

# Chamber Education Committee / Business Advisory Council Minutes February 25, 2025

Location Host: Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce 222 Market Ave N.  
Canton, Ohio 44702

## Attendance

Emil Alecusan	Barb Bennett	Bryan Boatright	Martin Bowe	Scott Campbell
Joseph Chaddock	Matt Cola	Jeff Dafler	Lisa Dalpiaz	Christopher DiLoreto
Shanna Ebert	Sharla Elton	Barb Ewing Cockroft	Brent Fatzinger	Teresa Fox
Chris Goff	Joel Daniel Harris	Tamiko Hatcher	Mike Hearn	Mary Ellen Icaza
Jennifer Kessel	Rebecca Kuzma	Janelle Lee	Stephen MacKenzie	Brent May
Robert McBride	John Milan	Marchi Muckleroy	Dan Murphy	Mike O'Donnell
Kristin Paumier	Jim Reinhard	Derek Saylor	Randolph Snow	Nathan Stutz
Gretchen Sudar	Christine Taylor	Rachel Vandyke	Brett Yeagley	Lisa Talbert

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chris Goff called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

### 2. Approval of agenda and January 28, 2025, minutes

Chris Goff asked for approval of today's agenda, as well as the minutes from the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chris DiLoreto made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes, Barb Bennett seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried.

### 3. Introduction: Christine Taylor, Stark Education Partnership

Christine asked any new members to introduce themselves, followed by a brief introduction from all attendees stating their name, role and organization.

### 4. Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce Welcome and Update on Current Events – Jeff Dafler, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Dafler introduced himself and apologized for IT issues with the calendar notices. Jeff discussed the adoption of a new Canton Regional Chamber strategic plan for the next five years, including priorities focused on creating member value and embracing regionalism. Jeff emphasized the ongoing importance of connecting educators and business owners to address workforce challenges and provide students with rewarding career opportunities.

### 5. Presentation: MAGNET – Mike O'Donnell, COO, MAGNET

Mike O'Donnell presented MAGNET research into the major trends in manufacturing, including the retirement of baby-boomer owners and the need for succession planning. He also underscored the growing importance of investing in workforce development and technology, providing examples of smaller manufacturers adopting digital methods. Mike discussed the importance of innovation and the role of Magnet in supporting manufacturers in Northeast Ohio. He stated that workforce skills needs are shifting as the digital transformation continues to reshape the manufacturing environment.

Mike emphasized the critical role of education in preparing students for careers in manufacturing and the need for a diverse and skilled workforce, as well as the importance of collaboration between manufacturers and educational institutions. Mike also pointed out the need for manufacturers to share the best practices and collaborate to improve efficiency and competitiveness, energy management and waste reduction, and paying employees fairly, providing benefits, and the need for flexible workforce policies to combat the challenges of workforce shortages.

**6. Group Discussion / Educator Bootcamp Planning Facilitation – Christine Taylor, Stark Education Partnership**

Christine Taylor explained that the Educator Bootcamp scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> will include sessions in manufacturing, distribution/logistics, trades, and healthcare with a focus on providing educators with practical skills and knowledge. Christine also requested committee members review a draft survey for educators wishing to sign up to ensure the document meets everyone's expectations. Any thoughts or questions can be emailed to her ([Christine.Taylor@edpartner.org](mailto:Christine.Taylor@edpartner.org)).

**7. Closing Announcements from the Members**

John Milan from Jobs for Ohio's Graduates announced an upcoming Career Development Conference on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the John Knight Center. The job fair will feature a job fair and competitions for students looking for work.

Jeff Dafler provided a preview of the next committee meeting at 10 a.m. on March 10<sup>th</sup> at RG Drage, which will feature a legislative panel with state representatives and county commissioners.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no other business, Chris Goff adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.