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For Immediate Release

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Fairfield 33 Alliance to Hold Signing Day for High School Students Starting Careers

Lancaster, Ohio – The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance will hold a Signing Day for all 2019 Fairfield County high school graduates who have started their career with a local business. This Signing Day further combines efforts for the Fairfield 33 Alliance’s Career Readiness Program, which connects students graduating from local high schools to local businesses. Forty nine students received the Career Readiness Endorsement in the 2018-2019 schoolyear.

Signing Day will be held on July 16 at 4 p.m. at 104 North Broad Street (Bandstand) in Downtown Lancaster. Students also have a chance to win \$500 towards their new career. Registration for Signing Day can be done at www.fairfield33.com or by contacting Rick Szabrak at Rick.Szabrak@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov.

“Signing Day is a big deal for student athletes that are moving on to play their sport in college,” said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. “We feel that a student that graduates and pursues a local career should be celebrated equally. In fact, their chance of success is greater than that of a student hoping college sports leads to a pro career. Only 1.6% of college football athletes that were eligible to be drafted into the NFL this year were actually drafted. They do get a college education and that leads to a pathway for success. But we should be celebrating careers – not just a chance at a career.”

In partnership with the Educational Services Center’s Business Advisory Committee, the Career Readiness Endorsement was created to help prepare students become work ready and provide evidence-based criteria to show local employers that these students are ready for a career with their company. Upon completion of the program students can receive an interview with one of the program’s employer partners. These are employers that have full-time, full-benefit positions for individuals with a high school diploma as well as provide a career track for these students.

“Many businesses offer tuition reimbursement,” Szabrak said. “Parents and students need to realize that college doesn’t have to follow the traditional route right after high school. With 45% of students who go to college in Ohio not completing their degree, it’s critical that we show students that maybe college right now isn’t the best option. For many, you can start a career and then pursue further education. That can include attaining a degree or furthering your skills at your current job by attaining certificates.”

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