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Contact: Rick Szabrak, 740-652-7162 / [rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

### **Career Readiness Program to Offer Career Expo for High School Seniors**

The Fairfield 33 Alliance's Career Readiness Program will host a Career Expo on Thursday, April 15. This Expo will be open to high school seniors at Fairfield County high schools that are interested in pursuing a local career. It will be held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll, OH 43112.

Graduating students will have an opportunity to learn about jobs they can get right out of high school from local businesses representing skilled trades, manufacturing, logistics, sales and service, and healthcare. Employers are not necessarily looking for individuals that have already acquired job specific skills. Many employers are willing to train employees to gain skills in these careers as long as the students have a history of good attendance and have shown a strong work ethic.

The Career Readiness Program connects students to local businesses and helps them earn an endorsement that shows they are work ready. The program is a collaboration between the area employers, local school districts, and the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance. Its goal is to help fill the gap of in-demand jobs throughout Fairfield County.

"The annual Career Expo is something that my Career Readiness students are looking forward to as we complete the school year," said Karie Stone, Fairfield County Career Navigator. "Throughout this year, we have spent much time researching many career options and listening to various employers about the opportunities that are available to high school graduates. Students have also been working diligently on creating a career portfolio that shows their progress, capabilities, and completion of this year's Career Readiness Endorsement. They are excited and prepared to join the workforce and for the opportunities that are available right here in Fairfield County."

While many of the activities this year has been virtual, the Expo will allow students a chance to meet in-person with local businesses. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed with required masks, social distancing, and limited capacity by having time set for each school to attend the Expo.

"Students have worked hard earning their endorsement this year," said Mary Rawlins, Career Navigator for Pickerington Local Schools. "They have worked on soft skill certifications, resumes, and mock interviews; attended employer presentations; participated at employer tours; and navigated a virtual job fair. However, the Expo at the Workforce Center is the reason we have done all the preliminary work. Having the students use what they have learned to make a good first impression with the businesses at the Expo is an important step and could lead them to selecting the right Career path for their future."

Businesses that are interested in the event can contact Hannah Heimberger at [Hannah.Heimberger@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov](mailto:Hannah.Heimberger@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov). Priority will be given to Career Readiness business partners and businesses offering full-time positions with a good starting pay and an identified career path. Students can learn more at [Fairfield33.com/Career-Readiness](https://Fairfield33.com/Career-Readiness). A virtual option will be available in May in partnership for students unable to attend the in-person Career Expo.

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