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**Brown County Business Advisory Council**

**March 1, 2023**

**Joint Statement of the Brown County Business Advisory Council**

The Brown County Business Advisory Council includes the following school districts: Brown County Educational Service Center, Eastern Local, Fayetteville-Perry, Georgetown EV, Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington, Western Brown. Southern State community College and Chatfield College also participate in the Brown county Business Advisory council. In addition, business partners from a wide variety of areas are a part of the council. We also include governmental agencies like Ohio Means Jobs, Brown County Commissioners, Brown County Libraries, Addiction Services and private entities such as GRIT/Future Plans and Inter-alliance.

The main goals of the council for 2022-23 was to increase the participation rate of students taking the GRIT Assessment and Coaching and to expose students to the opportunities that exist in our county and beyond. These have been ongoing goals for several years as the council sees the importance of the career assessment and coaching of our students. The assessment helps students to find the jobs/careers they are most interested in. Coaching sessions help identify areas of strength and possible career paths for students. The BAC was able to expand GRIT to all school districts. The GRIT Program has employed several local students as school liaisons and in the marketing of the program.

Activities such as the Human Library during the county fair had over 40 business partners available for students to talk with and explore interests in various types of jobs and careers. Career Fairs, Career Curriculum Boards, and Real-World Real Money are other activities designed to enlighten students to the possibilities out there for them. We are excited to be in the planning phase of a county-wide STEAM initiative that will provide teachers with an opportunity to learn about all the many STEAM activities within local businesses. Teachers will get Professional Development credit and be able to utilize this in their classrooms.

Another priority was to continue the 40 Developmental Assets Program. Local districts, in conjunction with the Brown County ESC, have Career Liaisons

that provide various activities in the schools. Many of these focus on the soft skills necessary in the job and career arena.

The Brown County Business Advisory Council received state recognition this year, earning a Two-Star Award. This is the first time in our history to be recognized. The Council will continue to work for the benefit of our students.

The Brown County Business Council welcomes new partners and opportunities. If interested in being a part, please contact Bill Garrett at the Brown County Educational Service Center.

