



A STEP TOWARD SUCCESS: '22 Workforce Signing Event

On May 25 th, twelve local seniors took their next step toward successful careers in Shelby County. This event was our inaugural Workforce Signing Event and a step towards what will become an annual event where community, classmates, and families can celebrate graduating seniors and their decisions to enter the workforce. The event was honored to include Lt. Governor Jon Husted as our special guest. In 2020, Workforce Partnership received the Ohio Industry Sector Partnership grant which focuses on industry sector partnerships and provides funding for workforce programming. Shelby County is a leader in Ohio for workforce development programming.

Beginning back in 2020, local seniors have the opportunity to participate in our Career Coach program, which is co-sponsored by the United Way. The Career Coach program provides individualized coaching for students who are planning to directly enter the workforce after graduation or who are still unsure of what their plan is. Kelly Edwards serves as the Career Coach and as part of her role she has become familiar with local employers and their in-demand careers. Personalized evaluations and goal setting help her prepare and guide students towards opportunities that they may have not been aware even existed, with the end goal to be hired and begin their career. Living wages, medical benefits, retirement options, tuition reimbursement and

more can set students on a path to career success and growth potential.

Lt. Governor stated in his closing comments, *"No matter what you choose in life, it's important to chose wisely, and we're celebrating today wise choices and great partnership between employers, educators, families, and students who made wise choices when they were in high school to get the skills they need to lead, to work, and to live their version of the American Dream...without debt. Today we celebrate you."*



Students signing with a Partner include:

Zane Cline, Sidney High School ~ Air Handling Inc.; Doug Ellison, Houston High School & UVCC ~ Sollmann Electric; **Blaine Vaughn**, Sidney High School ~ Electro Controls; **Andrew Henderson**, Sidney High School & UVCC ~ Ferguson Construction; **Christopher Fritz**, UVCC ~ Ferguson Construction; **Malaina Little**, Fairlawn High School ~ Wilson Health; **Kyle Francis**, Jackson Center & UVCC ~ Lochard Inc.; **Carson Roesser**, Sidney High School ~ Cornerstone Building Brands; **Jhyston Malveaux**, Sidney High School ~ Cornerstone Building Brands; **Reis Macy**, Sidney High School & UVCC ~ Panel Control Inc.; **Lysh Maurer**, Christian Academy ~ Wells Brothers Inc.; and **Wesley Davidson**, Sidney High School ~ Slagle Mechanical Contractors.



Watch Our Successes Grow!



The Power Lunch

The 4th annual Power Lunch event, coordinated by Workforce Partnership, was held on March 3, 2022, at The Palazzo in Botkins, Ohio. The purpose of the Power Lunch is to engage industry partners with local high school seniors with the goal of attracting and retaining them to fill Shelby County jobs. This year, approximately 62 high school students from around Shelby County had the opportunity to network with local employers and discuss career opportunities. The majority of student participants were high school seniors

who are just a few months away from graduation and they all have a common intent to directly enter the workforce. Each student was given time to meet with 5-6 employers where they learned more about what the company does, discussed future exploration or employment, and had the chance to practice face-to-face interviewing in an informal setting. At the end of the event, all participants were treated to a complimentary lunch and the students were awarded door prizes that were donated by the companies.

The company participants included: Advanced Composites, Airstream, Cargill, Cornerstone Building Brands, Emerson, Ferguson Construction Company, Hemmelgarn Services, NK Parts Industries, Inc., Panel Control Inc., Plastipak, Polyfill, Slagle Mechanical Contractors, Tooling Technology, Wells Brothers Inc., and Wilson Health. Edison State Community College and Upper Valley Career Center Adult Division were also present to discuss education pathways. The event sponsors were Hometown Opportunity and Ohio Tech Prep/West Region.



Watch the Power Lunch Video

Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to watch the Power Lunch Video on Facebook.



"This was our first year attending the Workforce Partnership job fair for students. I enjoyed meeting with and engaging students with a variety of skills and backgrounds that could be a positive asset to our workforce. The event was well-organized and focused on getting students interested in opportunities available in our own community. Well Done!"

Sarah Graves
Hemmelgarn Services, Inc.

Ninja Madness

The Ninja Skilled Trades Challenge is a 12-foot activity course that introduces PPE commonly used in industry (hard hats and safety glasses) and hand tools (including drills, hammers, tape measures, and screw drivers). The Ninja season ran from November 2021-February 2022 and traveled to nine local school districts in Shelby County challenging 550 eighth-grade students



to try their hand at tools commonly found in the construction industry. The activity course pits two students against each other as they accomplish six skill stations, all while a timekeeper is tracking their progress. While the Ninja's primary goal is to offer a way for students explore skilled trades, the Ninja Team has managed to make the learning FUN! While there are some nerves at first, eventually the majority of students attempt the course with an "in it to win it" attitude! At the end of the day, the top three males and females receive awards and qualify to participate in the countywide Ninja Madness finals. On May 4th, the third annual Ninja Madness was held at Upper Valley Career Center. Surrounded by teachers, administrators, and parents, 54 students from nine school districts participated. Students were on the shy side at the start, but as the bracket narrowed, the atmosphere changed to enthusiasm and cheers. The students competed hard and in the end 6 individual winners emerged.



The Team competition is a fun way to demonstrate the importance of teamwork and skills management. This year Holy Angels was the winner of this competition.

As a final activity a TEAM competition took place. Here each team member was responsible to complete a single station and pass the hard hat to the next team member—until all stations were successfully completed. This activity truly emphasizes the teamwork aspect required in career success. The winning team this year was Holy Angels. Before students returned to their home school they were



Student winners include (L-R): 2nd place finishers: Madison Snider (Fort Loramie), Cole Timmerman (Fort Loramie); 1st place finishers: Audrey Prenger (Anna), Henry Peterson (Holy Angels); 3rd place finishers: Cyleigh Henline (Houston), and Xavier Quinter (Russia).

treated to a complimentary lunch prepared by the UVCC's own Culinary Arts students and sponsored by ABC Ohio Valley.



The individual and team winners were awarded prizes that included tool bags, Carhartt gear, tools, Gatorade bottles, and gift cards that were donated by the Ninja Team, consisting of: Area Energy & Electric Inc., Ferguson Construction Company, Slagle Mechanical, Upper Valley Career Center, and Workforce Partnership.

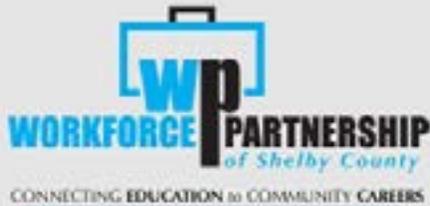


Watch the Ninja Madness Video

Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to watch the Ninja Madness Video on Facebook.



Thank You Partners!



The Workforce Partnership would not be possible without our forty county-wide industry partners who support us both financially and through skill training, career exploration, education, and employment.

Their dedication towards the retention of skilled labor in Shelby County is a benefit for all of us.

Contact us at: (937) 498-9900/workforcepartner.com

Additional resources:



BARHORST JOINS WP!

Shelly Barhorst has joined the Workforce Partnership team as the new Programming Coordinator. Shelly has taught the workforce development program at Fort Loramie Middle School, Career Connections, for the past seven years. She brings experience and enthusiasm to her role that will help to grow and strengthen our programming throughout the county. As more districts add workforce to their course schedules, Shelly will support the teachers in the implementation of the new curricula, as well as coordinating exploration classroom exploration activities. She will officially begin her duties on August 1st. Welcome Shelly!

