

DACC Notebook: Career center leaders thankful for engaging partnerships



At the Delaware Area Career Center, we pride ourselves on building strong business partnerships to shape the future of our learning organization.

We do this because we believe that our business partners are our eyes and ears in the industry. They communicate new and emerging ideas and create opportunities for our students to experience what life might be like for them after high school.

DACC has built a directory of nearly 1,500 business leaders who partner with the district in various ways to ensure its success. For example, 450 business partners came to our campus this past October for our annual advisory

committee meetings. During these meetings, our teachers met with local business partners who provided insight and recommendations on how we could improve our programming.

With this in mind, I thought it was appropriate as we enter the Thanksgiving season to take the time to show my gratitude to two business partners. These partners, the Boy Scouts of America – Camp Lazarus and Cameron Mitchell Restaurants, tirelessly give their time, talents and treasures to positively impact DACC's programs and students.

For the past seven years, DACC has partnered with Boy Scouts to deliver its Wildlife and Resource Management program. Camp Lazarus generously provides DACC with the Honda Education Center and outdoor lab facilities. They do this so that we can offer meaningful, innovative and relevant programs for our students. Ben Sweet, a camp ranger, takes his time to mentor students and provides opportunities for DACC students to participate in work-based learning opportunities. We are so happy that our students have a valuable resource they can access to learn and be mentored by a leader like Ranger Sweet.

DACC has another business partner that consistently goes above and beyond for our students – Cameron Mitchell Restaurants.

DACC has had a longtime relationship with Cameron Mitchell Restaurants. Our culinary instructor, Patty Norz, and Michael Steiner, a DACC alumnus and one of Cameron Mitchell's executive chefs, worked to ensure this partnership is meaningful for our students.

DACC Notebook: [Dreams, courage fostered at Delaware Area Career Center](https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/communities/olentangy-vall...ok-career-center-leaders-thankful-engaging-partnerships/69611205007/)

Because of this partnership, DACC's culinary students experience classroom demonstrations by Cameron Mitchell's leadership. Moreover, leaders from

the restaurant group take the time to mentor and provide work-based learning opportunities to our culinary-arts students. Many DACC students have been inspired by this partnership and found employment with Cameron Mitchell. This partnership not only helps our students find meaningful work, but it also helps them advance in the culinary field. We are grateful to Cameron Mitchell for its dedication to our students.

At DACC, we believe that to achieve our mission of empowering, preparing, inspiring and connecting opportunities for our staff and students, we must create a culture of gratitude – both inside our walls and with all of our external partners. Having business partners like the Boy Scouts and Cameron Mitchell makes it easy to show gratitude and aligns directly with our belief that having mutually beneficial partnerships helps us achieve our mission.

May you have a Thanksgiving holiday filled with joy, and may your hearts be filled with a sense of gratitude to those who made a difference in your life.

Jay Poroda is the superintendent of the Delaware Area Career Center.