

The Connection

July 2023

MCTA CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association is celebrating 40 years of serving the populations of Mahoning and Columbiana counties. MCTA was formed in the early 1980's in response to the 1982 Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA) replacing the former employment and training program called the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). Prior to JTPA, Columbiana and Mahoning counties had 2 separate employment and training programs under the CETA. The new law, JTPA, required a service delivery area of 250k so Mahoning and Columbiana County commissioners combined their employment and training programs into one agency called the Mahoning and Columbiana Training Association. MCTA served all residents of Columbiana and Mahoning counties excluding the city of Youngstown which had its own program under JTPA called Youngstown Employment and Training Corporation (YETC). This was done because the city of Youngstown faced some very unique employment and training

problems not found in the "counties" and as such required an entirely different approach to the administration of CETA.

MCTA and YETC offered classroom training and On-the-Job training to those with low incomes and the long-term unemployed as well as summer jobs to low-income high school students.

At its highest, MCTA had over 600 summer youth workers in Mahoning and Columbiana counties. YETC also had over 600 summer youth workers within the city limits of Youngstown.

Both MCTA and YETC were charged with working with the many dislocated steel workers who were displaced when the local steel mills closed.

The Columbiana County office of MCTA was originally housed on Washington Street and had only two employees. It has moved multiple times before landing at its current location on Dickey Drive in Lisbon, Ohio. The Mahoning County office was located on Market Street and later moved to the

Boardman Plaza.

Bob Bannon was the director of the Mahoning County CETA program and Leo Taugher was the Director of Columbiana County CETA program. When the agencies merged to form MCTA, Bob became the director and Leo became the deputy director. Soon after merging, Bob retired and Ray McAtee was named the new director.

MCTA and YETC continued in their dual roles until 2000 when the Workforce Investment Act was signed into law. Under WIA, the service area was required to have a population size of 500k, thus, MCTA was selected to be the agency to service both counties.

This agency has serviced so many of those in need in our local communities. Congratulations on their success with the hopes for even more success in the years to come!

"What I want to bring out is how a pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions, and each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that." ~ Dorothy Day

OhioMeansJobs LAUNCHES A NEW WEBSITE

The OhioMeansJobs centers of Mahoning and Columbiana counties are launching a new website that is due to be up and running in July. Designated staff have been working in conjunction with Empyra to create a website that will offer informational aspects of OhioMeansJobs.

Clients will not be able to log in, but they will be able to navigate through different tabs. If they are seeking specific information, they can enter their contact details. This information will go to a staff member from that department who will then reach out to them directly.

The website should be much easier for clients to navigate and

therefore they will be able to receive the accurate information that they are seeking.

Areas that may be of interest include employment issues, training opportunities, youth and young adult services, business services, and more.

Contact information for the Mahoning and Columbiana offices, along with the satellite office at Oak Hill are all listed on the website.

Any new and current information regarding OhioMeansJobs can be found directly on any one of the social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

There are two ways to access this site. One is by logging into www.omjworkforce.org or www.omjworkforce.com.

OhioMeansJobs is a network of state and local agencies in Mahoning and Columbiana counties that provide free workforce and employment-related services. These offices operate under the direction of the Workforce Development Board of Mahoning and Columbiana counties.



**Mahoning and
Columbiana Counties**

A proud partner of the
American Job Center network

CCCTC ADULT EDUCATION CELEBRATES OPATA GRADUATES



Congratulations to the first CCCTC graduating OPATA training class!

This is the first year that the Columbiana County Career and Technical Center Adult Education Center has offered OPATA training. The CCCTC Police Academy is administered under the Ohio Peace Officers Training Council and is required training to become a police officer in the State of Ohio.

CCCTC completed its inaugural police academy on June 30, 2023. Six cadets have completed their OPATA training and are registered to sit for their peace officer certification exams. All cadets have been commissioned to departments throughout the county. The cadets will be celebrated at a graduation ceremony on September 14th in conjunction with CCCTC's nursing graduates. Each cadet will attend the ceremony in

their respective uniforms from their commissioned departments.

Some of the benefits of training at CCCTC are small class sizes, the lowest tuition in the area, and a high-quality learning environment. A career in Police or Policing is considered an in-demand career field with plenty of local job opportunities.

The next academy will begin in September. Classes for the academy run M-Th from 5-10 PM for nine months. If anyone is interested in starting the enrollment process they can contact Kevin Clark at 330-424-3520 to get an enrollment packet and schedule their physical fitness testing. In nine months, students can be sitting for their certification exam and be commissioned to a department in the tri-county area.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MCCTC



Medical Assistant and Adult Diploma Students from Mahoning County Career and Technical Center's Adult Career Center completed the phlebotomy Career Training program and attended a recognition ceremony on June 29, 2023. All students passed the phlebotomy certification exam. Students who completed the full-time Medical Assistant program are currently testing to earn the Certified Medical Assistant (AAMA) credential.

Additional adult programs being offered are Welding, which begins on September 5th, along with Medical Office Specialist and Automotive Technology.

MCCTC Adult Career Center also held its second annual Health and Safety Fair on June 14, 2023. The fair hosted 70-plus vendors and organizations who offered activities for all ages and promoted safety and wellness to the community in a fun, festive environment.

"This is so great for the Mahoning Valley because so many of these vendors just have a great message to share. They offer great services in health and safety and wellness," said Jodi Glass, recruiting and marketing coordinator at MCCTC.

"What better way for the community to come together and just see what everybody has to offer."



COMPASS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES RECEIVES FUNDING

Throughout the past year, COMPASS Family and Community Services applied for and received funding from Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services. This grant helped to expand their supported employment program and include not only those with mental health disabilities but also those with substance use disorders.

These grant opportunities also allowed for more employer education and outreach, helping employers learn and understand the benefits of hiring those with disabilities and expanding upon the diversity of their employees. In addition to em-

ployer education, Joyce Loychik, Employer Outreach Coordinator, and other COMPASS workforce employment staff have been providing community outreach to area recovery agencies and sober living homes.

These informative sessions help providers and job seekers understand the importance of working and the benefits it has on a person's recovery and wellness.

COMPASS' VR contract with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities has seen an increase in referrals and as such has been able to

meet and exceed all the benchmarks as required by the OOD agency. COMPASS is outreaching to agencies and sober living homes to get the message of their services to the community, and are always willing to come to any agency to inform them about these available services.

If you are interested in scheduling an informative session, please reach out to Joyce at 330-782-5664, ext. 1114, or Theresa Berkenyi, Workforce Development Director, at 330-541-7492.



TECH CRED PROGRAM PROVES SUCCESSFUL

The May round of TechCred, which is the program that is providing the opportunity for Ohioans to earn 4,297 tech-focused credentials, is proving successful once again. This is the 20th application period of the program. 367 employers were approved for funding.

“Ohio’s economy is growing, and we need to build a skilled workforce to sustain that growth,” said Lt. Governor Husted, Director of the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation.

By upskilling current and prospective employees, businesses can address their workforce needs. Businesses of all sizes and from any industry have been eligible for up to \$30,000 per round and up to \$180,000 per year. Industries that have been represented during this round are Transportation and Warehousing, Manufacturing, and Educational Services.

The operating budget is investing \$50 million over the biennium into helping thousands of Ohioans with upskilling and reskilling.

“One of the most important investments business owners can make is in the people who drive their success,” said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development.

“Businesses both large and small, all across the state, are taking advantage of the TechCred program because they know it is one of the smartest ways to expand their employees’ skills and remain innovative.”



CURRENT LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

The Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information has recently released the following Employment Projections:

Short-Term Projections

[Ohio Short-Term Employment Forecast](#), 1st Quarter of 2022 to 1st Quarter of 2024.

During this timeframe, Ohio employers are expected to create an estimated 28,100 new jobs, which equates to a statewide employment increase of 1.0%. This report provides estimates of the expected number of jobs by both occupation and industry through March 31, 2024. This information can be helpful to educators, workforce professionals, employers, job seekers, students, and others. It identifies the areas of the economy and the occupations that are expected to have the most employment opportunities in the coming months.

Long-Term Projections

2030 Job Outlook for [JobsOhio Regions and Metropolitan Statistical Areas](#) (PDF and Excel)

Every two years, long-term projections are updated for the six JobsOhio Network Regions and the eight Metropolitan Statistical Areas. These projections for 2020 through 2030, are widely used for studying long-range economic and employment trends, planning education and training programs, and developing career information.

THE HOPE CONFERENCE OFFERS RENEWED HOPE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

On May 18th, the City of Youngstown and the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) once again hosted the 2023 Hope Conference. This is the largest resource event held in the city each year. Hundreds of citizens attended the conference and found assistance, resources, and services for BMV, legal aid, clothing, healthcare, sober living, utilities, children's services, job training, employment and so much more. Services were also available for youth to re-entry individuals. Helping to better the circumstances of these individuals is the primary purpose of the conference...to offer opportunity and HOPE!

Most people that attended had some sort of need, and because of the variety of resources available, many of those needs were met. Having such a wide array of help services located in one area offered those that attend the ability to make connections that could lead to endless possibilities.

This is the eighth year for the conference and by the looks of its success, we will be marking our calendars to attend again next year!

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY WORKSHOP HELD IN COLUMBIANA

The Family and Children First Council in collaboration with The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and the Department of Job and Family Services presented the Bridges Out of Poverty workshop on March 31st at the Government Services Building on Dickey Drive in Lisbon.

The training presented a comprehensive approach to understanding the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty from the individual to the systemic level. Bridges uses the lens of economic class and provides concrete tools and strategies for a community to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty.

Those in attendance were encouraged to change the way they think about poverty. They examined hidden rules of class, resources, family structure, and language to help gain better knowledge of the different groups they serve. Many who have attended these sessions have been transformed and a spark has been ignited in them that oftentimes leads to positive change.



WHY OHIO ?



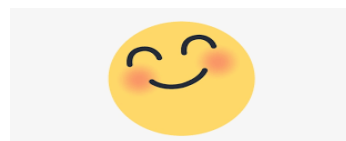
After living in the state of Ohio my whole life, I have to say that I am somewhat biased as to what is the best place to live, work and raise a family. Ohio has been long known as a friendly state where cost of living is relatively low and home rates are quite affordable. Along with these attributes, it is a tax-friendly state with great schools and universities, high-quality healthcare facilities, fabulous recreational venues, and a high-level sports culture. While the weather may be more favorable in other areas of the country, the subtle change of seasons along with the beauty that comes with those changes, gives a nice balance to those looking for a versatile weatherscape.

With all that being said, many people are still leaving Ohio and moving to other states. Since the start of Covid and shakeup of the workplace, workers were not held to the traditional work environments. Many set up shop in their kitchens, bedrooms, and basements, and also from many locations in the country. They were no longer stuck in the 9 to 5 typical office scenario. While this new workplace model has proven to be beneficial to many employees and employers too, it has led to a migration of sorts.

Ohio has been one of the states where this migration is taking place. Covid is not the only reason though. While people are moving for work opportunities or a closer proximity to family, others are leaving due to retirement and still others are leaving for a better weather picture. Sometimes the grass is greener on the other side, but I do not believe so in this case.

As quoted from the website www.jobsohio.com, "A microcosm of the U.S, in a single state, Ohio represents the best of what our country has to offer: an amazing mix of affordability, quality of life, diverse industry, diverse communities, natural beauty, and a dynamic hub for innovation, culture, sports, education, and economic growth."

My choice, hands down...OHIO!



"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." -H.E. Luccock

The Connection welcomes stories of interest from all partners. We love to share what is happening with our partners. This may be the only place that we get to know what is going on with your organization, so please SHARE! Email your submission to: jschuler@mctaworkforce.org. Please include contact information. The next edition is scheduled to be published in January 2024.

DMJ Columbiana County Partners

Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Columbiana County Career & Technical Center
Columbiana County Office of Economic Development
Columbiana County Port Authority
Columbiana County Department of Job & Family Services
Columbiana County Educational Service Center
Community Action Agency for Columbiana County
Counseling Center
Eastern Gateway Community College
Eastern Ohio Correction Center
EGCC Aspire
Mahoning & Columbiana Training Association
ODJFS-Veteran Services
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

DMJ Mahoning County Partners

Academy for Urban Scholars/NCUS Tech
Community Corrections Association Inc.
Compass Family & Community Services
Eastern Gateway Community College
Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio
EGCC Aspire
Flying High, Inc.
Job Corps (Serrato Corp.)
Mahoning & Columbiana Training Association
Mahoning County Career & Technical Center
ODJFS-Veteran Services
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Choffin Career & Technical Center
Vantage Aging
Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries
Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority

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