

February 4, 2020

For Immediate Release

Contact: Rick Szabrak, 740-652-7162 / rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, in partnership with Fairfield County school's Business Advisory Council, is hosting its second annual Career Readiness Expo on April 1, 2020. The event will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd NW, Carroll, OH 43112.

The event is free and open to all juniors and seniors in the county along with their parents. It will introduce local careers to these students, many of whom can start working immediately after high school. Last year there were more than 50 employers and 120 students that attended the Expo.

"There are a lot of students graduating high school that have a strong work ethic but don't know about the great careers that are out there," said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. "This Expo helped some of those students start careers last year. I'm hoping to see even a larger turnout of students, parents, and employers this year."

Moving it to the Fairfield Workforce Center will allow for more employers to be at the event. It will also give the County a chance to introduce businesses and students to the Workforce Center, which will open later this year with programming from Hocking College and Ohio University.

The Expo is part of the 33 Alliance's Career Readiness Endorsement program. This program identifies students that are ready to join the workforce right out of high school. There are almost 300 students in the program this year.

"This is a great opportunity for students and parents to see that there are different pathways after high school," said Szabrak. "Less than 30 percent of high school graduates receive a college degree within six years of receiving their high school diploma. And many are saddled with college debt. This Expo is a way to jumpstart a career for these students and many employers have tuition reimbursement programs that will help them further their education."

Students, parents, and local employers can sign up at Fairfield33.com. It is free for businesses to have a table. Email Rick Szabrak at Rick.Szabrak@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov.