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Ohio House of Representatives House Finance Sub-Committee on Primary and Secondary Education

HB 49, State Budget

Testimony by Scott Naill, Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Instructor, Upper Valley Career Center

Chairman Cupp, Ranking Member Miller, and Members of the House Finance Sub-Committee on Primary and Secondary Education, I am Scott Naill, instructor of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning program at the Upper Valley Career Center located in Piqua in Miami County, it is my honor to be able to testify today with Mr. Monnier, a member of my Career and Technical Advisory Committee. We currently serve 14 school districts in our career technical planning district as well as additional districts through open enrollment. I have been in Career Technical Education for over 23 years.

One of the strongest methods I have to connect with the community and greatest tool I utilize to continually evolve my program is my Advisory Committee. I would like to share with you how the Advisory Committee structure far exceeds any benefit of adding three non-voting Board members to a Career Center Board. All Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs have an Advisory Committee comprised of key employers, post-secondary instructors, and other informed community members. Its purpose is to strengthen the program it serves. The committee exists to advise, assist, support and advocate for career and technical education. Members are volunteers who share an expert knowledge of the career tasks and competency requirements for specific occupations.

Advisory Committees: Advise – Advisory Committees assess specific areas of the CTE program. Suggestions are designed to improve specific content areas. Areas of discussion could include new industry standards, the updating of curriculum, purchase of new instructional materials or equipment to modernize the classroom and safety practices.

Assist – Advisory Committees help the Instructor or Administrator carry out specific activities. These activities could include judging competitive skills events, setting up a scholarship program, hosting field trips, and obtaining media coverage for special events. *f*

Support and Advocate – Advisory Committees promote CTE programs throughout the community. Promotion or marketing could include identifying industry and community resources, talking to legislators, speaking on behalf of career and technical education at board meetings, writing articles for local newspapers or arranging for publicity.

My advisory committee is 65 members strong. It pulls from all the geographical areas our career center serves. My advisory committee members consist of past students, technicians, small business owners, large business owners, Legislators and executives of Emerson Climate Technologies, a global corporation. With me today is Mr. Monnier, Chief Technology Officer, for Emerson Commercial and Residential Solutions. I would like to share with you a sampling of the specific activities my advisory committee accomplishes.

- We formally meet as a group two times per year, and I am in constant communication with many of my advisory members all year long.
- My advisory members recommend equipment needed in my lab to keep my students trained on up-to-date equipment and prepare them to be job ready in the HVAC industry.
- Technicians on my advisory committee visit my lab and advise students on their projects.
- Adoption of curriculum and texts are done at intervals. Advisory committee members review and approve the proposed changes.
- Advisory members hire and interview current students
- Advisory committee members' businesses host students for job shadowing and internships in the summer.
- Members assist with Service Learning/coat drives
- On sophomore visitation day and open house, several committee members are present to speak with students and their families about the program and the career opportunities in HVAC/R.
- A complete marketing program was designed with the help of Emerson Commercial and Residential Solutions marketing firm, Fahlgren Mortine that resulted in approximately 30 thousand dollars' worth of branding for my program. This created the "cool school/hot career" logo that has drastically increased enrollment and student interest.

Working with Advisory members, we have implemented a very successful apprenticeship program. In the apprenticeship program the students work during summer of their junior year and attend school on a bi-weekly rotation throughout their senior year. Employers are required to provide a program of continued education and training after the apprentice graduates from high school. The HVAC students employed in the Apprenticeship Program are solely supported by advisory committee member businesses. Businesses that employ my apprenticeship students

are Smith-Boughan Mechanical (Lima, Dayton), TP Mechanical (Columbus and Cincinnati), Rieck Mechanical Service (Dayton, Cincinnati), Emerson Commercial and Residential Solutions (Sidney), Regal Heating and Plumbing (Sidney), Slagel Mechanical (Sidney), Logan Heating and Cooling (Dayton), and Midwest Metals (Wapakoneta). These companies I mentioned are just a snap shot of the ones who hire and provide programming support. The unique aspect of my advisory committee is we can bring union and non-union companies together and walk out of the room unscathed. (Laugh) but seriously, they understand we work for the betterment of the student's education and the growth of the program. These companies are not only motivated by wanting to hire my students, but to help provide additional training after graduation to address the issue of the national "Skills Gap."

The committee also uses a tool that evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the program. The results are shared with advisory members and recommendations for program improvements are suggested. The suggestions are recorded in the minutes. The recommendations are reviewed by the superintendent and implemented. As a result, in 2015, the program won the "Excellence in Action Award." It was one of nine programs across the United States named winner of this award. The contributing factor to winning this award was participation and involvement of the advisory committee members and the partnerships that were formed.

In conclusion it is our recommendation that the requirement to have three non-voting Board members on Career Center Boards be removed. Three non-voting Board members are not needed and only duplicate what we already do very well at the local level. We already have advisories for each program as well as a district wide advisory, and these boards already include business representatives. This requirement would not only duplicate what we already do well but muddy the process we currently have in place. The current relationship between advisory committee members and career technical educators is focused on adequately preparing students for a place in the workforce and society. Thank you for this opportunity and I will be happy to take any questions.