

Career Spotlight

Meet Deshawn Toney, Deputy Director of Economic and Workforce Development at the Fairfield County Workforce Center.

As Deputy Director, Deshawn oversees the daily operation of the Fairfield County Workforce Center and the Career Readiness Program. This includes identifying the workforce needs of local employers and helping to build a pipeline of skilled workers for careers with those employers. The position oversees five Career Navigators who work with students across eight school districts to prepare students for the workforce. This is accomplished by helping them attain the Career Readiness Endorsement, which shows they have the soft skills needed to enter the workforce directly out of high school.



The Deputy Director oversees the pre-apprenticeship programs of high school seniors at the Workforce Center as well as the summer Career Exploration camps for junior high school students. Other programs and events that are planned by the Deputy Director include a Career Expo, a Career Singing Day, and various open houses and orientations to develop interest in programs at the Workforce Center. The position also manages the day-to-day activities at the Workforce Center, which has numerous employer and education partners, including Hocking College and Ohio University.

For more than 14 years, Deshawn worked in non-profit organizations. For the past five years, she has proudly served on multiple non-profit boards. In every board role, she worked to provide training and employment opportunities for marginalized groups. Serving as Deputy Director allows her to continue the work she is passionate about.

Deshawn's experience in workforce development spans more than 16 years. She has benefited from experiencing work from multiple perspectives, direct service, management, and administration.

“My advice to someone interested in pursuing a career in workforce and economic development is to have a growth mindset. Continuously learn about the community's unique needs such as jobs in demand, training needs, current challenges, resource options, and available funding. Establish relationships with community partners and leaders. Recognize the strengths and unique differences in people you are serving, managing, and partnering with,” says Deshawn.

To learn more about Fairfield County and its agencies, visit <https://www.fairfieldcountyohioworkforcecenter.gov/>.