

Summer 2015

Inside the Network



A Proven Approach to Help Businesses Survive and Grow

The Business Resource Network (BRN) uses a unique approach to help businesses survive and grow. The BRN works closely with businesses to identify and access a host of business services with as little red tape as possible. The BRN currently operates in 16 counties in Ohio, including Adams, Brown, Pike & Scioto Counties.

A collaboration of chambers of commerce, workforce and economic development organizations, universities, career & technical centers, state and local government agencies, the BRN partnership targets businesses with growth potential as well as those facing challenges. It then conducts in-depth interviews with the owners and managers of the businesses.

After learning a business's goals and the obstacles it may be facing, BRN Partners present the business with a package of suggested incentives, technical assistance, training and other programs designed specifically for that business.

This all happens through a single point of contact—the BRN Account Executive—assuring tight coordination of services and minimal bureaucracy. There is no charge for the interview and proposal and many services are available at no cost.

Once the business chooses the programs and services it wants to pursue, the BRN Account Executive continues to work with the business and participating BRN Partners over time to deliver quality services and identify new ways to assist the business.

Visit the BRN on the web at www.thebrn.net



The Adams County BRN Account Executive interviewed GE Aviation's Peebles Test Operation back in late 2013. This GE site is among the world's most advanced jet engine test centers. GE Aviation's Peebles Test Operation is also a final assembly facility for jet engines.

After that interview The BRN Account Executive identified that GE was having a challenge finding homegrown engineering talent. The BRN brainstormed at a Roundtable session and came up with the idea of bringing BRN educational partners together with GE management to discuss what the training needs were for GE positions. The Adams County BRN Account Executive set up the meeting onsite at GE with local high schools, technical schools, and community colleges.

From that meeting The BRN and educational partners found out that GE was interested in getting involved in the training programs and providing hands on experiences to the students. It was GE hopes to hire homegrown talent that would want to stay long-term at their Peebles, Ohio site. Local career and technical centers and community colleges have been working with GE to develop pre-engineering curriculum.

One such curriculum will start this Fall at Southern State Community College. GE has partnered with Southern State Community College to provide an Engineering Co-Op Track. The two partners believe that students who participate in this uniquely designed co-op program will be better positioned for future employment in the electronic engineering industry.

For more information on the Southern State Community College Engineering Co-Op Track visit www.sccc.edu or call 1-800-628-7722 ext 2785.



L-R Rosie Picklesimer (Director, WDA 1) Patricia Oliver (OMJ Scioto/Youth Program Coordinator), & U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH, Dist 6)

U.S. Representative Bill Johnson (R-OH, Dist. 6) visited OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Scioto on July 1, 2015 for a business meet and greet. The event was hosted by Workforce Development Area 1 and the Business Resource Network (BRN) to allow local businesses and economic development partners to network with the Congressman, his staff, and each other.

Dan Mault, BRN Business Manager and Crystal Keaton, BRN Admin. Asst. provided a brief presentation to the group about the BRN process and partners' services, and success stories. Michael Coriell, Appalachian Wood Flooring (AWF), told of how the BRN was able to link AWF to OMJ Scioto for job postings, resume screenings, and On-The-Job Training contracts during their recent expansion. AWF currently has 6 employees in On-The-Job Training contracts through OMJ Scioto.

This kind of help does not exist everywhere," Johnson told those in attendance. "Every year we (Congressional Office Dist 6) have a collaboration forum where we bring in county commissioners and township trustees and mayors and other elected officials from across eastern and southeastern Ohio to talk about what's working and what's not working; how some areas are thriving and making the best out of an economically bad situation and how others are struggling and sharing those lessons learned. We want to tell the good news story about what you guys are doing here because it is so very very important."

Workforce Development Area 1 and The BRN would like to think all of those who attended. We hope to provide more of these networking events in the future.



L-R U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH), Michael Coriell (AWF), & Lance Richardson (Scioto BRN Acct. Exec)

Partner Spotlight



The Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC) is a public regional economic and community development agency and planning commission established in 1967. OVRDC serves Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties by coordinating federal, state and local resources to encourage economic development and job creation and retention. AS well, OVRDC assists local government and community service providers in securing federal, state grants, and other funding to improve their local communities.

In 2013, OVRDC became one of the five newly-appointed Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) under ODOT as a result of amended language in the federal reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21). OVRDC will assist the state of Ohio to expand regional transportation planning coverage areas outside Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries to include 11 rural southern Ohio counties. RTPOs were created by ODOT in effort of planning robust regional transportation system. The resulting RTPO's Comprehensive Transportation Plan provides an opportunity to coordinate economic and community development with transportation planning efforts and to enhance regional cooperation and communication. OVRDC, as an ODOT-appointed RTPO, will utilize their new status as an opportunity to address long-range regional transportation needs.

OVRDC is governed by a Full Commission of one hundred seventy-seven officials. Included in the membership are representatives of county and local governments, educational organizations, minority community, and the private and social services sectors.

For more information on OVRDC contact Stephanie Gilbert at sgilbert@ovrdc.org.

Vision Statement: Enrich Communities by Building Stronger Businesses.



Small Business Development Centers

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Ohio State University South Centers offers a wide variety of services to assist local businesses refine and grow their operation. The SBDC has a mission to accelerate Ohio's economy by helping

people start, sustain, and grow their business. The SBDC provides dynamic technical assistance to small business owners and continues to make entrepreneurship a priority in Ohio's communities. The Center educates prospective, new and second stage business owners through direct consulting, training, research, and technical assistance in all areas of business management. The SBDC has a network of partners, which include colleges, universities, chambers of commerce and economic development agencies in Southern Ohio. The Small Business Development Center is funded through the Ohio Development Services Agency and the United States Small Business Administration.

The SBDC dedicated team of business counselors are available to meet with businesses and individuals for no cost, confidential business counseling. Counselors can meet with business owners at their place of business or at a centralized meeting location. Some of the areas of specialization include: Finance (business analysis and loan information), Marketing, Exporting, Management, Leadership, Technology, Manufacturing, Commercialization, Farmers' Markets, Cooperatives, and Small Business Incubation

Contact Brad Bapst at bapst.4@osu.edu for more information about the assistance that is available, and for specifics on how the SBDC can assist the needs of your business.

BRN Partners

- Adams Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Adams Co. Economic & Community Development
- Adams Co. Commissioners
- Adams Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services
- Adams Brown Co. Economic Opportunities, Inc.
- AEP Ohio
- Adams Brown Co. Economic Opportunities.-Business Dev.
- Adams Co. Public Library
- Brown Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Brown Co. Commissioners
- Brown Co. Economic Development
- Bureau of Workers Compensation
- Community Action Committee (CAC) of Pike County
- CAC of Pike Co.-Business Development
- CAC of Pike Co.-Family Health Center
- Community Action Organization of Scioto Co., Inc.
- City of Portsmouth
- Disability Employment Initiative
- Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services/Region 4
- Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
- Joint Economic Development Initiative
- Pike Co. Career Technical Center/ABLE
- Pike Co. Economic Development
- Pike Co. General Health District
- Pike Co. Dept. of Job & Family Services
- Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce
- Scioto Co. ABLE
- Scioto Co. Career Technical Center
- Shawnee State University
- Southern Hills Career Technical Center
- Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI)
- Southern Ohio Port Authority
- Southern Ohio Procurement Outreach Center
- Southern State Community College
- U.S.D.A./Rural Development
- Southern State Community College/Enterprise Center
- The OSU South Centers/Business Programs
- U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- Village of Georgetown
- Village of Mt Orab
- Village of New Boston
- Village of Peebles
- Village of Seaman
- Village of West Union
- Workforce Development Area 1/Ohio Means Jobs of Adams, Brown, Pike & Scioto Counties