



NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Centerville Business Walk

The City of Centerville, in partnership with BusinessFirst!, is hosting a Business Walk! This event is an opportunity to connect with local businesses, share available programs and services, and thank them for being an essential part of our community. If you are interested in volunteering for the Centerville Business Walk, please let us know! Additionally, if you would like your organization's promotional materials included in the leave-behind folders for participating businesses, please email them to rahmanc@mcoho.org.

The walk is being held on Thursday **November 20, 2025** at **1pm**. Teams will be meeting at the Centerville Police Department (155 W. Spring Valley Road), before the walk begins.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Workforce Panel and Networking Event

Whether you're new to economic development or have years of experience, this session offers valuable insights and a chance to hear about the latest workforce needs, initiatives, and resources available to local businesses.

On **Thursday, December 4th**, BusinessFirst! will be sponsoring a Workforce Panel and Networking Event at Madison Lakes Learning & Conference Center from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. The discussion will be moderated by Kandise Bobo of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses and will feature an experienced panel of local workforce leaders:

Jocelyn Dean, Dayton Development Coalition
Harold Niehaus, Preble County Career Connections
Allison Steele, Emerge
Michael Stern, Montgomery County Workforce

Networking will begin at 8:30am with the panel discussion following at 9:00am.

Please contact Brianna Wolfe (wolfeb@mcoho.org) for any additional information. We hope to see you there!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Now Hiring! Economic Development & Research Manager

The Downtown Dayton Partnership (DDP) — a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization with a mission to address our downtown's challenges and capture transformative opportunities through commerce, community, and culture — is seeking the



Workforce Development Events!

Certified Data Management Professional
December 3–5, 2025 | 8 am – 4 pm
Gain a solid foundation in the full DAMA DMBOK framework while building practical,

right person to join our team as an Economic Development and Research Manager.

The Economic Development and Research Manager will report to the VP of Strategy and support DDP's economic development, planning, and advocacy efforts. This role will lead the collection, analysis, visualization, and storytelling of data related to Downtown Dayton's economic health, real estate activity, public space use, and vibrancy metrics.

JOB DESCRIPTION

consistent data management skills. This course equips you to apply best practices in your organization and prepare for the DAMA CDMP Fundamentals exam. *Exam cost not included. TechCred eligible!* For more information or to register:

<https://sinclairwfd.regfox.com/cdmp>

Microsoft Excel Level 3: Advanced December 9 | 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Ready to master advanced Excel techniques? Explore links, external and 3-D references, collaborative workbooks, data validation, macros, lookup functions, forecasting, and sparklines—all in one comprehensive session. *TechCred eligible!* For more information or to register:

<https://sinclairwfd.regfox.com/excel2025>

Sinclair Sparks: Resilience in Times of Uncertainty

December 11 | 9 – 10:30 am

Building resilience isn't always simple, especially when life feels heavy with confusion or uncertainty. This session helps you move through the chaos, tap into your inner strengths, and regain a sense of control. Even in challenging times. For more information or to register:

<https://sinclairwfd.regfox.com/2025sinclairsparks>



Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program

Small business owners ready to grow and scale have a free resource to help them do so. Sinclair College offers this 12-week program in the summer, and applications are open now until January 23 for the upcoming cohort. Details about this free educational program, including schedule, eligibility requirements, and more are available [HERE](#).

There is a free "teaser" workshop on Dec. 3 that allows prospective applicants a "test drive" of the curriculum. "Pathways to Growth" explores how to use financial statements for business diagnostics and identifying growth opportunities. Business First members who would like to learn more about the program and content are also invited to join!

Visit [HERE](#) and click on the "events" link for



Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education

Planning for SOCHE Interns!

Fall is the perfect time to start planning for hiring enthusiastic SOCHE interns! If you are an employer looking for that next generation of employees, The Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education can help. We are the Easy Button for your workforce needs! We know that today's interns are tomorrow's workforce, and our interns are ready to roll up their sleeves, learn the ropes, and inject a dose of innovation into your business model. We have students at all levels – High School, Undergraduate and Graduate! Get the competitive edge by taking advantage of SOCHE's campus connections and end-to-end HR services.

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

registration information.



2025 WiBN Leadership Conference | BBB of Dayton & Miami Valley

November 18, 2025 - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
Sinclair Community College

WiBN's 2025 Leadership Conference is designed to provide personal inspiration and practical action items that will inspire, influence and impact professional women who attend. This one-day experience brings you first class speakers, a variety of opportunities to network and a wide-array of vendors.

EVENT INFORMATION

EVENT REGISTRATION



Gen D Ignite: The Art of Networking

November 18, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
The Silos, Dayton

Join Gen D Ignite Cohort 3 for The ART of Networking—an inspiring evening where creativity and connection come together. This unique young professionals event celebrates Dayton’s vibrant arts community while sparking collaboration across industries. As part of their class project, enjoy a lively atmosphere featuring talented local artists and connect with fellow young professionals, community leaders, and creatives who are shaping the future of the Dayton region.

You’ll also hear from Culture Works, the largest provider of general operating support for nonprofit arts organizations across the Dayton region and the partner of this project. Discover how you can get involved and make an impact by volunteering, attending performances or supporting creative initiatives that strengthen our community.

Don’t miss this opportunity to connect, collaborate and create!

EVENT REGISTRATION



2025 Ohio AI Summit

November 19, 2025 - 9:45 am - 6 pm
CSCC, Mitchell Hall, Columbus

Join us at the 2nd annual Ohio AI Summit, where we’ll explore how AI is being built,



Aligning the Multi-Generational Workforce.

November 21, 2025 - 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

deployed, and scaled across Ohio. This year's theme — AI in Action — spotlights real-world Ohio use cases and homegrown innovation shaping the future of work and our leading industries.

At the Ohio AI Summit you'll engage with top industry leaders, discover the latest AI trends, and help build Ohio's AI opportunity.

EVENT TICKETS

EVENT INFORMATION



Future Proofing Dayton: Understanding the Challenges & Opportunities to Power a Growing Business Community

**November 21, 2025 - 7:30 am - 9:00 am
Sinclair Community College**

Join us for breakfast, networking, and an insightful presentation from JobsOhio's Managing Director of Energy and Chemicals. JobsOhio, an organization dedicated to driving economic development and investment across the state, will provide an in-depth overview of Dayton's economic growth initiatives and the new energy incentives aimed at strengthening the region's energy infrastructure while promoting long-term sustainability.

EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Today's leaders and employees are finding it increasingly challenging to manage the tension and frustration that often stems from conflicting intergenerational dynamics.

This learning session is designed to help change the mindset from a focus on differences to a focus on how all generations make a valuable contribution to the success of the organization. This session promises to be engaging and enlightening – with individual and group work, thought-provoking exercises, and take-aways!

REGISTRATION



I-70/75 Development Association's 2026 Scholarship Program

We are pleased to announce that the I-70/75 Development Association's 2026 Scholarship Program is now open for applications. This annual program provides a \$1,500 scholarship to eligible employees or their dependents from member organizations. This scholarship is designed to support students pursuing higher education, with consideration given to academic achievement, community involvement, leadership, and other key criteria.

For complete program details, eligibility requirements, and application instructions, please refer to the attached scholarship program document below.

**Application Deadline: November 30, 2025,
at 5:00 PM**

All completed applications and questions should be directed to Brooke Purpus at brooke.purpus@gmail.com.

We encourage all eligible members and their dependents to take advantage of this opportunity.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFO



DRMA Annual Meeting

December 3, 2025 - 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
NCR Country Club, Kettering, Ohio

The December Annual Meeting is the most essential member meeting of the year. A short but important program will include a review of accomplishments this year, approval of the 2026 budget, and introduction of new board members.

Following the program, networking festivities will begin – cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and socializing with your DRMA peers in a festive atmosphere!

Remember, your membership is corporate-wide, so bring your employees to the event!

EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive

December 4, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
On Par Entertainment

Join us Thursday, December 4th for our holiday party and help us make the holiday season brighter for local children and bring a new unwrapped toy to donate!

EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop

December 5, 2025
Sinclair Community College

This is a one day workshop, presented by APA Ohio's Miami Valley Section, focusing on planning practice and development trends for community development professionals and citizen planners in and around the Miami Valley area. Sessions are designed for local officials, planning commission and board of zoning appeals members, professional planners, attorneys, developers, architects, engineers and engaged citizens.

REGISTRATION



DDC Annual Meeting + Economic Review

February 4, 2026, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Dayton Convention Center

Mark your calendars! Details to follow soon!



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership



Sponsored by APA Chapters & Divisions

IEDC Event and Exam Schedule

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,500 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers typically work for cities, counties, states, public-private partnerships, and chambers of commerce and promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining, and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth, and provide a stable tax base.

[EVENT & EXAM SCHEDULE](#)

APA Ohio - Planning Webcast Series

Earn over 50 AICP CM credits each year online - at no cost to members of participating organizations that support the Planning Webcast Series. Check back often as we frequently add additional offerings.

- Webcasts take place live on Fridays from 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET and are worth 1.5 AICP CM credits (for live viewing only) unless otherwise noted
- On-demand webcasts are available for your convenience.
- Webcast recordings and slide decks are available in the 'Past Webcasts' tab below
- Please contact us for transcription assistance.

[WEBCAST HOMEPAGE](#)



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

If you have any information, events, job openings or articles that you would like featured in our newsletter, please let us know.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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BusinessFirst! for a Greater Dayton Region | 451 W. Third Street | Dayton, OH 45422 US

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