

MCTA Updates

The Mahoning and Columbi-
ana Training Association has
been involved in multiple
programs during the last few
months.

The summer youth program
was a huge success. The pro-
gram began on Monday,
June 10th where approxi-
mately 360 TANF youth were
served. They average 30
hours of work per week. The
program was able to be ex-
tended for two extra weeks.

On Thursday, October 3rd,
MCTA staff and partners
housed inside of the Colum-
biana County Government
Services Building attended
an Active Shooter training

hosted by CCJFS. This
training was provided to
ensure everyone in the
building is hearing the
same thing and responding
accordingly. Part of the
training included a walk
through the building to see
where changes could be
made to improve safety
measures.

In addition and as a re-
minder, MCTA received a
grant to serve 55 clients that
are justice involved. This
grant is available to youth
or adults involved in the
court system. They do not
need to have been incarcer-
ated. The grant award total
is \$450,000.

When an individual has com-
pleted their training which
might include work experi-
ence, classroom training or on-
the-job training(OJT), and
need assistance finding em-
ployment, The Business Ser-
vice Team receives infor-
mation from programmatic
staff. This connection proves
successful because staff are
able to send job leads to par-
ticipants, help with resumes,
and provide information to
employers actively using the
OMJ program. As of 9/30, 11
individuals have been served
with this grant. For more in-
formation, call 330-965-1787
and ask for assistance with the
JII grant.

Mahoning Valley Public Policy Conference

The Mahoning Valley Public
Policy Conference was held on
Friday, October 11th at the
Grand Resort in Warren. Nu-
merous public officials gath-
ered to discuss multiple topics
affecting their local communi-
ties.

Panel discussions were held
covering areas such as: Eco-
nomic Development and Site
Selection Readiness, Energy
Reliability and Sustainability
and Workforce Participation
and Development.

The economic development
prospects for the valley show
improvement in the GDP and a
significant decline in unem-
ployment. Results given in the
areas of energy reliability and
sustainability and workforce
participations and develop-
ment indicate planning for fu-
ture growth is a must.

Along with the panel discus-
sions, a presentation was given
regarding the Community
Needs Assessment Report
which was a study conducted

by Youngstown Area Goodwill
Industries, in partnership with
the Youngstown/Warren Re-
gional Chamber.

Results from this assessment
highlight these issues that need
addressed: transportation,
child care, mental health, drug
test/substance abuse and hous-
ing.

Awareness of the needs of the
community is the first step to
creating a plan that can benefit
all involved.

**“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering
what it cares about.”-Margaret J. Wheatley**

Community Needs Assessment Report

Once a decade, Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries conducts a community needs assessment. Part of their mission states, “believing in the value of people and the power of work.” To help fulfill this mission, they have expanded their goal to encompass the workforce needs of the Mahoning Valley. Their goal was to understand the barriers to employment in our area, and to help find solutions to these barriers.

The results of the report found that the main barriers are transportation, childcare, mental health services and poverty.

Phase 1 of the findings dealt with demographic data, local economic data and data from Goodwill Industries International. This phase of data found that there was a decrease in population and an aging population, higher amounts of people with less

than a high school diploma, higher amounts of people with little or no additional education beyond high school, more people in poverty, more making less and more receiving food assistance than state and national average.

Economic data showed that expected occupation growth will be in the areas of health care and social assistance. The highest area of jobs being lost because of retirement or movement to another field is expected to be in the food prep and serving related occupations and transportation and material moving occupations. Median pay for high school diploma or GED is \$16.65 per hour.

Phase 2 shared an electronic survey to gather community input from the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber members, other non-profits, government agencies, advo-

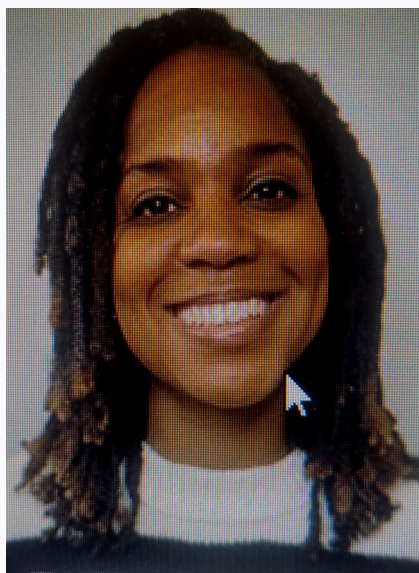
cacy organizations, businesses, elected officials, and Goodwill staff.

In addition to the main barriers listed prior, populations most impacted by workforce development challenges are justice impacted, minority population, youth ages 16-24, individuals in recovery, single parents, physical disability, and intellectual disability.

Other populations impacted are lower middle class, Veterans, older populations who still want to work, foster care youth aging out of the system, and refugees/immigrants.

Full and detailed results can be found in the Community Needs Assessment Report or by contacting Goodwill at (330)759-7921.

New Community Solutions Director



Carol Holmes-Chambers has recently been chosen by Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries, Inc. as the organization’s new community solutions director.

She will be responsible for overseeing and carrying out the key initiatives brought to light from Goodwill’s recent Community Needs Assessment in partnership with the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber. The next steps she will manage will be to address employment challenges in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys. She brings a great deal of

experience in community engagement and leadership. Her manner of addressing issues is by using a holistic and people-centered approach.

She is passionate about working with the community to bring solutions that can make positive and long term change.

Carol may be able to breath new life into areas that need it most, which will in turn benefit many. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.”-Theodore Roosevelt

MCCTC Updates



Join us at MCCTC Adult Career Center for a fun and informative event!

What's Happening? Tour our facility Meet our staff

Learn about our in-demand programs: Healthcare, Fire and EMS, Trades, and more!

Ask questions and discover how we can help you achieve your career goals!

Don't miss this chance to explore everything our center has to offer. Whether you're starting a new career path or advancing your skills, we're here to help support your success!

The Mahoning County Career and Technical Center has much to offer in the new year! A variety of opportunities are available. Programs being offered range from Cybersecurity, Medical Assistant, Robotics, GED classes and more. Some of these classes are offered free of charge. More information can be obtained by attending the Open House set for January 28th or by calling the MCCTC Adult office at 330-792-4100.

NEW YEAR, NEW ME: *It's time to earn my GED!*



MCCTC Aspire offers FREE adult basic education classes designed to assist individuals in obtaining their GED, pursuing post-secondary education, and more!

Kick off 2025 on the right foot by joining us for an information session.

Expect to discover more about our program, get your questions answered, and embark on your enrollment journey.

RSVP requested.

Call: (330) 729-4010

Email: Aspire@MahoningCTC.com

Information Session:

Date: January 16th, 2025

Time: 5:30p-8:00p

Location: Mahoning County Career & Technical Center
7300 North Palmyra Road, Canfield, OH 44406



ASPIRE
Learn more. Earn more.



REGISTER NOW



**SWI SECURITY & WEB
INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITUTE**

CYBERSECURITY ESSENTIALS FREE Online Course



No Cost to Participants!

This course is funded by the IMAP Grant Program through MCCTC Adult Career Center.

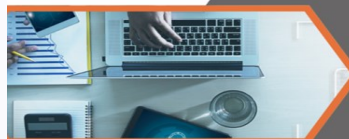
Register online at mahoningctc.com/adult located on the Programs page under Professional Development OR call our office for assistance! (330) 729-4100



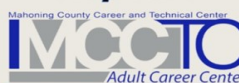
Self-guided learning, organized into modules, with each of them focusing on a different topic.
Course Total Hours: 4

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to cybersecurity, focusing on fundamental concepts, principles, and practices.

Participants will learn about the various types of cyber threats, defense mechanisms, and the best practices for protecting information and systems.



Medical Assistant Certification Exam Prep Class



Are you working as a Medical Assistant or completed a medical assistant training program and now need to become a certified healthcare professional?

Prepare for test-taking success with this exam prep class. Taught by an experienced instructor offering a comprehensive overview of key exam topics, you will review practice test questions in a supportive learning environment. This accelerated program is your perfect opportunity to gain the edge you need to succeed.

Class cost: \$149

Exam: \$119 NCCT (National Center for Competency Testing) Medical Assistant Certification

Classes are available year round! Scan to find out more information, including a class schedule.



(330) 729-4100
mahoningctc.com/adult

MCCTC Adult Career Center 7300 N. Palmyra Rd. Canfield, OH 44406

MCCTC Customized Training

The ARM endorsement of the **MCCTC Adult Career Center's customized FANUC Robotics training programs** is a significant testament to our commitment to excellence in education and industry standards. This prestigious endorsement not only highlights our dedication to providing training that aligns with the latest advancements in robotics technology but also underscores the importance of maintaining high-quality, relevant programs that empower our adult learners!

Do you have employees who need training? Call (330) 729-4100 or email Jim Jarvis to discuss customized training and apprenticeship options!



Schedule an informative **career exploration video call** with MCCTC Adult Career Center's student recruiter and uncover the path that's just right for you. **Scan to book your meeting!**



nsJobs centersf

MCCTC
Mahoning County Career and Technical Center
Adult Career Center



mahoningctc.com/adult (330) 729-4100

Know someone undecided about their future? Curious about career training? Would they like an opportunity to add new skills to their resume? A career exploration discussion can help you decide on a training program that meets their lifestyle and career goals. **Book with our student recruiter today.**

MCCTC is seeking instructors to propose new class ideas and lead special interest classes. Do you have an idea for a class and you are an expert at your craft? We want to hear from you! Please call (330) 729-4100 or **Message MCCTC Adult Career Center** with your idea! Examples of new class ideas include, but are not limited to: Dance, Yoga, Pilates, Cake Decorating, Event Planning, Art, etc!

Columbiana County News



The Columbiana County Career & Technical Center Adult Education Dept. celebrated thirty nine practical nursing and seven police academy students during a graduation ceremony on Aug. 29th.

A Perfect Attendance Award was given to Tiffany Pieri. The Award of Academic Excellence was presented to Amber Beans.

The Spirit of Nursing Award was presented to Hannah Davis. The Award for Clinical Performance was presented to Haley Palmer.

Superintendent Jeremy Corbisello presented diplomas. A congratulatory address was given by Dr. Kelly Darney entitled "Cortes."

Our part time cohort will begin in March 2025. Classes run three evenings a week from 3-9:30 for 18 months. Contact Kevin at 330-424-3520 to start your enrollment process.

Police academy graduates include Justin Cochran, Taton Ellis, Bryan Francis, Lindan Gardner, Bradley Pawl, Zain Rogers and Coltan Vollnogle.



Congratulations Graduates!!



Practical nurse graduates row one, from left-Sydney Wilson, Laura Johnson-Dowdle, Brandy Tennant, Jaci Thomas, Hannah Styen, Linsey Evans, Kameron Chambers, Megan Cehrs, Cassie Thompson, Megan McKee; second row, from left, Alexandria McDonald, Mikaelyn Biery, Amber Beans, Tiffany Pieri, Emily Randal, Dana Halstead, Amanda Landsberger, Haley Palmer, Madison Grubbs; third row, from left, Somer Madden, Ja'Mese Mitchell, Dove Dotson, Nancy Melott, Jessica Schaffner, Ashlee Green, Hannah Davis, Michele Howard, Alice Backus, Lea Miller; Fourth row, from left, Preston McDonald, Jessse Collins, Clyde, Kidder, Janeen Hostetter, Kayla Frank, Tara Javens, Cherie Jenkins-Barcey, Tracie Holtz, Kara Lathem and Melissa Petrillo.

The ESC Career Counseling Department's Upcoming Events

The Educational Service Center (ESC) Career Counseling Department is making significant strides in preparing students for the future across 26 school districts in Mahoning, Columbiana, Trumbull, Stark and Portage counties. Through innovative programs, partnerships, and hands-on-events, the ESC Career Counseling team is dedicated to equipping students with the tools they need for career exploration and job readiness.

Mock Interview Boot Camp-On **January 7, 2025**, the ESC Career Counseling Team hosted a Mock Interview Boot Camp tailored for high school seniors. This comprehensive event guided students through the intricacies of the job interview process.

Participants attended breakout sessions covering:

How to Answer Interview Questions, Preparing for the Interview, Company Research, Social Media and Background Checks and Dressing for an Interview.

The highlight of the day was a live mock interview session where students practiced their skills and received valuable feedback.

JA Inspire Career Day-In collaboration with Junior Achievement, the **JA Inspire Career Day** will take place on **February 19, 2025**, at the Metroplex Expo Center.

This exciting event will feature: **Over 100 exhibitor booths, two educational seminars, and interactive, hands-on activities** which will provide students with a realistic feel for various career fields.

Students will have the opportunity to network with professionals and gain insight into diverse industries, helping them make informed career choices.

Advancing Technology Skills: Drone Partnership with YSU-The ESC Career Counseling Department is also working on an exciting partnership with **Youngstown State University (YSU)** to enhance opportunities in the rapidly growing drone industry. This partnership aims to offer students advanced drone certifications upon completing their FAA 107 Certification at their home schools. By building on their foundational skills, students can position themselves for high-demand careers in this cutting-edge field.

The ESC Career Counseling Department remains committed to helping students achieve their career goals. They are doing so by creating meaningful opportunities, fostering community partnerships and focusing on job readiness. The team is shaping a brighter future for students in the region.



For further information contact:

Sandy Furano

Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio

7320 N. Palmyra Rd.

Canfield, Ohio 44406

Phone: 330.533.8755 Ext. 1113

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion-DEI

In a workplace that is constantly evolving, new ideas are always being developed to create a better working environment for all those employed there.

The newest work topic being used in many work places is DEI or Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. DEI is a set of values and practices that promote fairness and respect for all people. Focus is placed on those who have been historically marginalized.

DEI is made up of three related concepts.

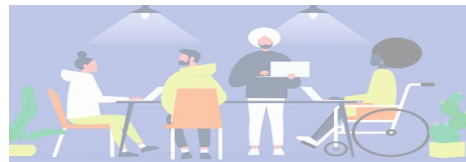
Diversity represents a wide variety of different groups. These groups include people of different

racess, ethnicities, genders, religions, sexual orientations, abilities and disabilities

Equity deals with leveling the playing field. Resource are offered to diverse groups so that they can achieve at their highest level.

Inclusion deals with creating an environment where different perspectives are not only welcome, but valued as well. Inclusivity creates an atmosphere of belonging.

DEI is important in many walks of life, and can be invaluable in the workplace for



a number of reasons.

Information acquired from the Claremont Lincoln University in Claremont, CA lists 12 benefits that DEI can bring to a workplace.

These are just a few:

Understand customers better, add integrity to the team, put actions behind words, promote a shared experience, nurture a more positive workplace, encourage innovation and experience better retention.

DEI has opened the door for those workers who may have otherwise been overlooked. When one group suffers we all suffer and when one group benefits we all benefit.

Remote Work-It's Here to Stay

Since the pandemic of 2020, one would think that the phrase "working remotely" was new to most people. That may be somewhat true, but the fact is that "working remotely" dates back to the hunter-gathering time where foraging for food, preparing it and clothes making was all done from home. It wasn't until the industrial revolution that things changed and the workplace model of today was established.

In 1973 a NASA engineer by the name of Jack Nilles coined the term "telecommuting." A selected number of IBM workers tested the effectiveness of telecommuting by working from

home. By 1983, five employees working from home grew into 2000. According to a Gartner Survey, 74% of businesses in post Covid times, plan to shift employees to remote positions.

The Green movement was very much in favor of remote work. This type of work meant less travel, fewer cars on the road, and less pollution in the air.

By the year 2000, remote work was here to stay, so the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act was put in place which made it mandatory for companies to have telecommuting policies in place.

The Telework Enhancement Act enacted in 2010, allowed the government more leeway when dealing with remote workforces through telework.

With the advancement in computers, Wi-Fi, and "the cloud", employees are able to do their jobs from anywhere and at any time.

The increase in remote working opportunities has made many employees more productive, has given opportunities to all types of workers, fosters better retention rates and improves mental health. These positive results prove that remote work is here to stay!

- "Diversity is the mix. Inclusion is making the mix work." — Andres Tapia

Fun Facts about OHIO

1. **Ohio's boundaries and constitution were approved by Thomas Jefferson in 1803, but it wasn't officially granted statehood until 1953 when Dwight D. Eisenhower signed and backdated Ohio's admittance to the union.**
2. **According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio is the 7th most populated state in the country with more than 11,600,000 residents.**
3. **Ohio is known as the Buckeye State because of the buckeye trees commonly found throughout the Ohio River Valley.**
4. **Ohio gets its name from the Iroquois word OHI-yo, meaning "great river."**
5. **One of the largest natural disasters in Ohio was the Great Dayton Flood in 1913. 360 people died, 65,000 were homeless and damage in dollars was \$100 million. This would equate to \$2 billion today. Strict rules were developed on how to build in flood areas which prevented this disaster from happening again in other areas as well.**
6. **Ohio is home to a large Amish population which span 5 counties.**
7. **The world's first electric traffic signal was introduced in Cleveland on August 5, 1914.**
8. **Ohioans Wilbur and Orville Wright changed the world in 1903 by inventing the first airplane that could be controlled and powered by an engine.**
9. **Ohio is home to the world's largest cuckoo clock! It is located in Sugarcreek, known as the "Little Switzerland of Ohio."**
10. **The state ranks number one in the country's production of Swiss Cheese.**
11. **The Heart of It All isn't just a slogan. Columbus is located within 500 miles of 48 percent of the U.S. population**
12. **Youngstown is named after John Young, a New York native who purchased land in the area in 1797 and established the community's first sawmill and gristmill.**
13. **Ohio had a significant impact on the Civil Rights Movement. It was a key place for organizing events and protests that helped in the fight for equal rights.**
14. **Youngstown was a major steel producer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but the decline of the US steel industry in the 1970s forced the city to redefine itself.**
15. **Alice Handel founded the popular ice cream company franchise in 1945, with the first stand located at Market Street and Midlothian Boulevard.**



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 July 2025.

DMJ Columbiana County Partners

DMJ Mahoning County Partners

Columbiana County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Columbiana County Career & Technical Center

Columbiana County Port Authority Consortium

Columbiana County Department of Job & Family Services

Columbiana County Educational Service Center

Community Action Agency for Columbiana County

Counseling Center

Eastern Ohio Correction Center

Mahoning & Columbiana Training Association

ODJFS-Veteran Services

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

Academy for Urban Scholars/NCUS Tech

Choffin Career & Technical Center

Community Corrections Association Inc.

Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio

Flying High, Inc.

Job Corps

Mahoning & Columbiana Training Association

Mahoning County Career & Technical Center

MYCAP

ODJFS-Veteran Services

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Ohio Department of Job & Family Services

Vantage Aging

Youngstown Area Goodwill Industries

Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority

Youngstown State University

The Connection is
a publication of:



OhioMeansJobs.com

Mahoning: 127 Boardman-Canfield Rd., Youngstown, Ohio 44512

Columbiana: 7989 Dickey Drive, Suite 4, Lisbon, Ohio 44432

Oakhill Satellite: 345 Oakhill Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44502 (T-Th 9-4)