

Reid Health Acquires Former Kmart Site

For several years, the former Kmart building sat empty as the Preble County Development Partnership office fielded calls/inquiries on the facility and property. We are pleased that one of our partners has recently made the move to prepare itself for growth here in Eaton. Per Reid's media relations specialist, Larry Price's, recent comments to the Palladium-Item, they do not have concrete plans for the property outside of anticipating future growth needs for patient care in Eaton and Preble County. They have told our office that they want to offer services that are not currently being offered in Preble County. We are excited to hear from them once their plans are final.



Thank you, Reid Health, for your commitment to expanding services in Preble County and the City of Eaton!

Internship Opportunities



The Preble County Development Partnership Workforce Development Committee will be discussing internship opportunities again in August, for the third year, to see who may be interested in hosting interns from each of our 5

school districts' senior classes. Most businesses request that the intern be at least 18 years old. This past year, we had interns at several of our manufacturers as well as 2 positions with the Village of Lewisburg. Parker Hannifin was one company that hired their intern upon graduation.

Well-structured internship programs benefit both interns and employers. By participating in these valuable on-the-job learning opportunities, interns expand their work experience, enhance important work skills, develop their career goals, and establish connections that may prove useful throughout the span of their careers. Internships also give employers access to a pool of motivated individuals who bring fresh thinking and innovation to their workplaces. Allowing employers to assess prospective candidates prior to making a permanent hiring decision improves the effectiveness of the decision-making process and increases the likelihood of a successful match.

If you are interested in hosting an intern at your business, please contact the PCDP office for additional details.



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Preble County Chamber of Commerce

Career Connections Director Hired

Harold Niehaus has been hired through the Educational Service Center to be the Career Connections Director and key liaison between school districts and local businesses to provide STEM and workforce opportunities for students. This is a new position that will also help to develop, market and facilitate programs that will encourage the appropriate skills and expand the workforce skillset to meet the needs of the area businesses.

Congratulations Harold! The PCDP looks forward to working with you in your new position!

Manufacturing Skills Gap

Manufacturing has been a stronghold in Preble County for generations and the industry continues to play a significant role in today's economy, contributing to financial growth, prosperity and national security and technology innovation that trickles out to every industry/business sector. A study done in 2012 shows that for each manufacturing job created in the high-tech sector, approximately 4.3 jobs are created in other local goods and services sectors across all income groups, including lawyers, dentists, schoolteachers, cooks and retail clerks. I recently heard at an economic development summit that the number has increased. For each manufacturing job created – 7 jobs in other sectors will be created.

The fast pace of advancing technologies along with the aging workforce are two major contributors to the industry's shortage of skilled workers. This shortage is expected to grow. Manufacturers across the United States are experiencing the same difficulties of attracting and retaining workers with the right skills to fill job openings.

Amplifying the talent shortage is the fact that less youth are interested in, or even aware of, the opportunities that exist in manufacturing. They often lack information about the training, skills and resources available to secure these positions.

One factor contributing to the lack of interest among youth in manufacturing is the perceived image of the industry as being low-tech, low-wage, unskilled, dangerous and obsolete. We are working together to dispel these myths.

The Preble County Development Partnership's Workforce Development Committee has created several opportunities to assist in connecting the emerging workforce to our local industries and business partners across the county.

- 3 full days of Manufacturing Day Tours in November of each year. High school seniors from each district visit and tour at least 2 facilities across the County. They learn that there are many opportunities other than production jobs in manufacturing (i.e. human resources, accounting, engineering, etc.) along with benefits and tuition reimbursement programs.
- National Trails' College and Career Days
- Internship opportunities for high school seniors
- Business panels presenting in the schools

PCDP Board Members (cont'd)

Jeff Sewert
Preble County
Chamber of
Commerce

Jeff Parker
Preble County
Schools

Rebecca Sorrell
OhioMeansJobs-
Preble County

Gary Wagner
Eaton City Council

Tiana White
Mayor's Association

Shannon Bryant
Sinclair Community
College

Rachael Vonderhaar
Preble County Farm
Bureau / Ag rep

Kit Armstrong
Silfex Corporation

Tim Crammer
Henny Penny Corp.

Jeremy Meredith
Kettering Health
Network

Georgene Dawson
Dayton Power &
Light

Joanie McDaniel
Bullen Ultrasonics

Scott Roman
LCNB

Kathy Schulz
Village of West
Alexandria

Amy Leedy
Miami Valley Career
Technology Center

Jason Troutwine
IU East

- Supporting the Preble County Chamber of Commerce's Junior Leadership Preble County Program
- Career Connections Job Portal site is under construction to connect local companies with local talent and to ensure that everyone in Preble County is aware of the jobs and careers available right here in our own backyard!

We look forward to being able to announce the opening of the Career Connections Job Portal in the near future. Stay tuned!

Featured Events



It was my pleasure as the State's ACT Council Chair to introduce Lt. Governor Jon Husted at Ohio's ACT Conference. He opened his presentation by announcing two new programs in the Governor's proposed budget.

- TechCred and Microcredential Assistance Program that would reimburse eligible employers for training costs for incumbent or prospective employees to earn a microcredential
- Industry Credentials Program that would permit the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation to develop industry recognized credentials and certificate programs

In June, Business Over Breakfast, Preble County Chamber of Commerce's popular event, was held at the Brick Rhod Bistro. Businesses from across the County joined as the Village of Lewisburg featured their "Lewisburg Life" initiative. We learned more about the success of the Downtown Revitalization Project and how the community and its small business owners are coming together to help better Lewisburg and its residents. See Leslie Collins opening the event in the upper level of the beautiful new Bistro!



Thank you Safari Junction, Home of Valley Exotics Zoo, and Preble County Chamber of Commerce for a fun evening at your Business After Hours event. We saw new baby lemurs and many other amazing creatures as we walked around networking with other business partners of Preble County!

PCDP Board Members (cont'd)

Justin Sommer
Brun's General Contracting

Rick Hanes
Edison State Community College



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Like the residents here, businesses in Preble County, Ohio enjoy a strong and growing economy. Companies of all types thrive in our business-friendly communities with hard-working people who are welcoming and supportive of businesses. Feel free to reach out to our office at 937-456-2757 for information about the area workforce and economy to discover all the reasons so many businesses call Preble County home.

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