our area schools to build top-notch curriculum; (3) help schools visualize the scope of industry and the key entities within an industry; and (4) encourage more consistent engagement between schools and employers.

- Initiatives 4 and 5: Continue implementing elements of Hancock County's K-12 Career Preparation Continuum/ Participate in District's Career-Related Experiences for Students
 1. 9/10 – Initiative Mostly Met
 2. School districts continue welcoming guest speakers into the K-12 classrooms to ignite conversations around careers and opportunities.
 3. Raise the Bar® continues offering its Career Expo Series for high school students. Industries highlighted through workplace tours and conversations have included: (1) Arts/Communication, (2) Architecture and Construction, (3) Education and Training, and (4) Marketing/Sales. The remaining two expos for this academic year will focus on broadband/5G and agriculture/natural resources.
 4. Three school districts (Cory-Rawson, Van Buren, and Liberty-Benton) are piloting a new mock interview experience with high school juniors. The event will occur April 30th, with likely representation of BAC members.

Challenges Encountered

- No challenges have occurred in relation to our BAC structure and/or initiatives.

New Partnerships Fostered

- New businesses and industry representation continue to be brought into the BAC. This additional representation allows the BAC to build networks and relationships within all applicable sectors to best support student and teacher experiences.

Goal Changes

- No changes to our goals.

Media Coverage

- Hancock County BAC successes are showcased through Raise the Bar's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn), as well as through each individual district's social media resources.
- Engagement of businesses and educators highlighted in *On the Rise* newsletters mailed to 750 employer contacts associated with the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce.