



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Village of Yellow Springs Business Walk

BusinessFirst!, regional partners, and Yellow Springs will be conducting the third Community Business Walk of 2025 on Thursday October 16th. Business Walks are a great opportunity to engage with businesses in the community and bring services and programs directly to those business owners. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us on a team!

If you have promotional materials you would like to have distributed at a walk, or would like to participate in this or future walks, reach out to Brianna Wolfe (wolfeb@mcoho.org).

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



2026 OEDA Annual Summit in Dayton!

The Dayton Region is sending a contingency to the Ohio Economic Development Association 2025 Annual Summit in Akron this month. In addition to learning about industry best practices and networking, the group will be inviting partners from across the state to join us for the 2026 OEDA Annual Summit which will be hosted in Dayton! This is a great opportunity to showcase the programs and people who make our communities so great. Start thinking about topics you think might resonate with your peers. The local committee will be starting work to pull the event together and your input is appreciated.



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 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



PREBLE COUNTY
OHIO

Building Connections in Preble County

This summer, the Preble County Development Partnership launched our “**Leaders, Landmarks, and Partnerships**” social media campaign, spotlighting community leaders, county landmarks, and the people who help our county thrive. The campaign strengthened our connection with residents and businesses while raising awareness of the many resources and opportunities available right here in Preble County.

Alongside this effort, our Business Series continued to bring valuable learning and networking opportunities to local professionals. These sessions encouraged collaboration and growth by sharing tools and strategies that support business success across the county.

We are looking forward to our next session — a QuickBooks Presentation on November 5 — designed to help business owners manage their finances more effectively. Together, these initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting Preble County’s leaders, businesses, and community partnerships.

For more information on this program, please contact Perrica Short at pshort@prebledev.com.

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program

The [Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program at Sinclair College](#) is a 12-week, intensive educational program designed to help small business owners grow and scale their enterprises. Participants take a deep dive into [topics related to small business management and administration](#) while they develop their growth plan. Participants receive support from faculty members, a peer-to-peer environment, and a business advisor working with them one-on-one to complete your growth plan. Best of all, the program offers [everyone selected a full scholarship](#) to participate, which means there is NO COST for business owners. Sinclair is accepting applications for its summer 2026 cohort, and there are a few events coming up to learn more about this initiative.

- [Virtual info sessions](#): There are a few virtual information sessions coming up on October 15, November 12, and December 10. During these sessions, attendees will learn more about the program, eligibility requirements, application process, and program impact. Register online to get the Zoom link.
- [10KSB Speed Networking](#): This in-person activity is scheduled for November 12 at Oregon Express. (OE co-owner Laura Zeller graduated from the program this summer.) During this free event, attendees will rotate through a 2-minute discussion with someone new. It's a great way to network if you're new or like having a bit more structure. 10KSB alumni will be in attendance and will share their brief reflections on the program.
- [Preview Workshop: Pathways to Growth](#): Want to test drive the 10KSB curriculum before applying? This sneak peek workshop delivers skill-building content designed to help business owners identify growth opportunities "hidden" in their financial statements. This free, virtual workshop takes a little from the Financial Statements Workshop and a little from Module 3: Money & Metrics curriculum to create the content. Register to get the Zoom

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.

link.



Small Business Development Centers

Miami Valley at Entrepreneurs' Center

SBDC Events!

The Miami Valley Small Business Development Center provides no-cost confidential consulting and training to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

[MVSBDC WORKSHOP LIST](#)

[FLYER](#)



OhioX AI Roundtables

October 21, 2025 - Cincinnati, Ohio

The [OhioX AI Roundtables](#) are a premier gathering designed exclusively for senior enterprise technology leaders across the state of Ohio. This exclusive forum offers a dynamic space where innovation meets collaboration, fostering an environment primed for the exchange of innovative ideas and insights in the realm of artificial intelligence.

OhioX is hosting this Roundtable to determine and discuss the enterprise adoption of responsible AI across the state in our largest businesses.

[CINCINNATI ROUNDTABLE INFO & REG](#)



Beyond the Gray: Fundraising Ethics in Action

October 21, 2025 - 8 am - 5 pm

October is Ethics Awareness Month—a month to focus on the important role that ethics plays in fundraising. Join AFP for an hour-long working lunch learning session where attendees will do a deep dive in a series of sample case ethical dilemmas. From compensation practices to donor privacy policies, there will be time to review each sample case and talk through each case with the group. Attendees will leave armed with a better understanding of the AFP Code of Ethics and sample policies and practices that can be used in their organization.

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



Leadership Dayton Annual Meeting Gala: Celebrating 50 Years

October 22, 2025 - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
The Steam Plant, Dayton, Ohio

Join us for an unforgettable evening as Leadership Dayton marks its 50th Anniversary with the Annual Meeting Gala. This milestone celebration will honor five decades of cultivating leaders, strengthening our community, and shaping Dayton's future. Set against the stunning backdrop of Dayton's historic Steam Plant, the gala will bring together program alumni, community leaders, and partners for an elegant evening of recognition and connection.



Centerville - Montgomery County Job & Career Fair

October 23, 2025 - 10 am - 2 pm
Dayton Humane & Co., Centerville, Ohio

Employers will receive one 6-foot table, two chairs, two staff passes and up to two boxed lunches. Employers must provide their own tablecloth and marketing materials. Your business name will also be listed on the event program. The Job Fair is limited to 44 exhibitors. There will be no electricity available on site.

An invoice will be sent to the company contact following registration, or exhibitors can pay with a card or check on site the day of the event.

With questions, please call 937-433-7151 or email ecollins@centervilleohio.gov or jobrien@centervilleohio.gov.

[EVENT REGISTRATION \(Employers & Job Seekers\)](#)

[EVENT FLYER](#)

Individual tickets are available for purchase, and groups are encouraged to participate through table sponsorships, ensuring your organization is part of this historic milestone. This special occasion is more than a celebration; it's a testament to the legacy of Leadership Dayton and the collective impact of its graduates. Together, we will honor the past, celebrate the present, and look toward the future of leadership in our community.

[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



IEDC - Training Courses

**Entrepreneurial & Small Business
Development Strategies**
October 28-29, 2025 - Online

Small businesses are the backbone of economic growth. This course provides an in-depth look at the essential elements of small business support—from financing and incubation to export assistance and beyond. You'll discover how to equip entrepreneurs with the resources they need to overcome challenges, thrive in competitive markets, and build sustainable ventures that strengthen your community's economy.

[COURSE INFO & REGISTRATION](#)

Business Retention & Expansion
October 30-31, 2025 - Online

Supporting your existing businesses is just as important as attracting new ones. This course delves into proven strategies for business retention, proactive outreach, workforce development, and financial support. You'll walk away with the tools to foster a resilient and thriving ecosystem, driving local investment, creating jobs, and ensuring long-term community growth.

[COURSE INFO & REGISTRATION](#)

Sinclair Sparks: Decide with Confidence – Turning Insight into Action

November 7, 2025 - 9 am - 10:30 am

Enhance your decision-making skills with this interactive course designed to give you practical, repeatable strategies for navigating complex choices with clarity and confidence. Participants will explore the OODA Loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act) to learn how to respond quickly and effectively in dynamic situations. You'll also gain hands-on experience with a Risk Matrix—a powerful visual tool that helps you assess potential outcomes and prioritize decisions based on likelihood and impact.

EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Breakfast Briefing and Entrepreneurial Award Ceremony

November 14, 2025 - 7:45 am - 9:15 AM
NCR Country Club, Kettering, Ohio

November is National Entrepreneurship Month; a time to celebrate the bold spirit of entrepreneurs and innovators who turn ideas into action, challenges into opportunities, and vision into impact. These trailblazers fuel economic growth, drive innovation, and inspire change through creativity, resilience, and leadership. This month, we honor their contributions and reaffirm our commitment to fostering a strong, dynamic, and globally competitive economy.

Join us for an engaging conversation with entrepreneur Rafi Rodriguez, Retired Colonel, USAF and President of **Rodriguez Financial Strategies, LLC**. Rafi will share insights from his journey “Success with an Accent” offering perspectives on leadership, community involvement, and building a successful financial services firm. Don't miss this opportunity to hear firsthand from a local entrepreneur who has turned vision into impact.

The program will conclude with a ceremony honoring the winners of the 2025 Winsupply Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence. The award recognizes an individual(s) who exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. Through their creativity, resilience and determination, they have established and nurtured successful business ventures in the Dayton region.

EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



2025 WiBN Leadership Conference

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



2025 Ohio AI Summit

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

Women in Business Networking (WiBN) exists to provide women opportunities to learn, grow and make business connections in safe, authentic environments. Through our four pillars: education, resources, recognition and connection, we create interactive programming and events designed by women, for women.



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



DRMA Annual Meeting

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

The December Annual Meeting is the most

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



Aligning the Multi-Generational Workforce.

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

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



Miami Valley Planning and Zoning Workshop

December 5, 2025

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



I-70/75
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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

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



Sponsored by APA Chapters & Divisions

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.

Erin Doherty
Phone: (937) 225-4642

openings or articles that you would like
featured in our newsletter, please let us
know.

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Send Us A Message](#)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!