



**Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education  
State Operating Budget (HB 33)  
March 21, 2023**

**Testimony of  
Kimberly Gates, Director of Adult Education, Warren County Career Center**

Chair Manning, Ranking Member Jarrells, and members of the Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Kimberly Gates, Director of Adult Education of Warren County Career Center, and I am testifying on behalf of our Ohio Technical Center (OTC) which is one of 51 OTCs in Ohio which focus on providing short-term adult technical training to meet Ohio's diverse, regional workforce needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the success of Warren County Career Center's OTC and the great work Ohio Technical Centers are doing across Ohio. I have been in education for over 20 years, and have spent the last eight years in Career Tech with Warren County Career Center, currently serving as our Adult Education Director. Warren County Career Center is an integral part of Southwest Ohio, uniquely positioned between Dayton and Cincinnati. Our adult education programs are instrumental in providing the skilled training and certifications needed to ensure students are prepared to enter directly into the workforce.

These programs are often life changing for our students, as is the case for one our current students, Jackson Buehler. Jackson, a veteran who served active duty Army, is in our Advanced Manufacturing Program. Post military, he wanted to become an Industrial Maintenance Technician and enrolled with us this past fall. Just over half way through his program, he was offered a position with Green Bay Packaging Inc. Cincinnati Division, in Lebanon, Ohio. This opportunity allows Jackson to begin his career as a maintenance technician while completing his program with us in the evening. It is exciting to see how impactful OTCs are in providing the training and education students need in under one year, and in turn be a direct pipeline for our regional industry partners in building their workforce with trained and certified employees such as Jackson.

To continue providing positive experiences to students like Jackson, the Warren County Career Center is committed to working with our business and industry partners so more employers come to rely upon graduates of our OTC to meet their workforce needs. The partnership we have entered into with VisTech, a manufacturer in Warren County, to utilize TechCred to upskill 7 of their incumbent workers is one example of how we have used state programs to bolster the workforce of employers in our region. VisTech employees will be earning certifications in MSSC CPT Maintenance Awareness, Allen-Bradley Ac/Dc Drive, and Rockwell Introduction to Automation and Micro 850 Configuration. These certifications will enable those employees to grow in their careers and help VisTech maintain their workforce.

Additionally, at the Warren County Career Center we are excited about the SuperRAPIDS funding because it will enable us to purchase equipment that students will use in the career fields as well as the equipment incumbent workers are using in their industry. Likewise, the appropriation may



enable the Career Center to create new training and credentialing programs that will provide students with the skills necessary to obtain an in-demand job in our region.

In closing, thank you again for the opportunity to share how Warren County Career Center has had a positive impact on students like Jackson, and employers like VisTech. It is a privilege to represent my Career Center and to share the commitment we have to our students, our business and industry partners, and the communities we serve.