

Chamber Education Committee/Business Advisory Council Minutes November 25, 2025

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

Attendance

Emil Alecusan	Barbara Bennett	Theresa Benzel	Bryan Boatright	Debbie Busby
Jeff Dafler	Shaun Eller	Sharla Elton	Brent Fatzinger	Teresa Fox
Chris Goff	Mike Hearn	Ken Hill	Karen Jepsen	Melinda Kapalko
Jennifer Kessel	Robert McBride	Touby McCammon	Marci Muckleroy	Dan Swisher
Brock Reiman	John Richard	Matt Rodriguez	Tracy Sabo	Christine Taylor
Brittney Wells	Brett Yeagley	Matt Ziders		

- 1) **Call to Order, Welcome, and Approval of the October 28, 2025, meeting minutes:** Chris Goff, Chairman, President & CEO, Employers Health called the meeting to order at 12:07pm. Chris requested a motion to approve the agenda and October minutes. Barb Bennett made the motion to approve the agenda and minutes, and Jeff Dafler seconded. Upon voting, the motion carried.
- 2) **Aultman College Welcome and College Overview- Dr. Brock Reiman, Vice President Academic Affairs & Chief Learning Officer for Aultman College:** Brock Reiman led a discussion on “Understanding College Today” He shared current data on the enrollment, current programs thoughts on future program consideration for the healthcare field and shared insights into recruitment efforts for Aultman College. Finally, Dr. Reiman shared information on Aultman College’s career-connected learning program, “The Aultman Experience..”. At the conclusion of Dr. Reiman’s remarks, he responded to questions.

Question: For the certification/medical assistant, is that considered a tech cred?

Answer: It is college credit. 18hrs and applies at the undergraduate level and spans over 2 semesters (Fall/Spring)

Follow-up Question: Minimum GPA to stay in the program?

Answer: Minimum GPA of 2.0 or higher once admitted

- 3) **Aultman Health System Update – Tracy Sabo, Vice President of Human Resources at Aultman Health System:** Ms. Sabo shared updates on Aultman Health System’s presence in Stark and Surrounding Counties regarding hospitals, medical offices, and services. She expounded on workforce development and healthcare staffing needs at Aultman Health System in both medical and support roles. She also shared information on current offerings of career-connected learning to high school students interested in futures in health care, including many opportunities for career shadowing. At the conclusion of her remarks, Ms. Sabo responded to questions.

Question: Nurses salary, Associate vs bachelor’s degree and does it affect someone’s upward mobility to have one degree over the other?

Answer: Aultman pays the same for either degree, and having one degree over the other does not affect their ability to pursue upward mobility within the company.

Question: Is Aultman considering adding a Nurse Practitioner or PA to the college?

Answer: Yes, from a leadership standpoint, it is something we are always strategically looking at and how those programs might look like for Aultman.

- 4) **Canton Regional Chamber Educator Bootcamp Planning Discussion – Christine Taylor, Vice President of Stark Education Partnership,** Christin led a discussion on the upcoming Educator Bootcamp scheduled for June 2–4, focusing on strengthening connections between education and business. Two topics were discussed including critical skills for workforce that may be transferable from classroom to employment and discussion of a possible theme for the third day of the bootcamp.

Breakout session: Groups of 2 or 3 discussed essential soft and hard skills young people need when entering the workforce. Groups also identified which areas (engineering, hospitality, tourism, government/public policy) would provide the most value for middle and high school educators when learning skill sets during company tours.

Group share-out responses for critical skills: Critical thinking, reliability (showing-up), communication with purpose, positive attitude/growth mindset, extroverted (outward-focused or outgoing) skills, financial literacy, and managing their daily needs

Day Three Sector Share-Out Responses:

- Need for educators to understand different engineering types and their specific roles.
- Importance of public policy in business success and understanding the government's role in supporting their goals. Public policy was further identified as a key need to help youth understand how federal and state government decisions impact local businesses.
- Noted that tourism includes a strong entrepreneurship component, with many businesses such as Airbnbs and restaurants being entrepreneur-owned or operated.
- Highlighted that many government and public policy leaders started in education or local businesses, showing educators the value of these sectors in shaping career paths.
- An additional area raised: the need for greater understanding of technician and computer control roles, often viewed only as manufacturing but essential across all sectors. Noted the value of a “technician roadmap” to show how these roles connect to higher education pathways and career opportunities in any business.
- Potentially feature a short session on the “gig” economy and new age of entrepreneurship- what is potential for career vs. temporary interest

- 5) Meeting Adjourned: 1:05pm