

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAMBER LINK

JANUARY 2025



Bookwalter & Skulski Orthodontics, 2024 Small Business of the Year in the 14 Employees & Under category.



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A Look Back on 2024

Ellen Heinz, M.Ed., OhioCED

President & CEO

Dear Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development Partners,

This past year has been one full of change and opportunity! I'm so thankful to join this incredibly talented team, staff, boards, and wonderful community. The Richland County area has some of the best businesses, community leaders, elected officials, and partners you could ever hope to work for and with!

We are so grateful for your support of our work at the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, Richland Community Development Group, and Mansfield-Richland Area Education Foundation! Thanks to your membership, financial contribution, sponsorship, and partnerships, we accomplished the 2024 Highlights below together. We wouldn't be here without you!

We kicked off the year with an exciting Wizard of Oz-themed Annual Meeting, featuring a "Walk on the Yellow Brick Road." Our new community guide was a hit, and the Business Expo was a resounding success. The Mayoral Vision panel and Legislative Business After Hours proved very popular, while the Dr. Seuss-themed Business Professionals Day energized everyone. We hosted a sold-out Annual Golf Classic at Westbrook and welcomed dynamic speakers at our Leadership Luncheons and the BOSS (Business Owners Seeking Solutions) Succession Planning Event. Our Savor & Sip evening, with singer Emily Raff, was sensational.

Ribbon Cuttings throughout the year added excitement, and our informational Chamber Coffees at Third Street Family Health, Cleveland Clinic Cancer Center, and The Ontario Center were well-received. We held an excellent Annual Economic Development Forum, as well as extremely well-attended Business After Hours events at the Business Expo, McCready Interiors/Norwalk: The Furniture Idea, DRM Anniversary Celebration, KOA in Shelby, and MOESC for the Richland County Foundation's Richland Gives event. Engaging speakers at the Economic Forecast Breakfast and RCDG Leadership Development Forums rounded out a year packed with extraordinarily successful, high-value events for our members and community.

Our partnership with OSU for the Cybersecurity Series brought in a distinguished lineup of guest speakers. We continued to expand offerings with Discover Richland, Leadership Unlimited, Engage Richland, Leader Richland, mentorships, and Microsoft TechSpark Grant Series camps, each a huge success. Workforce Development reached new heights thanks to EmployME-palooza, the Richland County Job Fair, and the debut of Aviation Career Days at Mansfield Lahm Airport.

We celebrated our 125th year with a Member Appreciation Event at the amazing Richland Carrousel and an open house at our 55 N. Mulberry Street home!

The BrandRichland Video debuted at its premiere and is magnificent! If you haven't seen it yet, [click here](#). Many of our area businesses use it to promote the area for recruitment and increased visibility. Thanks so much to the amazing partners who drove the vision and our incredible funding partners!

The year finished strong with our complimentary Membership 101 event, Lunch and Learn Active Shooter Awareness Training, excellent participation in Small Business Saturday, an outstanding Small Business of the Year Nominees Breakfast, and finalists Awards Luncheon.

55 N. Mulberry St.
Mansfield, OH 44902
Phone: (419) 522-3211

Fax: (419) 526-6853

info@richlandareachamber.com



We facilitated a Strategic Priorities and Planning Retreat for our boards and team, hosted by Dan Lew's fantastic team at DLX. It was facilitated by Rob Radcliff, a highly successful and sought-after professional who has worked with hundreds of Chambers and Economic Development groups across the U.S., with Oklahoma, OneColumbus, and Team NEO, among them. He provided excellent insight and helped us reach a more focused vision for the next three years. We identified the following as our top priorities:

- Advocacy and Connections
- Talent Attraction
- Business Support
- Retention and Attraction
- Organizational Streamlining and Efficiencies

More details on these will be shared in the following months as we update our Strategic Plan.

In 2025, we will bring additional focus and support to the Advocacy, Wellness Initiative – Health & Financial Wellness, Redevelopment, Business Services, and Technology. Watch for a special feature on these areas in an upcoming newsletter!

With everything we do, we want to ensure we are increasing your membership value and benefits! We will have an enhanced focus on "Maximizing your Membership" with additional team support in this area. Please find out how you can make the most of your benefits by reaching out to our team! We will share online tutorials with you in the next few months to support this initiative.

Thank you so much for your membership, involvement, and support! GO TEAM RICHLAND!

We look forward to building on our past success with an elevated and enhanced 2025!!!

Ellen Heinz, M.Ed., OhioCED



LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



2/6/25
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.
Kingwood Garden Center

Hosted By
Richland Area Chamber
Business Advocacy
Committee

REGISTER





CHAMBER Coffee

**When: Friday, January 24, 2025
7:30 - 8:30 AM**

**Where: The Renaissance
Performing Arts Theater
138 Park Ave. West,
Mansfield, OH 44902**

**Why: Coffee, connections...
and did we mention coffee???**



RichlandAreaChamber.com

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Important Warning:

It has come to our attention that some of you may have received spam emails offering access to Chamber member directories for a fee. Please be aware that these messages are not from us and should be treated with caution.

As a Chamber, we value your trust and privacy. Member directories are a benefit of your membership and are provided free of charge to our members. We do not sell or distribute this information, nor do we authorize third parties to do so.

If you receive any suspicious emails or offers, we recommend the following steps:

1. Do not respond or click on any links within the email.
2. Do not provide any personal or financial information.
3. Report the email as spam through your email provider.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you are unsure about an email you've received, please do not hesitate to contact the Chamber office directly. We're here to help!

We love sharing our expertise (& a zip code) with you.

As your local, independent bank, we're uniquely equipped to make choices that benefit this community and all the wonderful people in it. Because we're not just your financial experts—we're your neighbors, too. (Speaking of, can we borrow a cup of sugar?)

mymechanics.com

Sincerely yours,



DECEMBER RIBBON CUTTINGS



**THIRD STREET FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES/
SHELBY HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER**



**TAKING ROOT FARMS
Groundbreaking Ceremony**



**DOWNTOWN WIGS & FASHION
Grand Reopening**



**JAG HEALTHCARE
Grand Reopening**



**Richland County Transit Mural Dedication & Lighting by
Mankind Murals**

DECEMBER MEMORABLE MOMENTS



AMBASSADOR HOLIDAY PARTY



CYBERSECURITY - HELEN PATTON



RICHLAND GIVES BAH



CHAMBER STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 AWARD WINNERS!



Allison Pence Art
Entrepreneurial Spirit Award



K.E. McCartney & Associates, Inc.
15+ Employees & Over Category



Rubies Women's Group
Small Non-Profit of the Year



Bookwalter & Skulski Orthodontics
14 Employees & Under Category



The Friendly House
Large Non-Profit of the Year

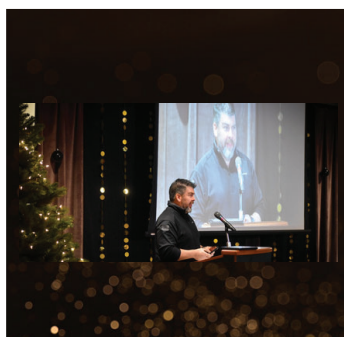
FINALISTS



**EICHINGER BRAFFORD
MCCLEAN GROUP -
MERRILL LYNCH WEALTH
MANAGEMENT**



LOCAL PROJECT PRO



ES CONSULTING



**SOUTHERN TITLE OF
OHIO, LTD.**

Thank you to our renewing members!

CATALYTIC LEADERS / PLATINUM



Interested in enhancing your member benefits?
Contact Jennifer at (419) 523-3211, or jwagner@richlandareachamber.com

CATALYTIC LEADER / GOLD

Cleveland Midwest Automotive
Financial Group Trucking, LTD.
Charles P. Hahn, CFP®
Charles P. Hahn is a registered representative of Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp.

CATALYTIC LEADER / SILVER



SHAPE & THRIVE

ArcelorMittal Tubular Products Shelby
Civista Bank
MAGNET
Stanley Black & Decker Outdoor
Team NEO

BOOST & EXCEL

Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc.
First Federal Bank of Ohio
Niss Aviation FBO
Ohio Valley Manufacturing, Inc.
Snow Trails
Tavens Packaging and Display
Taylor Metal Products Company

BUILD & GROW

AssuredPartners
Automatic Parts, Inc.
Baker's Collision Repair Specialists, Inc.
Earthworm Construction, LLC.
Engwiller Properties, Inc.
F.E. Krocka & Associates, Inc.
Forrest Machine Products Corp
Freedom Caregivers
Glen's Surplus Sales, Inc.
Hursh Pharmacy
Industrial Technical Sales & Service
Key Realty
Kleshinski Morrison & Morris, LLP
Mansfield Electric Supply, Inc.
Metal Conversions, Ltd.
MG Energy, Inc.
North Central Ohio Periodontics
Ontario Estates
Oxyrase, Inc.
Rinehart-Walters-Danner & Associates
Southern Title of Ohio, Ltd.
Tarkowsky & Piper Co., LPA
Terra Valley Excavating
Wappner Funeral Directors

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Appleseed Valley/Clearfork Veterinary Hospital
Ashland Railway, Inc.
B & B Drain Service
Beer's Automotive Services and Repair
BES-3D, LLC.
Bloom Boutique
Bradley A Tilton
BWS Enterprise, LLC.
Carothers Pest Control, LLC.
Core Community Church
Created With A Purpose
Dunkin Jewelers, Inc.
Edward Jones -Jeffrey W. Bail Financial Advisor
EZ Management Solutions
Goodwill Industries Serving Summit, Portage, Medina, Ashland and Richland Counties
Great Lakes Boiler, LLC.
Gwartz Foods
Houck Seed Company
Jefferson Township Trustees
Jemm Property Management & Realty
Lex Lanes
LifePoint Community Church
Lybarger Insurance Agency
Mankind Murals, Inc.
Mansfield Graphics
Mansfield Memorial Park
Mansfield Playhouse
Matthew Trittschuh Insurance Agency
May's Trailer Sales, Ltd.
Medical Arts Internists, Inc.
Mid-Ohio Plastic Surgery
Mid-Ohio Youth Mentoring
Mifflin Township
Millstone Hills Golf Course
Nicole Derr, Strategic Business Advisor
O'Charley's
Pediatric Development Center
Personal Wealth Solutions of Janney
Montgomery Scott, LLC.
Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio
Proteus Electronics, Inc.
Richland Carrousel License Bureau
Richland County Auditor
Richland County Commissioners Office
Richland County Foundation
Rietschlin Construction, Inc.
Robert J LeHew and Associates, Inc.
Saunders Excavating
SC Enterprises, LLC.
Seiler & Craig Surveying, Inc.
Shelby Community and Senior Center
Shelby Mutual Insurance Agency, Inc.
Sluss Realty Company
Smokin Bros' BBQ
Spring Mill Furniture Barn
St. Constantine's Helen Greek Orthodox Church
St. Peter's Parish & School
The Heck Law Offices, LTD.
The Shelby Foundation
The UPS Store Mansfield
Wellspring Custom Pharmacy & Health Source
Whitaker-Myers Group
Williams & Williams, LLC.
Worner Veterinary Hospital



Renewals reflect paid dues received from 11/26/2024 through 12/27/2024



Big health benefits for
small businesses



You put everything you have into your business. And we put everything into creating high-quality health insurance plans for you and your employees. We've partnered with the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development and Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) to offer a unique benefit option for small businesses like yours. The COSE Benefit Plan is a multiple employer welfare arrangement (MEWA) that allows businesses of 1-50 to experience rate stability, savings and the same great health benefits that large corporations have. Bundle your health plan with our dental, vision or life plans for a fully integrated benefits package.

Contact your broker | COSEBenefitPlan.com



MEDICAL MUTUAL[®]
Ohio's Hometown Health Insurer



Karate, Beyond the Dojo

Learn to Utilize Selected Virtues of Karate to Facilitate Personal Development within the Workplace



RENETA MUSIC
Founder/Executive Director
Music Academy of Karate and Empowerment

Wed, February 19
11:45 am - 1:00 pm
DLX | Kobacker Room
28 N. Main St.
Mansfield, OH

REGISTER NOW →



Mechanics Bank

Mechanics Bank is Richland County's only independent bank and a special place for the approximately 150 employees who work here. Mechanics Bank is all about people – the customers we serve, the staff we employ and the neighbors that have turned into friends.

Our mission is to pursue excellence in every possible way to enrich the lives of people and the communities we serve. Mechanics encourages employees to be active in giving back to others on a personal level, be it locally, nationally or throughout the world, as we strive to make a difference. At Mechanics, one of the unique ways we serve our community and the world around us is through Humanitarian Leave. In addition to any community involvement as part of the Mechanics team, employees may take a full week of paid Humanitarian Leave to support the organization of their choice, as long as that organization helps provide food, clothing, and/or shelter to those in need. This benefit is in addition to an employee's paid time off.

For example, employees have used Humanitarian Leave to translate for medical teams in Nicaragua, to build Habitat Houses right here in Richland County, to help provide medical screenings in Peru and in numerous other places. The impact of Humanitarian Leave is far reaching and reminds us again how our work is "All About People."

Member Message Email Marketing

Exclusively for Chamber Members

Directly engage with over 2,700 employees of Chamber member businesses!

Why Choose Member Message Email Marketing?

- **Timing & Exclusivity:** Your message goes out on Tuesdays or Thursdays as the sole email of the day.
- **High Demand:** Limited to one message per member per quarter—**reserve early!**
- **Results & Cost:** Achieve a 30% average open rate for just \$175 (\$150 for non-profits).

How It Works:

- Submit content as a PDF or share text, 1-2 images (e.g., logo), and up to 3 links.
- Provide content 3-5 days in advance for proof approval.

Amplify Your Marketing!

Contact Evan Stuart at

estuart@richlandareachamber.com to claim your spot today!



MAYORAL VISION PANEL 2025

JANUARY 29, 2025 FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

ONTARIO EVENT CENTER/BROWN DERBY ROADHOUSE

Richland County mayors will share their vision for 2025 during a panel discussion. This is your opportunity to learn about the direction of your city or village. Enjoy a buffet lunch during the event.

[REGISTER](#)

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS RCDG Economic Excellence Awards

2024 ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS



Nominations are open for the 2025 Economic Excellence Awards, recognizing the game-changers in Richland County's economic landscape. We invite you to highlight businesses, individuals, and organizations that have significantly influenced economic, workforce, and community development. The Economic Impact Awards specifically acknowledge outstanding efforts in these areas.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2025, at the Mid-Ohio Conference Center. Nominate deserving candidates by January 17, 2025 by following the link below.

[NOMINATE](#)

RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**ANNUAL MEETING &
ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

YOU'RE INVITED!

DATE:

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2025

TIME:

SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30 PM
DINNER: 6:30 PM

LOCATION:

MID-OHIO
CONFERENCE CENTER

MENU:

- HAM WITH ZESTY PINEAPPLE DRIZZLE
- CRANBERRY-ORANGE CHICKEN
- VEGETARIAN FETTUCCHINE ALFREDO

TICKETS:

\$50 PER PERSON
(BEFORE 1/31/25, \$55 AFTER THIS DATE)

**WAYS TO
REGISTER**

1. Scan QR code
2. Our event calendar: richlandareachamber.com
3. Call us at (419) 522-3211
4. Email Lisa Duckworth at: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com



ANNUAL MEETING & ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

SAVE THE DATE:
FEB 12
5:30 - 9 PM

SPONSORSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

THE GREAT GATSBY

\$2,000 (Limit of four)

- 2 Full tables (16 tickets) at the event with VIP seating
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Two page ad spread in the program book (each page is 7.5" wide by 10" tall)
- 4 bottles of wine at the dinner table (2 on each table)
- Ability to speak for one minute at the podium
- Multiple verbal recognitions from the podium / sponsorship thank you
- Logo recognition (dedicated slide) during slide show
- Logo in a primary location on the welcome banner
- Logo and link on Chamber website event page
- Logo recognition in Chamber newsletter and emails
- Inclusion in press release
- Social media "thank you"
- Right of first refusal for next year

THE BIG CHEESE

\$1,200

- 1 Full table (8 tickets) at the event with VIP seating table sign with corporate logo
- Full page color ad in the program book (7.5" wide by 10" tall)
- 2 bottles of wine at the dinner table
- Multiple verbal recognitions from the podium / sponsorship thank you
- Logo recognition during the slide show
- Logo on the welcome banner
- Logo, and link on Chamber website event page
- Logo recognition in Chamber newsletter and emails

THE SPEAKEASY

\$900

- 6 Tickets to the event
- Table sign with corporate logo
- Three-quarter page color ad in program book (7.5" wide by 7" tall)
- Verbal recognition from the podium
- Logo recognition during slide show
- Business name on the welcome banner
- Business name & link on Chamber website event page
- Business name in Chamber newsletter & emails

THE FLAPPER

\$600

- 4 tickets to the event
- Half-page color ad in the program book (7.5" wide by 5" tall)
- Verbal recognition from the podium
- Business name recognition during the slide show
- Business name on the welcome banner
- Business name & link on Chamber website event page
- Business name recognition in Chamber newsletter

THE CAT'S MEOW

\$400

- 2 tickets to the event
- Quarter page color ad in the program book (3.25" wide by 5" tall)
- Verbal recognition from the podium
- Business name recognition during the slide show
- Business name on the welcome banner
- Business name on Chamber website event page
- Business name recognition in Chamber newsletter

To sponsor this event, please contact Lisa at:

lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Phone: (419) 522-3211

Ads are due to the Chamber by Friday, February 2nd

Send ads by email in PDF or JPG format to

Sandy at smessner@richlandareachamber.com.



18th Annual Business Expo



BUSINESS EXP **UNLEASH THE PAWSIBILITIES**



BOOTH REGISTRATION

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



DETAILS:

- Thursday, March 20, 10-4pm, at the Richland County Fairgrounds
- Set up will take place from 3-5pm on Wed., March 19 to allow for the “Expo Eve” Business After Hours taking place 5-7pm that evening - 300+ attended the BAH in previous years, with over 900 attending the Expo!
- Theme: Unleash the **Pawsibilities!** Join This Year’s Pet-Themed Business Expo
- Booth prizes will be awarded for: Most Creative, Best Use of Theme, & People’s Choice
- Admission will be free, and once again, many forms of media will be used to promote the Expo to the public.

COST: Booth cost is only \$215 if you reserve your space before February 20

(\$265 after this date). Booth size is 8'x10'. 8ft. table, 2 chairs, and electricity/wifi included.

THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT! TO GUARANTEE A SPOT, PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY!

COMPLETE FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESERVE YOUR BOOTH

Booths are first come, first served. Online registration is available by visiting the event calendar at www.RichlandAreaChamber.com).

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

PAYMENT: Check Enclosed VISA/MC/DISC CARD #: _____

Exp: ____ / ____ Security Code: _____

Address of Card Holder: _____



Phone: 419-522-3211 • Fax: 419-526-6853

Email: lduckworth@richlandareachamber.com

Mail: Richland Area Chamber & Economic

Development • 55 N. Mulberry St., Mansfield 44902

**18TH ANNUAL
BUSINESS EXPO**



**SPONSORSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

Previous attendance = 1,000 + Booth space has sold out the past six events!

<p style="text-align: center;">Presenting Sponsor (Limited to One) \$3,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naming rights (Business Expo presented by...) • Double booth space at main entrance, facing incoming guests • Facebook Live interview at event streamed from Chamber's page • Banner with your company name hung in prime location • Your booth featured on cover of April Chamber Link Newsletter • Company logo on booth map provided to attendees • Logo (large) on sponsor banner displayed at Expo • Logo (large) on tote bag given to attendees • Logo (large) on posters displayed at Expo • Logo on any major print media Expo ads • Featured interview with company representative via live radio broadcast • Name on Expo radio ads • Logo & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$\$) • Logo in Chamber newsletter • Up to 3 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo • Inclusion in press release • Right of first refusal for next year 	<p style="text-align: center;">Top Dog Sponsors (Limited to Four) \$1,200</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double booth space in a prime location • An aisle sign will be hung with your company name and also printed on booth maps • Logo (large) on booth map provided to attendees • Logo (large) on sponsor banner displayed at Expo • Logo (large) on tote bag given to attendees • Logo (large) on posters displayed at Expo • Logo on any major print media Expo ads • Name on Expo radio ads • Logo & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$\$) • Logo in Chamber newsletter • Up to 3 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo • Inclusion in press release • Right of first refusal for next year
<p style="text-align: center;">Expo Eve Business After Hours Sponsor (Limited to Four) \$900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) prime booth space in the Bus. After Hours networking area • After Hours banner with sponsor logos hung in prime location • Business name announced by DJ multiple times throughout event • Name on booth map provided to attendees • Name on tote bag given to attendees • Logo & link on Chamber website and registration materials for Expo Eve Business After Hours • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$) • Logo (small) in Chamber newsletter • Up to 2 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo Eve Business After Hours • Right of first refusal for next year 	<p style="text-align: center;">Leader of the Pack Sponsors \$900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) booth space in a prime location • Logo (small) on booth map provided to attendees • Logo (small) on sponsor banner displayed at Expo • Logo (small) on tote bag given to attendees • Logo (small) on posters displayed at Expo • Logo on any major print media advertising • Logo & link on Chamber website for expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$\$) • Logo (small) in Chamber newsletter • Up to 2 items in tote bag given to attendees • Logo on Chamber email blasts for Expo
<p style="text-align: center;">Pick of the Litter Sponsors \$600</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save \$100 on a booth space • Name on booth map provided to attendees • Name on banner displayed at Expo • Name on tote bag given to attendees • Name on posters displayed at Expo • Name on any major print media advertising • Name & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid social media campaign featuring company photo (\$\$) • Name in Chamber newsletter • One (1) item in tote bag given to attendees • Name listed on Chamber email blasts for Expo 	<p style="text-align: center;">Wagging Tails Sponsors \$300</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save \$75 on a booth space • Name on booth map provided to attendees • Name on banner displayed at Expo • Name on posters displayed at Expo • Name on any major print media advertising • Name & link on Chamber website for Expo • Paid Expo social media campaign featuring company photo (\$) • Name in Chamber newsletter • Name listed on Chamber email blasts for Expo



2024-2025 Presenting Sponsor



Our December program day highlighted the collaboration and innovation in our workforce ecosystem. Participants were encouraged by the opportunities available for students to plan their careers and for employers to upskill their workforce.



A panel of four business and education leaders talked about ways to empower employees and build a strong organizational culture.



Left, Director of Workforce Development Clint Knight discussed Richland and Crawford County’s training opportunities. Middle, Mitch Jacobsen, Director of Vocational Services at Catalyst Life Services, shared success stories of youth receiving resources to thrive in the workforce. Right, North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC) shared the impact of its programs for women and minorities.



LU participants enjoyed a delicious lunch by Pioneer Career and Technology Center culinary students, while learning about student programs and the new YouScience assessments for high school freshman. The group had the opportunity to tour 12 different labs at the school.

Learn more about program days at facebook.com/LeadershipUnlimited.



Each month, high school sophomores in the Young Leaders Institute gather to explore local opportunities and initiatives in Richland County. In December, the 41 students learned about local government, area attractions, and business development in Bellville and Butler.



Mayors Brenkus (Bellville) and Dingus (Butler) discussed their 2025 priorities, collaborative efforts, and ways for students to get involved in the community.



Students had a blast at Stoke Run Action Sports Park, jumping into foam pits and sliding down ramps.



Lunch was hosted in igloos at Wishmaker House Bed & Breakfast, where community development initiatives were shared.



Donnie Clark owner of ELZY Milling and Trade gave an insightful tour of the mill and talked about business operations.



The Engage Richland group of young professionals learned key aspects of government at the county and city levels in December.



Director Matt Fingfeld and Deputy Director Jane Zimmerman gave a tour of the board of elections and discussed the staffing, equipment, and security procedures during election season.



Richland County Commissioner Tony Vero offered a glimpse into county finances and planned building renovations.



Ontario Mayor Kris Knapp and Service Safety Director Adam Gongwer shared their daily responsibilities as well as growth and development efforts for the city.



Mentors joined the participants to discuss goals and opportunities for 2025.

Program Day Sponsor



2025 ECONOMIC FORECAST BREAKFAST

The False Dilemma of Ohio's Manufacturing Workforce: Respond to Immediate Demand or Make Competitive Investments



EDWARD (NED) HILL, PH.D.
*Professor of Economic
 Development Emeritus*
 Ohio State University /
 Cleveland State University

TUES, 2/4/25
7:30 AM - 9:00 PM
 Mid-Ohio Conference Center
 890 West 4th Street
 Mansfield, OH

[REGISTER NOW >](#)



Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Edward (Ned) Hill, a nationally recognized expert in economic development and manufacturing, will lead this critical discussion. Ned is Professor of Economic Development Emeritus at Ohio State University and Cleveland State University, as well as a Senior Research Associate at the Ohio Manufacturing Institute. With decades of experience advising Ohio's government and manufacturing organizations, he brings unparalleled insight into workforce challenges and strategies for future growth.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights on navigating the evolving manufacturing workforce landscape while networking with regional leaders.



Adena Corporation

Adena Corporation has been in business for over 40 years, beginning in Mansfield, Ohio with just a few employees. To date, Adena has over 450 employees and offices now in Columbus, Ohio, Lakeland, Florida, Mulberry, Florida, and Gunnison Valley, Colorado. The headquarters and the heart of the operations remain in Richland County. Adena is proud to still be a family-owned commercial construction company with focuses in amusement, commercial/retail, K-12 education, higher education, healthcare, industrial, and multi-family/student housing. Along with general contractor services the company self-performs many skilled trades, including carpentry, concrete, masonry, and steel.

Some of Adena's local projects include working with the Little Buckeye Imagination Museum, Shelby City Schools, Avita Health Systems, Ohio Health, Cedar Point, and Akron Children's Hospital. Most recently, Adena constructed a tilt-up concrete industrial warehouse at Airport West Road.

	<p>Commercial Steel & Aluminum Entry Doors J&B repairs & replaces steel & Aluminum door systems</p> <p>Repairs Steel & Aluminum entrance door repair services include: hinge replacement, continuous gear hinges, exit devices, locksets, door closers, thresholds and weather-stripping.</p>
	<p>Replacement We can remove your old Steel or Aluminum Door systems and replace it with a new one.</p> <p>* CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE * 2750 Lexington Avenue • PO BOX 3015 • Mansfield, OH 44904 Phone (419) 884-1155 • (419) 884-1188 • Fax (419) 884-1188 www.jb-ohio.com</p>

HDC SIGNS

SIGNAGE | WRAPS | GRAPHICS

www.HDC-SIGNS.com | 419-774-0199

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

Register for these events [HERE](#) or visit our event calendar at www.richlandareachamber.com.

- 01/24/25 Chamber Coffee, The Renaissance Performing Arts Theater, 7:30-8:30am
- 01/29/25 Mayoral Vision 2025 Panel, Ontario Event Center, 11:30am-1:30pm
- 02/04/25 2025 Economic Forecast Breakfast, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 7:30-9am
- 02/06/25 Legislative Business After Hours, Kingwood Garden Center, 5-7pm
- 02/12/25 Annual Meeting, Mid-Ohio Conference Center, 5:30-9pm
- 02/19/25 Women's Leadership Connection, DLX Kobacker Room, 11:45am-1:00pm
- 03/19/25 Business After Hours - Expo Eve, Richland County Fairgrounds Fairhaven Hall 5-7pm
- 03/20/25 Business Expo, Richland County Fairgrounds Fairhaven Hall 10am-4pm
- 04/23/25 Business Professionals Day
- 06/20/25 Chamber Golf Classic, Deer Ridge Golf Club
- 10/23/25 Savor & Sip



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