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For Immediate Release

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### **Fairfield County Workforce Training Center to Offer HVAC Courses**

(Carroll, OH) The new Fairfield County Workforce Center is ready to welcome participants for job training starting this week. The Center is a collaborative partnership between the Fairfield County Commissioners, Ohio University Lancaster Campus and the Russ College of Engineering, and Hocking College. The partnership focuses on economic development through training and workforce development.

The Center, located at 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW in Carroll, will target training for high-demand industries including manufacturing, skilled trades, and health care. The state of Ohio provided \$1.25 million to help repurpose the building that was previously used by the Fairfield County Board of Development Disabilities.

“The investment from the state, our county commissioners, and our educational partners shows the importance of developing our workforce,” said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development director. “Staff from several departments and multiple partners have spent a lot of time to make this a reality.”

One of the first trainings offered begins October 7, 2020. The course will provide certificates and professional development for HVAC professionals. It is an opportunity to gain continuing education units through NATE, North American Technician Excellence.

“NATE is the nation’s largest nonprofit certification organization for heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration technicians,” said Sean Terrell, Dean of Workforce Development for Hocking College. “We will add courses in HVAC, advanced manufacturing, carpentry and electrical.”

Nicole Pennington, Executive Dean for Regional High Education for OHIO, said supporting workforce enhancements is vital for the Fairfield County area. “Ohio University is grateful to be part of this dynamic project which will grow to meet the needs of community employers,” Pennington said.

OHIO will be working to implement trainings in the health care, advanced manufacturing and robotics, and engineering technology.

For more information about the HVAC courses, please contact Terrell at 740-753-7149 or via email at [terrells@hocking.edu](mailto:terrells@hocking.edu). To learn more about the Fairfield County Workforce Training Center, contact Szabrak at [rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov).