

MCEDC September Newsletter 2021

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Today, employee-owners continue to grow their commitment to the region, serving on various nonprofit organizations and donating their time and resources to local initiatives throughout the year. At Oswald, we see risk so you see opportunity! Learn more at www.OswaldCompanies.com.

State of the Schools 2021

Each fall, MCEDC's membership has the opportunity to hear from each of our seven public school districts, both vocational programs, and Medina Christian Academy. With COVID, school funding, and strategic planning on their agendas, we greatly appreciate our school districts' willingness to spend time with the business community.

The first question put to the group was, "Given the constant changes in the state's achievement measurements, how do you personally measure your school district's success?" Each district mentioned looking at the state measures, but recognize that they are limited in scope and don't represent the whole child as each district wants to do. The participants discussed the social emotional well being of students through the pandemic and other challenges that have been part of their lives recently and how schools are really the front lines for these issues. Each district has a strategic plan that goes beyond the state measures and helps determine if students are successful year to year and ultimately after graduation.

The Medina County Career Center added they actually survey their students both at graduation and one year after. 98% of their students say they would recommend MCCC to their friends.

Next, there was a discussion regarding school funding. The superintendents seemed cautiously optimistic that the new state funding formula will help

Member News

Cheryl Coblentz of Rea and associates has been named the new Director of Accounting Services. Congratulations, Cheryl!

Janotta and Herner celebrated the groundbreaking of Lowbrow Customs in Brunswick. They are adding an additional 12,300 square feet to their current location.

Kudos to Marjorie Cook of Eyedeal Graphics. She was one of NSME Akron Canton's Accent on Excellence Award Winners for 2021.

Seven attorneys at Critchfield, Critchfield, and Johnston have been recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2022. They are Amy Demlow, Susan Baker, Steven Shrock, Kim Rose, Jame Lanham, Chad Yoder, and Daniel Calvin. Congratulations to the team!

Fire-Dex has been recognized by ERC as one of the 99 great Northeast Ohio workplaces for top talent. They were also honored by Smart Business with their second Family Business Achievement Award. Congratulations!

MelCap Partners was named a winner for the Divestiture Deal of the Year category by M&A Advisor. Great work, team!

Congratulations to the new board members of the Medina County Community Fund Advisory Board. They are: Chair, Barbara Dzur of the City of Medina, Erika Branch of

make funding more effective and provide stability. Actual dollars to be received will be announced in October, but the majority of schools feel they will see an increase in funding. MCEDC will be hosting an informational session soon on how the school funding formula works and if our schools will benefit - stay tuned!

Most of us hear what kids and parents are excited about when it comes to a new school year, but we wanted to hear what our administrators are excited about! First and foremost, everyone is excited to be back in person. It is clear that the students, staff, and parents all appreciate teaching in classrooms face-to-face. One superintendent mentioned the "sound of school" and while we may not have thought about it before, we all know what that means.

The schools are excited to be in Medina County. Working with the Educational Service Center of Medina County, the superintendents all agreed that the collaboration which happens here doesn't happen in other counties and we are stronger for it. Each district had a unique answer:

Brunswick City Schools - Having passed their first operating levy in quite a while, Brunswick is excited to create new programs. They are also thrilled with their new middle school which houses 1,532 students each day.

Cloverleaf Local Schools - The athletic stadium upgrade is very exciting as it did not require new taxes or tapping the operating funds. The new high school / middle school campus will break ground in October and be completed by August of 2023.

Highland Local Schools - Three new elementary schools opened this year replacing buildings that were 100 years old. The students have immediately adapted to the bright spaces with lots of collaboration opportunities. The tech is state-of-the-art and security has been updated. And everyone's favorite feature - the traffic patterns have been updated for maximum efficiency in pick up and drop off.

Medina City Schools - The "Portrait of a Graduate" program is now developed and Medina City Schools is excited to roll it out. That, coupled with their strategic plan, is making 2021 a strong, goal-oriented experience!

Wadsworth City Schools - Wadsworth Schools has been able to stretch their last operating levy from the expected three years to five which is a great accomplishment. As they go to the voters for both an operating levy and a plan for the CIS building, they are excited about the prospects this could bring.

Four Cities Compact - The Compact is adding pharmaceu-

tical sciences to Copley High School's program offerings and Wadsworth will add a new program next year. The senior carpentry class has built a house and are working to make it an energy star program. They also have a new surgical room in the animal care program.

Medina County Career Center - When Superintendent Chrisman started at the Career Center 8 years ago, he set a goal to "flip the building" in ten years. With two years to go, they have accomplished about 90% of their goal. The power equipment and welding labs are being redone and the restaurant has been updated. Guests can visit Tuesday / Wednesday /Thursday to eat at the restaurant which now has a separate entrance. Also, the Adult Education Department has a new director - Janice Kollar. Welcome to Janice!

Medina Christian Academy - MCA has seen an increase in enrollment over 200% and is now working on a campaign to add new buildings. They are focusing on helping students understand work skills and how to do research so they know what is true. All great skills!

Overall the group was upbeat and feels that this school year is off to a great start. The business community clearly recognizes the importance of our schools in both attracting great talent and graduating the next group of workers. We want to thank our schools for sharing with our members!

(Member News Continued)

OneDigital, Mark Dorman of Legacy Financial Services, Kimberly Bolas-Miller of Westfield Bank, Dan Calvin of Critchfield, Critchfield, and Johnston, Denise Testa, Medina County Planning Department, and Terry Pfeleiderer, RPM International.

Northcoast 99 has named Westfield Bank a best employer in Northeast Ohio for the second year in a row. Congratulations!

Oswald Companies recently spent a weekend painting and staining at the Society for Handicapped Citizens. Thank you for giving back!

Congratulations to OhioMeansJobs of Summit and Medina Counties for the launch of their new website. Check out their workforce resources at www.summitmedinaomj.org.

Ohio's In-Demand Jobs Survey is live!

The survey is open to all registered Ohio businesses, giving small and large businesses alike the opportunity to have a voice in how Ohio prepares people for the current workforce. Your feedback will directly shape Ohio's workforce priorities.

Businesses can fill out the survey at TopJobs.Ohio.gov/Survey through October 8th.

Many companies are feeling growing urgency to address their carbon emissions. This can be derived internally from employees, externally from corporate headquarters, or simply from the company's commitment to sustainability. To address your carbon footprint, it's important to understand where your emissions are coming from.

Carbon emissions are classified into three areas: Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3. Scope 1 are emissions from sources owned by the company, such as fleet vehicles or gas burning equipment. Scope 2 emissions are from purchased energy (think electricity). Scope 3 emissions are linked to a company's value chain and activities both up and downstream (think suppliers).

The MCEDC Energy Program recommends four easy steps to address your carbon emissions: track, reduce, neutralize, and remove. First, it's critical to identify and measure your current emissions to establish a baseline. Once that baseline is established, reduce your overall emissions as much as possible through energy efficiency measures. After reducing your overall emissions, neutralize Scope 2 emissions by installing onsite renewable energy (e.g. solar panels) or purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates. Finally, to remove your remaining carbon emissions, purchase carbon offsets or invest in carbon sequestration projects.

If you are interested in learning more or want to begin addressing your carbon emissions, please contact Claire Wilson at cwilson@ceateam.com.

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