The Summit Educational Service Center established a Business Advisory Council in conjunction with fourteen-member school districts and sixteen business partners. It adopted a set of bylaws in September, 2018, which included the following statement of purpose:

Section 3. Purpose

A. The Business Advisory Council (BAC) will foster cooperation among schools, businesses and the communities they serve. This work ensures that the work of educators aligns with the needs of businesses. This BAC will assist in making local education system more aware of the local labor market; promote work-based experiences within businesses; and give guidance in helping students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities.

B. The council will annually adopt a plan under which the council addresses how it will make recommendations to the SESC and the member districts.

C. The council will file with the Ohio Department of Education, a statement, by March 1st of every year, reporting on the progress on the work outlined in the Business Advisory Council plan.

D. The Business Advisory Council will:
a. Advise local school districts on changes in the economy and job market and the area in which future jobs are most likely to be available;

b. Advocate for the employment skills most critical to business and industry and the development of curriculum to teach these skills;

c. Aid and support local school districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations and educators.

Meetings were held on:

- September 24, 2018
- November 19, 2018
- February 13, 2019
- March 12, 2019.

The BAC membership created four working committees to investigate and report on:

- The Economy and Job Market
- Employment Skills
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Researching, Shadowing, Mentorships, Internships and Tours

Committee work is ongoing with periodic reporting to the membership. Some of the topics of information shared included:

- Top 10 careers in most demand today
- School District relationship with local businesses
- Services and Resources available through OhioMeansJobs
- Internship programs at Bridgestone-Firestone Company

The Summit Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council is planning a Career Orientation Event for high school juniors in May 2019. The SESC BAC continues to encourage activities provided by business partners to include students from the member school districts. These activities include job fairs, open houses, tours, job shadowing internships, mentorships and apprenticeships.

Submitted March 1, 2019

Joseph Iacano
Superintendent, SESC