



**Joint Meeting
NorthEast Ohio Business Advisory Council (BAC)
and Business & Industry Leadership Teams (BILTs)**

**Friday, February 11, 2022 – Virtual Meeting
9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Agenda – Minutes

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Introductions
 Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning
 This was a joint meeting of BAC and BILTs members with 36 participants from
 education and business.

9:10-10:00 **Economic Trends 2022**
 Presenter: Jim Trutko, Market Research and Economic Analyst

Jim Trutko is a market research and economic analyst, consultant, writer, public policy analyst, and data visualization professional. He has held positions with The Plain Dealer, Greater Cleveland Growth Association, and he writes for Crain's Cleveland Business. Jim has been involved in several entrepreneurial ventures, wrote a report on franchising for the SBA and counsel entrepreneurs with Business Advisers of Cleveland.

Jim Trutko provided analysis of the greater Cleveland and Akron economic history prior to and through the pandemic and as Northeast Ohio is beginning to recover from the pandemic. Generally, the economy has been in a downturn due to Covid with jobs lost. Jobs in goods and services and hospitality were lost, areas which employ first-time workers and generally pay lower salaries. In Metro Cleveland, unemployment was 51,000 which is considered moderate. However, 45,800 jobs were added in 2021 pointing to a slowly expanding economy that is near pre-pandemic levels. Cleveland and Akron respond similarly to national trends. However, the drop in the regional labor force persists, with the historically lowest percentage of workers actively seeking employment. Factors affecting the drop in labor force include lack of child care, children learning in the remote environment, caring for Covid patients and elder care, the rise in home-based businesses and virtual employment, closing of traditional businesses, receipt of supplemental income and other public services, and early retirement with 60% of unemployed age 55 and over. Certain sectors experienced

upturns, however, as with small entrepreneurial businesses rapidly increasing, particularly in the services and hospitality sector.

10:00-10:10 Q & A

10:10-10:25 BAC and BILTS Updates

Paula Kucinic, ESC NEO Director of Professional Learning and Workforce Development informed participants that the ESC was awarded a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to support career pathways awareness and opportunities for students and educators. On February 24, an information session will be presented by Elizabeth Kreger, ODE Adult Program Options, about High School Equivalency, High School Transition, Adult Diploma Program, and the 22+ Program. Registration is via the ESC website.

Nadine Grimm provided information about the ESC and UC Early IT pathway courses being offered to the first cohort of students through the ESC's Ohio Online Learning Program, and the opportunity for fall enrollment for a new cohort. The ESC plans a summer camp for high school students for career development and pathways in the IT sector. Information will be forthcoming to districts.

10:30 Thanks and Adjournment

Paula Kucinic adjourned the meeting

Next Meeting: May 4, 2022, in person at the ESC of Northeast Ohio