

**OHIO SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
WITNESS INFORMATION FORM**

Date of Hearing: _____

Bill Number and Title: HB96 - State Operating Budget

Name of Committee: Senate Education Committee

Personal Information

Name: Tim Buschur

Organization (if applicable): Tri Star Career Compact

Title (if applicable): Director

Address: 7655 SR 703

City, State, Zip: Celina, Ohio 45822

Email: tim.buschur@tristarcc.org

Phone: 419-586-7060

Representation

☐ Self

☒ Organization (please specify): Tri Star Career Compact

Position on the Bill

☒ Proponent (Support)

☐ Opponent (Against)

☐ Interested Party (Neutral)

Testimony Type

☒ Written Only

☐ In-Person Oral Testimony

☐ Virtual Oral Testimony

Will you have supporting documents or written testimony to submit?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Ohio Senate
Education Committee
HB-96 Biennial Budget

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for HB96. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of restoring the Executive Budget's proposed funding and policy for Career Awareness, Exploration, and Development. As a career-technical educator, I know that educational progress is built over time, and sustained, consistent investment is vital to maintaining momentum.

Career Awareness, Exploration, and Development funding has allowed schools across Ohio to create new opportunities for students to explore careers, engage with industry partners, and make informed decisions about their futures. These initiatives take time to build and to maintain the ones we have already developed with the community.

The funding has helped us to promote careers at all nine of our member schools. We hold two job fairs a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. All the Tri Star career technical students attend, along with the nine schools being invited. Over 50 companies attend the fair and Tri Star will pay for the transportation of the schools to encourage schools to send their students. This exposes all students, and the community, to the jobs available, and allows companies to hire and make connections with students and the public.

With the funding, we host a scavenger hunt three times per year for grades 2,3, and 4th grade in the evening for students and parents, Grandparents Day, an annual notepad contest promoting careers, coloring pages for local restaurants, purchase IntoCareers, which includes IDEAS assessment, for our schools which provide career items for all grade levels. These activities have more participation each year and the schools now have an expectation they will be provided. They count on us to provide expertise and guidance for these activities. It is also a cost-efficient way to provide these activities because they are not duplicated.

"Education with Community Impact"

Serving: Celina, Coldwater, Fort Recovery, Marion Local, Minster, New Bremen, New Knoxville, St. Henry, and St. Marys

If funding is reduced or eliminated, the positive results we are getting will be disrupted. This happened several years ago when career development funding was eliminated. That is why the Career Awareness, Exploration, and Development funding was so welcomed and has been so important for the positive vibe career tech is receiving. The funding has truly allowed us to make career connections with all grade levels and the companies that need the skill set.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource as you continue to consider this important investment. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for additional information.

Tim Buschur

Director

Tri Star Career Compact

Tim.buschur@tristarcc.org