

Finding a skilled workforce has become the No. 1 issue facing many local companies. Unemployment is at historic lows. Students that leave for college aren't coming back home to work. And it's difficult to connect with students that are graduating from local schools. This is why the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, in conjunction with the Fairfield County Educational Services Center, created the Fairfield County Career Readiness Endorsement.

Dozens of businesses and educational leaders from Fairfield County have provided input over the past year to create this endorsement which connects students graduating from local high schools to local businesses. Many students aren't prepared to go to college right out of high school. It's important for these students to find full-time, full-benefit positions at companies like yours so they can have a track to a successful career. Many of your employees probably didn't take the traditional educational path of college right after high school. We want to make sure students of today are getting the skills necessary to contribute to your company and to the community.

I've included a copy of the endorsement packet for your review. Seniors in high school will work with their school counselor to achieve the goals to show that they are career ready. You will have opportunities to hire these students as interns or hire them full-time into your company after graduation.

But for students to understand what it's like to work for a local employer, we need the participation and guidance of your organization. This is why we are asking the following of our partners:

- Spend one day per school year giving mock interviews and providing feedback to students
- Allow local students to take an organized tour of your company one day per school year
- Staff a booth at a job fair in February to meet with students and parents to discuss career options

Not only will you help fill the jobs of the future for your company but you will be providing a great service to local students that will be staying in the community. If you are interested in participating in this program, please complete the attached form and send to [rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov). Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rick Szabrak  
Economic and Workforce Development Director



Central Ohio's Road to Opportunity

CAREER READINESS ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION FORM

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Sector: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you offer tuition reimbursement: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Readiness Program Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Career Readiness Program Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I want to participate in the career readiness endorsement program.
- I am not interested in participating at this time but would like to remain informed about this initiative moving forward.