

Ed Committee Minutes

March 26, 2024

Location Host: Aultman College: 2600 6th St. SW Canton, OH 44710

Facilitators: Dr. John Richard and Christine Taylor

Attendance

Emil Alecusan	Chris Goff	John Richard
Theresa Benzel	Jeff Dafler	Barb Ewing
Brent Fatzinger	Mike Hearn	Nathan Stutz
Craig Brown	Jennifer Kessel	Jean Paddock
Theresa Benzel	Susan Koosh	Jim Reinhard
Joe Chaddock	Rebecca Kuzma	
Matt Cola	Christine Taylor	
Mike Wheeler	Bob McBride	
Brent Fatzinger	Matt Ziders	
Shaanette Fowler	Brock Reiman	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair, Chris Goff, opened the meeting by introducing new members Matt Ziders, Jackson High School Principal, and Craig Brown, Canton Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development. Mr. Brown shared his professional background within workforce development and academia.

2. Aultman College Presentation

Dr. Brock Reiman, Vice President of Academic Affairs presented information on available programs and majors at Aultman College. Aultman College shares a site with Aultman Hospital allowing students unique opportunities for authentic learning in their field and daily interaction with hospital staff. The college has a secondary partnership with Summa Health. These partnerships yield a 100% post-graduation employment rate with 60-70% of students retaining employment at Aultman College, and 30% gaining employment throughout northeastern Ohio. Mr. Goff asked a follow-up question regarding whether there are associate and bachelor's degrees. And Dr. Reiman confirmed that there were options for both in various career pathways.

3. Review of Ed Committee Vision and Plan for Moving Forward

Dr. John Richard re-emphasized the vision for the group: *Business and Education partnering will help foster a well-prepared workforce that contributes to the economic development and improved quality of life throughout the Stark County area.*

John recapped the previous meeting's work in brainstorming ways that we could take the group's objectives into actionable items. Our “Then” statements included within the vision are:

- Well Prepared Workforce
- Economic Development
- Improved Quality of Life

The two goals of the conversation included developing future topics of discussion and identifying a few coordinated action steps that may be monitored through metrics. Also, individual group members may act independently in their professional spheres to support these goals.

4. Group Discussion of “If/Then” Brainstorm/ Identifying Action Steps for Current Year

Christine Taylor led the discussion of the group’s prior brainstorming with the following action items identified for consideration:

- Identifying needs & desires of business owners regarding certificates & credentials
- Bus tours for educators, along with credits for license renewal
- Surveying employers about skills of recent hires from Stark County schools
- Engaged with legislators and coordinated with Chamber and other education organizations
- Canton for All People – ask Don Ackerman to present to the group

5. Closing Remarks

Dr. Richard closed the meeting reminding attendees of upcoming meeting dates (see below). Chair Chris Goff thanked Aultman for hosting the meeting and invited the group to participate in a tour of Aultman College, led by Theresa Benzel.

Upcoming Meetings

April 23 at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

May 28 at Strengthening Stark

No Meetings in June & July