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Joint Statement of the Brown County Business Advisory Council

March 1, 2026

The Brown County Business Advisory Council includes the following school districts: Adams County Ohio Valley Schools, Brown County Educational Service Center, Eastern Local, Fayetteville-Perry, Georgetown Exempted Village, Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington, and Western Brown. In addition, business partners from a wide variety of areas are part of the council. We also include governmental agencies such as OhioMeansJobs, Adams/Brown Community Action Group, Ohio State University Extension, Brown County Libraries, Addiction Services, and the Brown County Chamber of Commerce, along with private entities including GRIT/Future Plans, BB2C, and Inter-alliance.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.82

The Brown County Business Advisory Council (BBAC), in partnership with participating school districts and regional stakeholders, continues to fulfill its statutory responsibilities by aligning education with workforce needs, strengthening professional skill development, expanding business partnerships, and coordinating high-quality career-connected learning experiences for all students.

With the inclusion of Adams County Ohio Valley School District beginning August 1, 2025, BBAC now operates as a multi-county regional workforce collaborative. This expanded network enhances career exposure, employer engagement, and talent pipeline development across Brown and Adams Counties.

Guided by business input and the Brown County Comprehensive Plan, BBAC has strategically advanced initiatives focused on developing professional and essential workforce skills, building sustainable business-education partnerships, coordinating hands-on career experiences, and supporting equitable access for all learners.

District Implementation of Professional Skills & Workforce Readiness

Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington Local School District (RULH)

demonstrates compliance with Ohio career readiness and workforce alignment requirements through a comprehensive, districtwide approach. The district has expanded career readiness through implementation of a Senior CCWMR Capstone and Career Passport course (launching 2025-26), an integrated Career-Ready Skills curriculum for grades 9-12, work-based learning (WBL), career and technical education (CTE), mock interviews, and student leadership programming.

Students engage in applied learning experiences including capstone and client-based projects, entrepreneurship simulations, digital portfolios, job shadowing, career speakers, financial literacy instruction, public-facing projects, and Junior Achievement. Technology is integrated to support instruction and operations, including the use of AI tools for lesson planning, assessment, and feedback, with plans for continued, structured professional learning.

Nearly all high school students are actively working toward graduation seals and credentials. Current and future graduating classes have access to multiple Ohio graduation seals, including military, technology, industry-recognized credentials, citizenship, OhioMeansJobs Readiness, science, honors diploma, college-ready, as well as local seals emphasizing community service, student engagement, fine and performing arts, and work-based learning.

This comprehensive system reflects intentional alignment with state requirements for career exploration, credential attainment, and workforce preparation.

Eastern Brown Local School District has emerged as a leader in credential-based career readiness. Professional skill development includes a Lean Six Sigma leadership credential pathway (78 middle school students), public speaking and interview training through FFA, and a college-credit speech course launching next year. Graduation seals in progress include the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal (90 students), Science Seal (86), Citizenship Seal (71), and additional technology, college-ready, service, arts, and engagement seals. Experiential learning includes industry tours, internships, job fairs, STEAM events, and financial literacy programming. Career interest

surveys guide placements, and AI supports instruction and administration.

Eastern Brown Elementary School now embeds early career awareness through career speaker series, second-grade financial literacy with local banking partners, and career-themed literacy programs across grade levels, building long-term workforce awareness aligned to BBAC goals.

Adams County Ohio Valley School District supports workforce readiness through soft skills, business management, goal setting, critical thinking, career exploration curriculum, GRIT/Future Plans surveys, Mini Society student-run businesses, and Agriculture Reality programs connecting students to regional industries. The district is exploring expanded credentialing partnerships aligned to workforce demand.

Fayetteville-Perry Local School District has developed a strong workforce pipeline through pre-apprenticeships (Health Corps & Lead X), on-campus WBL options, and credential attainment including Lean Six Sigma (120 students), OSHA 10 (90 students), and Stop the Bleed (15 students), with a goal that every graduate earns the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal. Career data drives individualized pathways, with continued need for expanded business partnerships, mentorships, and internships.

Georgetown Exempted Village School District strengthens workforce skills through soft skills and critical thinking workshops, entrepreneurship and leadership development, career speakers, job fairs, career exploration curriculum, and Mini Society student businesses supporting financial literacy and professionalism.

Western Brown Local School District continues to strengthen professional and essential skill development through a comprehensive K-12 focus on soft skills, leadership, career pathways, and real-world application. The district reinforces workforce readiness throughout instruction while offering multiple career-cluster pathways at the high school level, including Project Lead the Way Biomedical through Project Lead the Way, leadership and service through Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, career and family sciences through Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, agriculture education, arts programs such as band and theater, and business pathways through DECA. Students are regularly informed of local job fairs and college and career events.

This year, in collaboration with the district's Portrait of a

Graduate initiative, Western Brown formally identified key soft skills essential for postsecondary success and embedded these competencies across all grade levels to strengthen communication, responsibility, collaboration, and professionalism.

Approximately 20 students are currently pursuing the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal through the Senior Seminar course. In addition, many students participate in senior-only career credential programming through Brown County Adult Career Campus and Clermont County Adult Career Campus, earning credentials such as Phlebotomy, STNA, CNA, and Medical Assistant certifications, with approximately six seniors participating this year. Students in agriculture, business, and FCCLA pathways complete WebX industry credential exams, while Senior Seminar students earn a customer service credential through Rise Up.

BBAC March 1, 2026 Collected Data

School District	Career Exploration & Professional Skills (CCWMR)	Work-Based Learning & Career Experiences	Student Participation Data	Graduation Seals & Credentials	Business / Industry Engagement & Needs
Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington Local School District	Districtwide Advisory Career Curriculum (9–12); Senior CCWMR Capstone & Career Passport (2025–26); Financial Literacy (required); GRIT/interest surveys used for coaching and planning	Job shadowing; internships; WBL; mock interviews; career speakers; career fairs; Brown LEADS; HS Tech Internship	Internships/WBL: 6–18 (varies); Anticipated 10–15 by year end; OMJRS required for all graduates (count tracked locally)	OMJ Readiness (required); Military Seal; Industry-Recognized Credential Seal; Work-Based Learning (local); additional credentials embedded in electives	Needs additional employer partners for internships, job shadowing, and WBL placements
Eastern Brown Local School District	Career exploration via CTC partnership; Lean Six Sigma Leadership (MS); Financial Literacy; leadership & service programs	Career speakers; job fairs; industry tours; WBL; STEAM & CTC exploration	Lean Six Sigma trained ~270 MS; Credentials earned 78; OMJRS 90; Internships/observations 4; WBL 10	OMJRS; Citizenship; Science; Technology; College-Ready; Honors; Lean Six Sigma (industry credential)	Continued support needed for employer placements and career events

Adams County Ohio Valley Local School District	Career exploration curriculum; GRIT/interest surveys; soft skills and business fundamentals	Classroom-based career learning; Mini-Society	Student counts not reported	Credentials/seasonals not reported	Needs expanded employer engagement and partnership development
Fayetteville-Perry Local School District	Career pathway identification using GRIT/interest surveys; Financial Literacy; leadership development	Pre-Apprenticeships (Health Corps, Lead X); WBL; industry tours; guest speakers	Lean Six Sigma 120 (9–10); OSHA-10 90; Stop the Bleed 15; OMJRS goal for 100% of graduates	OMJRS; Lean Six Sigma; OSHA-10; Stop the Bleed	Needs increased internships, job shadows, apprenticeships, and workplace tours
Georgetown Exempted Village School District	Career exploration curriculum; Financial Literacy (9–10); STEM/Computer Science pathways; leadership programs	Career speakers; job fairs; WBL; college & career fairs; CTC visits; service learning	OMJRS earned 40 (juniors/seniors); additional participation ongoing	OMJRS; pathway-aligned course credentials	Needs expanded internships and job shadowing partnerships
Western Brown Local School District	K–12 soft skills aligned to Portrait of a Graduate; Senior Seminar (OMJRS); career pathways (PLTW Biomed, JROTC, FCCLA, Ag, Arts, DECA); career interest surveys used for counseling	Career speakers; job fairs; job shadowing; service learning; student-run enterprises; limited internships	OMJRS ~20; Adult career credentials ~6 seniors; Internship 1	OMJRS; Adult credentials (CNA, STNA, MA, Phlebotomy); Rise Up Retail credential; pathway credentials	Needs speed mentoring events, career-cluster lunches, and expanded employer participation

BBAC Coordinated Regional Work-Based Learning Experiences

Coordinated Experience 1: Brown LEADS for Youth Student Delegation

The BBAC is expanding work-based learning through the Brown LEADS for Youth Student Delegation, a two-year leadership and workforce development experience for 11th and 12th grade

students. Students participate in four sessions per year across two years.

Year One - Career Awareness & Exploration: strengths identification, career pathway exploration, workforce readiness foundations, confidence building, and goal setting.

Year Two - Professional Skill Application & Leadership in Action: real-world workforce skill application, service learning projects, leadership development, and direct interaction with business and community leaders.

Participating districts include Eastern Local (5 students), Western Brown (5), Georgetown Exempted Village (5), Fayetteville-Perry (5), and Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington (13). Adams County Ohio Valley Schools are developing a similar leadership program in collaboration with Leadership Adams.

Business and community partners include Southern State Community College, Merchants National Bank, Brown County Economic Development Department, University of Cincinnati Area Health Education Center, Ohio State University Extension, OhioMeansJobs, and Future Plans. Businesses serve as mentors, speakers, facilitators, and hosts for leadership workshops, industry panels, site visits, and mock interviews, ensuring authentic workforce alignment.

Coordinated Experience 2: Drone Technology & Grain Bin Mapping Project

The BBAC is expanding innovative career-connected learning through the Drone Technology/Grain Bin Mapping Project integrating agriculture, engineering, GIS, safety, and emerging technology. Elementary students identify safety risks and design tools, middle school students model grain flow and simulate mapping, and high school students collect GPS data using drones while collaborating with first responders to build a countywide safety database. Students develop technical skills in drone operations, data analysis, engineering design, and GIS, alongside teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Students hope to pursue FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification and Small Unmanned Safety Institute Level 1 Certification, fulfilling Ohio's Industry-Recognized Transportation Credential Seal requirements. Georgetown Exempted Village Schools currently participate, with expansion planned to Eastern Local,

Fayetteville-Perry, Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington, Western Brown, and Adams County Ohio Valley Schools, with long-term statewide replication.

Business partners include Brown County Emergency Medical Services, Brown County Emergency Management Agency, local FAA-licensed drone pilots, local farmers, Adams/Brown Farm Bureau, Ohio State University Extension, and Joby Aviation. Businesses provide real-world access, safety expertise, and industry insight ensuring workforce-aligned learning.

Coordinated Experience 3: Little State STEAM

Little State STEAM, May 7, 2026, is a regional career exploration initiative for grades 6-8 aligned with Ohio's Career Exploration Framework. Students engage in advanced academic and technical education, career interviews, workplace simulations, mentorships, service learning, and career-technical student organizations. Programming integrates insights from the Career-to-Classroom Guide developed from business survey data.

Projected student impact exceeds 1,428 students across Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington (157), Western Brown (310), Eastern Brown (260), Georgetown Exempted Village (139), Fayetteville-Perry (167), Adams County Ohio Valley (240), Greenfield Exempted Village (125), and Bright Local (30).

Local and regional employers participate through hands-on demonstrations and experiential learning stations supported by a Business-Education Partnership Directory. Businesses co-design experiences, align learning to Ohio's career clusters, and engage through outreach, school visits, media promotion, and partnership surveys.

Goals/Initiatives In Progress

BBAC continues to work toward establishing consistent career exploration and assessment tools across all participating school districts. This effort is essential to aligning career and workforce development opportunities with local and regional workforce needs. BBAC recognizes that students must first discover their individual strengths, interests, and aptitudes

before selecting an academic or workforce development pathway during their 9-12 grade years.

To support this goal, BBAC will encourage districts to utilize career exploration and assessment tools such as the GRIT assessment by Future Plans and YouScience. Data from these tools will be used to inform individualized planning, guide course and pathway selection, and strengthen alignment between student interests and local employment opportunities.

BBAC is also in the early planning stages of STEAMology Week, a collaborative instructional initiative with teachers scheduled for June 2026, designed to deepen career exploration through integrated science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics learning experiences.

At this time, BBAC has not completed planning steps to begin Initiative 4 related to building partnerships with student and adult college-level course offerings through Modern States. Students do have access to PortfoliOH when completing the GRIT Assessment. Seven of the eight high schools in Adams and Brown County have had five or more students complete the GRIT Assessment. Our goal is to have all 10th grade students in all school districts to complete some type of career assessment. We would also like to assess our 8th grade students (start at an earlier age) which would help students to create their 9th grade class schedule based upon career interests and strengths.

To review the 2025-2026 Brown County Business Advisory Council plan submitted on September 30, 2025 click [HERE](#).

This joint statement reflects the commitment of Brown County's Business Advisory Council and school districts to aligning education with workforce needs, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills necessary for future success.

We remain dedicated to creating meaningful experiences for students, fostering partnerships, and addressing challenges head-on to shape a brighter future for Brown County.

The Brown County Business Advisory Council received state

recognition on February 12, 2026 earning a Three-Star Award. The Council will continue to work for the benefit of our students.

The Brown County Business Council welcomes new partners and opportunities. See the click here> [Classroom to Career Workforce Partnership Guide](#). Also see our monthly newsletter/click here> [Building Bridges Bulletin](#).

If interested in being a part, please contact Bill Garrett bill.garrett@brownesc.us or Kim Adams kim.adams@brownesc.net at the Brown County Educational Service Center.