

July 2014

Inside the Network



The Business Resource Network (BRN) partnership consists of chambers of commerce, workforce and economic development organizations, postsecondary institutions, community and government agencies that all offer services to the business community. The BRN creates POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS that work together as a team to share ideas and leverage resources that deliver comprehensive solutions for your business.

BRN IN ACTION: MAKING CONNECTIONS



BE IN GOOD COMPANY! The above businesses are just some of the companies in the area that have received suggestions for challenges such as workforce recruiting, marketing ideas, training opportunities, internship placements, networking, international sales, and financing options. Let the Business Resource Network assist YOU with whatever your unique challenges may be!

Community Perspectives: Stark County Manufacturing

The BRN was represented at the “Building the Manufacturing Workforce for Stark County” meeting on May 7. The meeting, hosted by Stark State College and organized by the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and MAGNET, was held in order to identify and develop solutions to the critical workforce issues faced by Stark County manufacturers. Companies in attendance were asked to identify their major workforce challenges. Identified issues included: inadequate candidate pool to replace highly skilled baby boomers who are retiring; difficulty finding experienced CNC Operators, Machinists, and Maintenance Technicians; lack of soft skills and basic skills such as work ethic, work

culture, math, reading, use of basic skills, and communication skills; incorrect perceptions of manufacturing hurting the ability to recruit. The public does not recognize that manufacturing is alive and well in the area, partially due to the shale industry; positions requiring a multi-skilled candidate with electrical and mechanical abilities along with experience in automation and mechatronics; and employee personal matters such as drug use, family conflicts, lack of transportation, or different motivations. All issues identified during the meeting fall in line with what has been heard from manufacturers during BRN interviews in both Stark and Tuscarawas Counties.

Here's a look at our BRN Partners:



Bureau of Workers' Compensation

<i>Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Kent State University at Tuscarawas</i>
<i>Alliance Area Development</i>	<i>Malone University</i>
<i>Alliance Career Centre</i>	<i>Massillon Area Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>American Electric Power</i>	<i>North Canton Area Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>Buckeye Career Center</i>	<i>ODJFS Veterans Program</i>
<i>Bureau of Workers' Compensation</i>	<i>OhioMeansJobs Stark County</i>
<i>Canton City Schools ABLE</i>	<i>Ohio MeansJobs Tuscarawas County</i>
<i>Canton City Schools ACTE</i>	<i>Ohio Department of Job and Family Services</i>
<i>Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Ohio Department of Transportation</i>
<i>City of Canton-Community Improvement Corporation</i>	<i>Ohio Development Services Agency</i>
<i>City of Alliance</i>	<i>Ohio University PTAC @ Akron</i>
<i>City of Canton</i>	<i>Ohio Small Business Development Center</i>
<i>City of Massillon</i>	<i>R.G. Drage</i>
<i>City of Dover</i>	<i>Small Business Development Center</i>
<i>City of New Philadelphia</i>	<i>Stark Development Board, Inc.</i>
<i>City of North Canton</i>	<i>Stark State College</i>
<i>Community Improvement Corporation of Tuscarawas County</i>	<i>Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce</i>
<i>Dominion East Ohio</i>	<i>Tuscarawas County Community and Economic Development Office</i>
<i>Economic Development and Finance Alliance of Tuscarawas County</i>	<i>Twin City Chamber</i>
<i>First Energy</i>	<i>University of Mount Union</i>
<i>Jackson-Belden Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Walsh University</i>
<i>Office of Governor John Kasich</i>	
<i>Kent State University at Stark, The Corporate University</i>	

BWC is changing the way it bills for workers' compensation coverage to better serve Ohio employers.

For decades, the agency has billed for employer premiums after-the-fact. It will begin billing in advance of coverage starting July 1, 2015 for private employers and Jan. 1, 2016 for public employers. This change will align BWC with standard industry billing practices.

Due to the switch to prospective billing, a number of deadlines for plan and program sign-ups are changing as well. Among them is the snapshot date for experience calculation: for private employers, that date is Sept. 30. For public employers enrolling for the 2016 policy year, it will be March 31, 2015.

Here's a breakdown of other key date changes:

Group Experience Rating:

Nov. 24, 2014 for private employers and
May 29, 2015 for public employers

*Group-Retrospective Rating,
Deductible Program,
Individual-Retrospective Rating,
One Claim Program:*

Jan. 30, 2015 for private employers and
July 31, 2015 for public employers

Destination: Excellence:

May 29, 2015 for private employers and
Nov. 30, 2015 for public employers.

Benefits of prospective billing include reduced overall systems costs for the agency, and in turn, an expected overall base rate reduction of two percent for private employers and four percent for public employers. It will give BWC an increased ability to detect non-compliance and fraud, which will lead to long-term savings. Also, more flexible payment options will be available with prospective billing – up to 12 installment payments instead of semi-annual billing.

The transition won't cost Ohio employers any extra money. BWC will provide a one-time, \$1.2 billion premium credit to eliminate the need for double payments during the transition.

EMPLOYERS—Call us for more information to find out how we can help you grow your business! 1-855-669-4726