



NPESC's Business Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

NOECA, 219 Howard Dr. Sandusky, OH 44870

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

9:00 AM

- I. **Welcome & Introductions - Andrea Smith and introductions**
- II. **Roll Call of Members**
 - a. Present: Andrea Smith, Carrie Sanchez Kramer, Ashley Spangler, Dr. Paul Lockwood, Dr. Allia Carter, Andy Horn, Carol Kern, Thomas Lucha, Jim Rinaldo, Troy Parks, Katherine Adams, Will Snyder, Marilyn Moskinski, Miriam Batke, Sylvia Rios, Dr. Carter
 - b. Absent: Jeff McClellan, Ed Kurt, Jarvis Cole, Daryl Deering, Laramie Spurlock, Angie Morelock, Taylor Robinson, Brian Hall, Rob Monack, Chris Singerling, Beth Hannam, Brian Fritz, Ben Chaffee, Kyleigh Lash, Sarah Ross, Eileen Buhlan, Pam Mohler
 - c. Guests: Lori Brodie (Regional Director - Northwest Ohio / U.S. Senator Jon Husted Ohio)
- III. **Remembrance of Member, Marianne Cheetham - Andrea reads and a moment of silence**
- IV. **Motion to accept the resignation of Hospitality and Ottawa County Business Representative, Stacy Maple**
 - a. Motion by: Katherine Adams
 - b. Motion by: Thomas Lucha
- V. **Motion to accept the following new members filling the seats of Marianne Cheetham and Stacy Maple ([Steering Committee Roles & Responsibilities](#)):**
 - a. NPESC Board member: Thomas Lucha - Works in seed sales and agronomy. Sits on Huron County's board as well.
 - i. Motion by: Jim Rinaldo
 - ii. Motion by: Dr. Paul Lockwood
 - b. Hospitality & Tourism/Ottawa County Business Rep: Will be filled June 17th, 2026
- VI. Andrea reads roles and responsibilities for our steering committee
- VII. **Introduction of Visitors**
 - a. Lori Brodie joins us as the Regional Director - Northwest Ohio / U.S. Senator Jon Justed-Ohio
- VIII. **Motion to approve [meeting minutes from 12-17-25](#)**
 - a. Motion by: Carol Kern
 - b. Second by: Katherine Adams
 - c. Needed changes: N/A

IX. INFORMATION & CORRESPONDENCE:

The following information was shared about regional BAC Exposure since the last meeting:

- i. December 14th 2025: Ashley Spangler was part of a collaborative lunch and learn with the ESC of Central Ohio and HCESC to share the process of beginning and implementing pre-apprenticeship programs across Ohio.
- ii. January 28, 2026: North Point ESC's BAC was highlighted in a [national YouScience webinar](#) featuring Andrea Smith
4 Star rated designation for the past 4 years. One of 11 in the state. Excellence with distinction. Only 4 others. County committees really make it happen.

X. Old Business - Items for Information

- a. Updates on Student Career Camps, Regional PITCH Challenge - Ashley Spangler & Economic Directors
- b. Explanation of the pitch challenge -
 - i. We started the pitch challenge 2 years ago. One school participated with 8 students. This year we had a Regional pitch challenge. All four counties participated. Ottawa and Sandusky competed in round one as Erie and Huron competed in round one. The winners from each then came together for a final event at BGSU Firelands where they each "pitched" their products/future plans. This event continues to grow.
- c. Re-cap of new Middle School Career Exploration "Road Show" & what's next -
 - i. Ashley Spangler and Carrie Sanchez explain the middle school road show. We wanted to see what it looked like in action. Started at Edison M.S., Jet Express for lunch, and ended at Port Clinton M.S.. We heard from 7 different school districts looking at different school systems. See, hear, and share. We showed our speedboater districts so others could take pieces that make sense in their districts.
- d. Update on Bi-Monthly Economic Development/NPESC Meetings -
 - i. Carrie Sanchez Kramer shares a meeting every 6 wks. getting everyone around the table. Working as a region so we don't duplicate work. Pitch Challenge regional work came from this discussion. Working on a regional calendar. Troy Parks (Huron Co.) shares that his insight wouldn't have been possible without this meeting. Katherine Adams (Ottawa Co.) shares career fair information useful for other counties. Carrie shares the collaboration of the educational piece from North Point. Carol Kern (Sandusky Co.) shares how things have been beneficial with new ideas. Ongoing communication to lead to success.
- e. PortfoliOH Regional Deployment Update -
 - i. Carrie Sanchez Kramer & Jeff McClellan share on the Digital site to log ongoing experiences. Carrie shares the history of PortfoliOH through our region and its capabilities. Other states are following Ohio's lead. It now connects to Ohio Means Jobs, the state report card, the business community, etc.
We have roughly 1/3 of our schools using PortfoliOH. We were awarded a grant through the Holden Jennings Foundation to develop the PortfoliOH playbook. How does it actually work?

XI. Business Partners Update on your Industry (Hospitality/Tourism, Adv. Manufacturing, Skilled Trades, Healthcare)

- a. Andy Horn - Motion Control Robotics - shares that they are swamped. 2026 is going to be very busy. Andy discusses their (MCR) involvement with local students through; student career camps, Sandusky and Ottawa county involvement, and Teacher Business Boot Camps. Andy shares his personal connection through his own 2nd grade son. He shares that he spoke in his stem class of 30 students and 20 of them knew who he was. The more students know what's in their backyards the better options they have for their futures. Andy continues sharing that Drew Morlock, a Gibsonburg student, worked at Motion Controls and just left to go to Utah. Carol Kern shares that they have a student that graduated two years ago and is now running a large robotic cell.
- b. Miriam Batke - Fisher-Titus Hospital - Mariam shares the ongoing opportunities with entry level positions, patient care etc. She loves the exposure of teachers through Teacher Boot Camps and the ability to then advise students. The healthcare careers program had managed ten students in the past but is taking a step back. They are considering doing a possible summer camp this summer for juniors and seniors.

XII. Higher Ed/School Partners Update

- a. Dr. Carter -BGSU is celebrating their 60th anniversary. Dr. Carter discusses the Palmer scholarship and its two year campaign. Students can experience the grant before it's here. Dr. Carter shares the Stem Academy program through the Glass City grant. 4 tracks; 1 week in the summer, an institute for teachers using material through science and stem programs. There is also a portion for families to attend. BGSU has submitted the grant. They should know by next week if they've received it.

XIII. Education Partners Update:

- a. Will Snyder - Western Reserve Superintendent - Discusses bills being approved (property tax). School districts predicting for the upcoming school years. They have a year or two to figure that out. Many schools lost a substantial amount of money overnight. Schools are working through the changes and making smart decisions. 54/64 percent state paying less as opposed to 50/50 in the past.
- b. CTE in middle school. Used to write a waiver to by-pass CTE. Now Middle school HAS to have CTE within their school. Computer Software development alongside agriculture and STEM. Financial literacy is huge. Western Reserve visited Perkins Academy to see how they can implement a similar program. Two students attended the Huron Co. BAC meeting discussing their experience at the IT Student Career Camp. Having students share their experiences through the student career camp was extremely beneficial for our BAC participants to hear.
- c. Andrea Smith shares information on the TEACH CS grant.

XIV. New Business:

- a. [Required Annual Joint Statement 2026](#) - Ashley Spangler & Carrie Sanchez Kramer
- b. [Goal Development Discussion for 2026-27](#) - Andrea Smith
 - i. Adopt goals by our June meeting. Adopt them or replace them.
 - ii. Moving to the sub-committee to keep or change goals for next year.
 - 1. Motion by: Paul Lockwood
 - 2. Motion by: Jim Ranaldo

- c. Teacher Business Boot Camps 2026 -
 - i. Carrie Sanchez Kramer - Ashland received funding! We are ready to go. Carrie gave an explanation of what the Teacher Business Boot Camp is. Teachers pay \$50 dollars to finish with 3 credit hours from Ashland University. 6 hours to renew license. Huge benefit. Teachers will tour local businesses, read economic articles, contribute through a messaging platform, and then produce a lesson to share with all other teachers.
 - ii. Ottawa & Sandusky Co Boot Camps = June 5-12, 2026
 - iii. Erie & Huron Co Boot Camps = Aug 4-11, 2026
 - iv. [ERIE COUNTY](#) (12 currently registered) - 13
 - v. [HURON COUNTY](#) (0 currently registered) - 2
 - vi. [OTTAWA COUNTY](#) (3 currently registered) - 5
 - vii. [SANDUSKY COUNTY](#) (4 currently registered) - 5
- d. Update on NEW Pre-Apprenticeships for next year -
 - i. Ashley Spangler - Manufacturing Works and possibly education may be added for next year. Currently we have; IT, Healthcare, Hospitality and Tourism, and Finance

XV. Committee Updates (provided by Economic Directors, Business & Education Partners):

- a. Erie County update -
 - i. Jarvis Cole not present
- b. Huron County update -
 - i. Troy Parks shares that Huron county will be joining Erie County in a Career Showcase at Kalahari
 - ii. Student career camps have been very beneficial. Healthcare and IT. Students then spoke about the IT Career Camp at the Huron Co. BAC meeting.
- c. Ottawa County update
 - i. Katherine Adams - Ottawa Co. BAC meeting next Friday. Blooddrive was successful but a heavy lift. Katherine shares that the Student Career Camp was a success. The hub is introducing an Advanced Air Mobility academy for Ottawa and Erie county schools. AAM instructor position is open through Vanguard. The Healthcare group has been wonderful this year. They've all found their own employers. 15/15 will leave in this career path. Students can get their LPN for free through the Trilogy program. (In Genoa) 2 students will start next fall.
- d. Sandusky County update -
 - i. Carol Kern - April 17th is their job and career experience day. Vanguard first half and 10-12 other schools 300+. Carol shares that while visiting Damshroder roofing, with the student career camp, one of the presenters attended a previous student boot camp and is now working there. She also shares that they had a Toledo engineering professor come in and speak during the engineering student career camp. He was able to explain all types of engineering and the pathways to get there.

XVI. Open Forum:

- a. Andrea Smith - Please share if any of your events have; BCSN covering, Sandusky Register reporting, and your facebook feeds of all the exciting events we have going on around the region.

XVII. Motion to adjourn the meeting

- a. Motion by: Dr. Carter
- b. Second by: Mariam Batke

XVIII. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. **Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 9:00 AM at NOECA (219 Howard Drive, Sandusky)**