



## PICKAWAY COUNTY – THE CROSSROADS FOR BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Efforts Continue to Prepare Our Future Workforce

**Circleville, OH-** As a result of previous meetings initiated by Pickaway Progress Partnership, Pickaway HELPS(Higher Education Learning Partners for Students), and the Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce, the Workforce Connections Group hosted a focus group to share more about their challenges as local employers, educators, and workforce professionals.

Bringing these professionals together to discuss how best to prepare Pickaway County students to enter the growing workforce is paramount to finding solutions. “It’s great to hear different perspectives on what has been done in the past, what worked, and what needs to be improved”, said Christy Mills, Pickaway HELPS Director.

After hearing what skills are needed by local employers, the focus group began working on pre-employment training concepts for high school upper classmen. The goal is to develop program parameters and identify private sector partners for implementation during the 2017-2018 school year. Better awareness of the trade industries, apprenticeship programs and creating a consortium of employers to serve as advisors for the training needs were also discussed. These ideas will continue to be evaluated as part of the process of engaging our employers and educators with what is needed to have a stronger, skilled workforce in the county.

We will continue this dialogue and reach out to other industry leaders to evaluate our industry’s needs as it relates to our workforce. Our next focus group will include different representatives from the education and industry sectors. If you would like to be involved in this discussion, please reach out to Stacey Sark with P3 ([ssark@pickawayprogress.com](mailto:ssark@pickawayprogress.com)) or Christy Mills with Pickaway HELPS ([highered@pickaway.org](mailto:highered@pickaway.org)).

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(Picture Included)

