

MCEDC December Newsletter 2020



Whether you're opening a checking account or planning for your future retirement, PNC is committed to creating innovative tools that help you make the most of your money and your financial future. They have been consistently ranked as a Top 50 Technology Innovator (InformationWeek) and they are dedicated to the places where they do business.

You can see that dedication through the recognition they have received. PNC received The Corporate Champion Award from the National Head Start Association for Grow Up Great, a \$350 million, multi-year, bilingual initiative that began in 2004 to help prepare children from birth to age five for success in school and life. The local team is personally committed to the success of the region. They support the United Way of Medina, Main Street Medina, Medina Creative Housing, the Highland Foundation and the Medina County Economic Development Corporation. Additionally, PNC bank branches participate in collection drives that benefit Community Action Wayne / Medina.

They are also committed to business. They focus on understanding your business and your industry so they can deliver relevant ideas, insights, and solutions. Whether you're looking to improve your treasury management practices and working capital efficiencies, mitigate your financial risks, or seeking access to capital, PNC can help. Because when businesses in the region achieve more, so do individuals, the community and our economy. Find them at a local PNC branch or at www.pnc.com.

Congratulations to OneDigital

OneDigital Medina is more than a benefits broker, they are a support system that can help you in all aspects of your employee benefits management. Their experts can work with your team to develop a long-term benefits plan and help you define goals and establish budgetary requirements. With customized employee benefits, HR administration services and professional development expertise, OneDigital Medina can help you maximize employee engagement, increase productivity, and attract and retain the very best talent.

OneDigital is the leading strategic advisory firm in the U.S. and has consistently led from the front as a workplace ally for 20 years. OneDigital's unique ability to converge health, wealth and human resources into a hub of services and business guidance has empowered companies to create workplaces that attract and retain talent while fueling innovation and company growth. As employee healthcare, wellness and workplace benefits continue to shift, companies of all sizes have relied on OneDigital's exceptional advisory teams for counsel and its adjacent services, including employee benefits, holistic HR services, retirement and wealth management, employee wellbeing and pharmacy consulting. Headquartered in Atlanta, OneDigital's more than 100 offices and 2,200+ business strategists serve the needs of over 50,000 employees across the nation.

Legislative Update

Representatives Bob Gibbs and Anthony Gonzalez were able to meet with MCEDC's membership in the December meeting. High on their priority list is to get the omnibus spending bill passed to ensure the government stays open. Rep. Gonzalez felt confident the next round of emergency relief would be passed.

Gonzalez indicated he believed this bill would be very close to the bill he worked on with the Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group that works together to solve legislative issues. He also feels with the close margins on majorities in both houses we will see more bipartisan work being done that ever before. He hopes to focus on workforce and infrastructure as the pandemic comes to an end.

Rep. Gibbs felt that infrastructure will be a key priority in 2021, with a focus on investments in rural broadband, water and sewer, and highways. He felt that there will be a pilot program to collect highway fees by charging for miles driven versus the traditional gas tax model.

Gibbs said he believes that the end of the pandemic will signal a strong economy and there is a great deal of pent-up demand. He is also watching foreign policy closely with the new administration.

One attendee asked about the renewal of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act as this has helped people who are ill to stay home. The concern is that without this incentive, individuals will have to use their sick leave and may not be as quick to stay home. Both Representatives are in favor of renewing those provisions and expect to see it in upcoming legislation.

Re-shoring of manufacturing was discussed, and both Representatives would like to see more. There has been discussion around this for medical equipment and supply companies and Gonzalez would like to see it for steel as well. Gibbs pointed out that for infrastructure projects, they always work to buy American.

A question was asked regarding tariffs and what the future holds. Gibbs does not believe the Biden administration will remove tariffs immediately and will wait to see how China handles the agreements. At this time, they are honoring their commitment to buy American agriculture goods. Gonzalez said that the new administration has indicated that climate change will be at the core of the foreign policy, which will be a change in focus.

A suggestion was made to incentivize companies to hire people currently on unemployment instead of increasing unemployment benefits. Gonzalez liked this proposal, as he feels this is actually a stimulus program and has sent it forward to leadership. Gibbs indicated he felt the same, and his office has sent it up as well.

Member News

Congratulations to Dr. Radiah Blanton of Tri-C on successfully defending her thesis and rising to the ranks of Ph.D. Well done!



Jeffrey Banyas, Attorney with Sisson at Law, has just been promoted to Manager of Production. Congratulations Jeffrey!

Huntington Bank has announced their acquisition of TCF Financial. Huntington CEO Steve Steinour said, "Together we're in a position to do things that neither one of us could independently do."



Sandridge Foods is proud to announce the promotion of Dane Sandridge to the role of Chief Commercial Officer. Congratulations Dane!

Westfield Bank has released their new Sharing Knowledge series with Kevin Vonderau, Chief Lending Officer. To tune in, visit <https://lnkd.in/gNCemtP>

Atwell is pleased to announce the promotion of Erica Ervin to Project Manager. Erica will be responsible for project management and execution, development and oversight of project objectives, as well as budgets and schedules. Congratulations Erica!

Remington Products Company of Wadsworth has announced it has changed its name to Foundation Wellness. CEO Sean Williams said, "The new name better connects us with our mission of enabling people to live active and pain-free lives."

Meru Maharaj of Re/Max Oasis Dream Homes has been elected to the National Board of Directors of the Beverly Carter Foundation. Focused on realtor safety, it is a cause near and dear to Meru's heart. Congratulations!

Medina County Health Commissioner Krista Wasowski expressed concern that vaccination distribution could be slowed down because providers are talking about billing administration fees to insurance companies, even though the federal government has made the COVID-19 vaccine free. Both Representatives were very concerned to hear this and asked her to speak with her staff to get this issue to those negotiating legislation.

Some discussion was had on climate change and the policy that may result from the new administration. Both Representatives are watching this closely and want to ensure there is no significant increase in costs to companies and consumers. There is also concern regarding some of what has been "telegraphed" from the administration, but nothing has been formally discussed.

Rep. Gibbs and Rep. Gonzalez expressed their appreciation to be able to talk to the membership. If you have concerns or questions, they both encouraged people to reach out to their offices. MCEDC is also happy to connect you with your government leaders, so let us know if we can help!

To view the meeting recording, visit <https://www.medinacounty.org/mcedc-member-meeting-12-17-2020/>

Medina County Voices Need to Be Heard!

Our transportation planners in Northeast Ohio need to hear from you! We need to make sure Medina's County's input is included in NO-ACA's long-range plan for spending transportation dollars in our region. Go to <https://www.eneo2050.com/future-scenarios> and fill out the brief survey by December 31.

Your Stories Are Needed! Own Your Skill

How do we help young people get into the workforce successfully and start their careers? The Own Your Skill program is designed to help students recognize those skills they already have that translate to business.

But we need your help! Through our research we have learned that young people are stressed about making a mistake when taking that first job. So we need them to understand the first job is not the last job.

Record a video talking about why they took their first job, what it meant, what they learned, why they aren't in that field anymore, or anything else that could help a kid connect. Send them to kathyb@medinacounty.org and we'll add them to our YouTube channel!

MCEDC Energy Program

How can monitoring your ENERGY STAR score impact your bottom line?

Using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool, businesses can gain easy access and visibility into their usage data and how it stacks up to similar facilities across the nation.

By monitoring and actively working to improve their scores, many businesses are able to decrease their energy usage. In fact, the EPA reported that for those 35,000 businesses using Portfolio Manager from 2008 to 2011, a 2.4% annual energy use decrease was measured.

With a solid energy procurement strategy in place and an ever-increasing ENERGY STAR score, you can be sure you are managing your energy expenses effectively. For more information on ENERGY STAR benchmarking and savings opportunities, feel free to reach out to Claire Wilson directly at cwilson@ceateam.com.

Thank you to our Annual Premier Sponsors!

