

**Chamber Education Committee / Business Advisory Council Minutes September 23, 2025**

Location Host: Akron-Canton Airport, 5400 Lauby Rd, North Canton, OH 44720

**Attendance**

Emil Alecusan	Brian Boatright	Martin Bowe	Scott Campbell	Dawn Catalano
Joseph Chaddock	Lisa Dalpiaz	Chris DiLoreto	Shaun Eller	Dave Fischer
Teresa Fox	Chris Goff	Rob Gress	Benny Griffiths	Joel Daniel Harris
Gary Kandel	Susan Koosh	Rebeca Kuzma	Janelle Lee	Josh Lehman
Eugene Lingenhoel	Robert McBride	Touby McCammon	Adam McKenzie	Chad Merritt
Dan Murphy	John Richard	Tiffany Rogers	Paul Salvino	Michele Shaffer
Nathan Stutz	Lisa Talbert	Larry Tausch	Christine Taylor	Matt Whitted
Patrick Willoughby	Matt Ziders	Megan Zimmerman	Renato Camacho	Andrea Deitrick
Joyce Miller DeMio	Bailey Fisher	Jeff Breit	Michael Joseph	Gina Jones
Stephanie Werren				

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Approval of Agenda and August 26, 2025, minutes**

Chris Goff, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:06PM. Chris Goff asked for approval of today’s agenda, as well as the minutes from the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chris DiLoreto made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes, and Marty Bowe seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried.

**2. Akron-Canton Airport Update – Ren Camacho, President & CEO, Akron-Canton Airport**

Ren Camacho provided an update highlighting the airport’s growth from 270,000 passengers during the pandemic to an anticipated 950,000 by year end. The airport, governed by a Board of Trustees, operates on zero public revenue, relying on parking fees, restaurant sales, and car rentals. The airport has seen a significant increase in flights, from Breeze Airways, which went from three to 15 non-stop flights, due to incentives from Jobs Ohio. The airport is also focusing on workforce development, particularly in aviation-related fields, and is exploring advanced air-mobility technologies, which are basically flying electric airplanes expected to start in 5-7 years. Ren discussed the airport’s focus on customer experience and community engagement, including relationships with local public schools for career opportunities, and shared the results of an economic impact study conducted by Kent State University showing increased economic benefits for the region. Ren outlined the airport’s route map, emphasizing the

focus on Florida and other more business-centric destinations. The airport supports various activities, including military operations, cargo, general aviation, and flight schools. Ren stated that the airport is addressing aging infrastructure, including runways, taxiways, and behind the wall systems. Ren mentioned the airport is exploring opportunities for hangar development to expand workforce opportunities and is seeking additional funding for an education facility on the west side to support career pathways in aviation. The airport sustainability initiatives include beekeeping and local farming partnerships. Ren emphasized the importance of leveraging federal and state mandates and community support to maintain and evolve the airport's operations.

**3. AvFlight / Allegiant Presentation – Michael Joseph, General Manager, AvFlight**

Michael Joseph stated AvFlight is one of two FBO's (Fixed based operators) on the airfield employing 75 people, with roles beyond pilots and mechanics, including maintenance, fueling, de-icing, ground service, and customer service. Michael discussed the future workforce needs in aviation, estimating an additional 22.1 million new aviation professionals needed nationwide by 2040. The FBO collaborates with local schools and organizations to provide career opportunities and training and is currently exploring opportunities in mobile detailing and data science in the aviation sector.

**4. BAC Plan and Goals for 2025-2026 – John Richard, President, Stark Education Partnership**

John Richard explained that the BAC plan aims to enhance career exposure for students and improve coordination of career-related activities. Examples of initiatives highlighted in the plan include educator boot camps, career connected learning, and manufacturing workforce development. The Plan includes three primary practices: developing professional skills, partnerships, and coordinating student experiences. John requested that schools and organizations share data on career-connected learning activities with Christine Taylor or himself to be highlighted in the BAC plan. John hosted a brief breakout session for participants to discuss their thoughts on enhancing programs or initiatives that would benefit the BAC. Participants shared ideas for enhancing and introducing new programs, along with better communication with parents and the community to support career development initiatives.

**5. Adjourn:** John Richard requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Murphy made the motion, and John adjourned the meeting at 1:03PM. A tour of Akron-Canton Airport followed for registered participants.