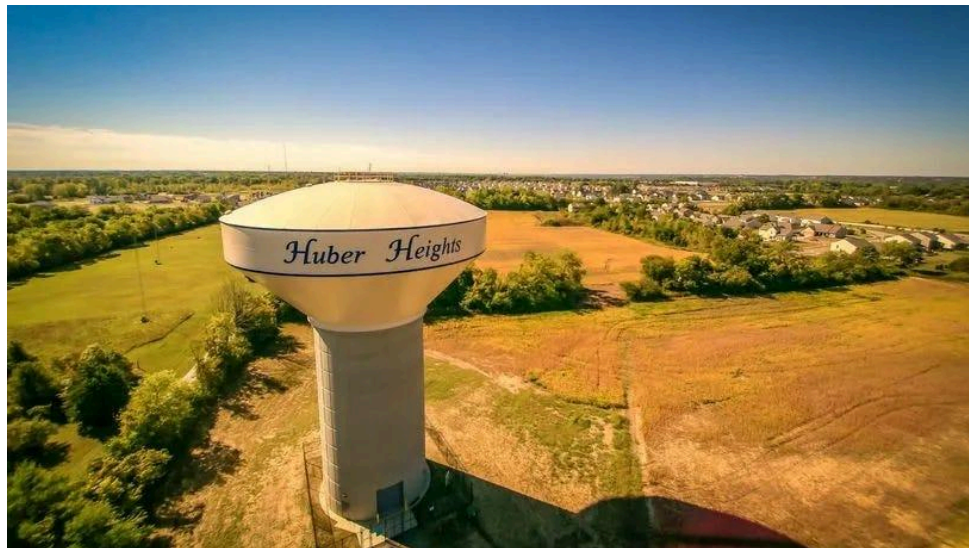




FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



March Outreach Specialist Meeting

Highlighting Huber Heights! The next BusinessFirst! Outreach Specialist Meeting will be March 18 at 9:00 AM. See Huber Heights' new Government Center at 6151 Brandt Pike and connect with your peers and resource partners.

- Jason Antonick will talk about new developments in Huber Heights
- Vanessa A. Glotfelter, Transportation Improvement District, will share valuable insights on transportation infrastructure projects that impact regional growth
- Joseph M. Geraghty, Port Authority, will discuss how they can facilitate economic development projects in your community

This meeting will deliver great information, connections, and fresh perspectives. We hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



WorkOhio: Reach Your Full Potential

SOCHE is the West Ohio Regional Hub for Work Ohio! This new initiative connects Ohioans to the resources and support they need get new employment. SOCHE staff work one-on-one with potential employees to target their skills set to employers and provide resources if they need training to move their careers forward. They are working with local educators and training providers to meet those needs and looking to connect with employers who are hiring. To find out more about the program, go to WorkOhio.gov or call SOCHE at 937-258-8890.

[WorkOhio Flyer](#)



Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education

SOCHE

Does your business need help finding Interns? SOCHE is gearing up for an incredible year of making a difference in our community through our [student internship](#) program. If you're seeking talented, motivated individuals to help drive your organization forward, the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) is here to assist. Think of us as the Easy Button for your workforce needs!

At SOCHE, we understand that today's interns are tomorrow's workforce. Our interns are prepared to contribute immediately, bringing fresh perspectives, a willingness to learn, and innovative ideas to your organization. We offer students at all levels, including high school, undergraduate, and graduate, ensuring a diverse talent pipeline to meet your needs.



Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

All About Funding for Accessibility and Accommodations

**February 18, 2026, 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Mont County Business Solutions Center**

As employers continue to face workforce shortages, expanding where and how talent is sourced is a critical business strategy. This roundtable brings employers together to explore practical approaches to hiring and integrating New Americans into the workforce.

Participants will hear from peers and experts on effective recruitment strategies, onboarding and retention best practices, and how to navigate available resources and supports. The discussion will focus on real-world employer experiences, shared challenges, and opportunities to strengthen

Gain a competitive edge by leveraging SOCHE's strong campus connections and comprehensive, end-to-end HR support. Let us help you find the right talent to grow your business and shape the workforce of the future.

Contact Cassie Barlow at cassie.barlow@soche.org to find your next intern.



Expanding the Talent Pipeline | Employing New Americans Roundtable: February 2026

February 18, 2026, 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Mont County Business Solutions Center

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This interactive session is designed for employers seeking innovative, scalable workforce solutions and a competitive edge in today's labor market.

The New American Employer Roundtables are brought to you in partnership by the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Welcome Dayton, Catholic Social Services

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This interactive session is designed for employers seeking innovative, scalable workforce solutions and a competitive edge in today's labor market.

The New American Employer Roundtables are brought to you in partnership by the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Welcome Dayton, Catholic Social Services of Miami Valley, and Brunner Literacy Center.

EVENT REGISTRATION



Empowered Connections: Celebrating Excellence

February 19, 2026, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
The Reserve on Third, Dayton

In honor of Black History Month, we're bringing together entrepreneurs, community leaders, and support organizations to explore how collaboration drives business growth and economic impact. Business owners will gain practical insights, learn about local small business resources, and connect with peers working to build stronger businesses and communities.

Through a dynamic panel, fireside chats, and interactive breakout sessions, attendees will hear real-world experiences, access guidance on capital and technical assistance, and leave with actionable strategies and expanded networks to support long-term success.

What You'll Learn & Experience

- How collaboration across communities can drive business growth
- Real-world insights from local business leaders
- Information on business resources available through the Hispanic Chamber and ECDI
- Practical guidance on accessing capital, technical assistance, and

of Miami Valley, and Brunner Literacy Center.

- growth support
- Opportunities to connect and collaborate during interactive breakout sessions

EVENT REGISTRATION



I-70/75
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dayton Development Coalition Economic Update

**February 20, 2026, 7:30 am - 9:00 am
Sinclair College, Building 12**

The Dayton Development Coalition has been instrumental in helping businesses grow and thrive in the Dayton Region. But what is going on in the region lately? Join us this February as Jeff Hoagland reviews our region's performance in 2025 and shares the DDC's vision and goals for 2026.

Member-only registration is now open. Tickets are limited, with a current maximum of two attendees per company. Registration for non-members and additional company representatives will open at a later date.

Our events have grown in popularity. To help us plan accurately and ensure everyone has a chance to attend, please notify us if your plans change after registering. For events with high demand, this is especially important so we can open your spot to others who may be waiting.

EVENT REGISTRATION



Montgomery County Construction Job Fair

February 26, 2026 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

EVENT REGISTRATION



Montgomery County Local Foods Conference

**February 24, 2026, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Calumet Center, Dayton**

Please join us for the Inaugural Local Foods Conference as we work together to increase the number of farmers who are providing local food to restaurants and other suppliers.

Keynote address from farmer and organizer Walt Bonham (Richland Gro-Op) and multiple deep dive opportunities for beginning farmers, seasoned growers, and institutional buyers. This is a networking opportunity you won't want to miss!

Free to attend, locally sourced breakfast and lunch included!

EVENT PAGE

EVENT REGISTRATION



Manufacturing Apprenticeships Info Session

March 4, 2026, 7:30 am - 10:00 am

Looking to build a career in construction? Join us for the Montgomery County Construction Job Fair, where job seekers can connect directly with local construction employers offering full-time jobs, apprenticeships, and training opportunities.

This event is open to individuals of all experience levels, from those new to the industry to seasoned professionals.

Attendees will have the opportunity to network with hiring companies, learn about career pathways in construction, and access resources that can help take the next step toward stable, well-paying employment. Bring copies of your resume and be prepared to interview on the spot.

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



Government Affairs Breakfast with U.S. Small Business Administration Deputy Administrator 2026

March 4, 2026, 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Engineers Club of Dayton Members Only

Join the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce for a Government Affairs event featuring William Briggs, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Briggs will share insights on federal small business priorities, lessons from leading the Paycheck Protection Program and perspectives on supporting entrepreneurship, access to capital and regulatory certainty for America's job creators.

About the Speaker: William (Bill) Briggs is the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. As Deputy Administrator, Briggs works alongside SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler to ensure SBA accomplishes its mission to counsel, aid, and assist American small businesses.

Interested in learning a bit more about Apprenticeship programs and how to partner with Sinclair Community College Work-based Learning Apprenticeship TEAM?

Sinclair Work-based Learning Apprenticeship Team will be hosting an Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship INFO session on Wednesday March 4, 2026. Attendees can learn how apprenticeships lead to paid, hands-on career pathways and get clear next steps on how to partner with Sinclair's apprenticeship program

[EVENT PAGE](#)



Workforce Development Education Series

Foundational Leadership Series
Beginning March 10 | 9 am – Noon

Attention all emerging leaders, new leaders or seasoned professionals looking for learning and development opportunities. Discover the keys to successful leadership through the Foundational Leadership Series. Be a part of lively discussions, relevant case studies and experiential activities designed to enhance our learning objective.

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)

Supervisor Series
Beginning March 12 | 9:00 am – Noon

Elevate your leadership game! Designed specifically for supervisors, these sessions will help you master essential strategies to build successful relationships with your team through effective delegation and coaching. Learn to prioritize your time like a pro to boost productivity and inspire and motivate your team to achieve their best work.

Briggs is a three-time presidential appointee and believes entrepreneurship is what makes America great.

[EVENT INFORMATION](#)

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



Preble County Chamber EXPO

**Friday, March 20, 3 pm - 7 pm and
Saturday, March 21, 9 am - 1 pm
Preble County Expo Building, Eaton**

The 2026 Preble County Chamber EXPO is coming March 20–21, 2026, and we're excited to announce that exhibitor and sponsorship sign-ups are officially open!

The EXPO is one of our largest events of the year and a fantastic opportunity to:

- Showcase your business
- Connect with the community
- Network with fellow Chamber members and business owners
- Increase your brand visibility
- Build new relationships and meet potential customers

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

[EVENT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION](#)

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



Our Brains & Change: Leveraging Neuroscience to Overcome Change Resistance

March 25, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Every week, thousands of people leaders are asked, or expected, to lead change initiatives they did not design and that their teams may not welcome. Change is inherently complex: as humans, we're wired both to grow and to resist threats.

Unfortunately, many leaders view resistance as a problem to fix, wasting valuable time and energy and ultimately slowing down progress. This program offers a fresh perspective. Designed for leaders caught in the middle between top-down change directives and team pushback, it provides practical insights for navigating resistance more effectively. You will learn how to reframe resistance, understand its root causes, and lead in ways that accelerate transformation rather than stall it.

This program will help leaders:

- Identify the most relevant brain science concepts that can be used to engage employees more effectively to achieve change adoption earlier.
- Describe the three priorities of change leadership, and some key actions that make it more likely employees will buy in vs. resist your change.
- Use a simple, communication-based approach

[EVENT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION](#)



University of Dayton Center of Leadership: Development Programs

For 20 years, senior leaders have come together at the University of Dayton to learn from some of the most highly regarded and influential management thinkers worldwide. Each year, the Center presents a variety of one-day executive-level programs that address the topics most relevant to senior-level leaders. Programs are delivered in a workshop format, mixing content, conversation, and skill practice, so that leaders can apply what they learn and impact their organization immediately.

Rather than commit to a weeklong program, you can customize your development and choose which programs best address your needs - whether you are looking to improve personal effectiveness and productivity, create a culture of innovation and creativity, or implement sustainable change efforts. At the UD Center for Leadership, you are in control of your leadership education.

[EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS](#)

[PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS](#)



2026 Gen D Ignite Application

Gen D Ignite is a seven-month-long educational program for early career professionals who are looking to grow their leadership skills, expand their personal and professional networks, and engage more deeply in the Dayton community. This program will kick off with an overnight retreat and will conclude with a one-day closing retreat and launch ceremony. The class will meet each month for a full-day experience that includes professional development workshops, leadership sessions with local business leaders, hands-on education sessions, coaching and more.

Topics will include themes, such as, strategic thinking, civic engagement & civil discourse, leading with authenticity & influence, diversity, equity & inclusion, mental health & well-being & personal branding.

[PROGRAM INFORMATION + REGISTRATION](#)



Created in 2001, the nationally recognized BusinessFirst! program uses a customer oriented approach to economic development that connects businesses to resources in the Dayton Region. We are the single-point of contact for all of your business needs. BusinessFirst! has provided assistance to over 7,800 businesses in the Greater Dayton Region - we are here to assist your company, too.

BusinessFirst! for a Greater Dayton Region
Erin Doherty
Phone: (937) 225-4642

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