



FAIRFIELD COUNTY WORKFORCE CENTER  
4465 COONPATH RD. NW, CARROLL, OHIO 43112

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 30, 2023**

## **FAIRFIELD COUNTY WORKFORCE CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

**[LANCASTER, OH]** - Fairfield County has received a 2023 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) in the category of Children and Youth for its Summer Career Exploration Camps. The camps are offered free of charge at the Fairfield County Workforce Center to middle school students to introduce youth to careers in engineering, healthcare, and construction.

Fairfield County was one of only six counties in Ohio to win a NACO Achievement Award this year. It is the third award the county has won in the past four years for its efforts in workforce development.

“Fairfield County has proven to be a leader in workforce development and it’s an honor to be recognized nationally for this program,” said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. “These accessible Career Camps provide hands-on experience for students to discover career interests for themselves. Students have a blast while learning skills that can help them in any career they decide to pursue.

“The support of the local school districts and partner businesses show how committed the community is to develop our workforce and finding pathways for our students. And our staff and partners have done a great job preparing for even bigger camps this year.”

This summer the Workforce Center Career Camps will be led by instructors from Hocking College, Ohio University-Lancaster, and Lancaster City Schools. There will be no fee or cost to the students participating in the camps – all are funded by the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, Lancaster City Schools, the Fairfield County Commissioners, and a grant from the Ohio Department of Education. Last year, the inaugural year, over 90 students participated in the camps. The program is being expanded to increase enrollment and further involve the local school districts. Registrations are still open and can be found at [www.fairfieldcountyohioworkforcecenter.gov/career-camps.html](http://www.fairfieldcountyohioworkforcecenter.gov/career-camps.html).

In addition to the three industry-specific camps, the Workforce Center also is offering an all-girls STEM Camp.

NACO was established to promote healthy, safe, and vibrant counties across America. For information about Fairfield County Workforce Center, visit [www.fairfieldcountyohioworkforcecenter.gov/career-camps.html](http://www.fairfieldcountyohioworkforcecenter.gov/career-camps.html).

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For media inquiries, contact Temple Montanez at [temple@krilecommunications.com](mailto:temple@krilecommunications.com)

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