



DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Executive Pulse Training Event

Business Retention is the base for the work we do in economic development. Laith Wardi, CEO of ExecutivePulse, will joining us on December 2 at 10am to discuss what is happening in this field and how it can influence the work we are doing locally. In addition to talking about national trends like Touch Points, Laith will show us how to more efficiently use the ExecutivePulse tools and start to automate parts of the process.

Laith hasn't visited the area since COVID and he always brings a fresh perspective based on his customers and many training events.

Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register for this free event!

Click [HERE](#) for *Three Questions for Laith Wardi* from the MartinKarl Blog.

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If you are interested in participating in specialist events as a host or speaker, hosting business walks or participating in jurisdictional breakfasts and round tables, please contact **Clarence Rahman** for additional information.

## BusinessFirst! Virtual Resource Meeting

Mark your calendars for the **December 3rd** BusinessFirst! Virtual Resource Meeting!

Join this informative virtual session featuring **Nancy Percy**, Business Development Manager at Sinclair and learn how **TechCred** can help your business upskill employees, improve productivity and stay competitive in the evolving tech landscape. TechCred will reimburse businesses for a broad range of training areas including Automation, Manufacturing Technology, IT, Construction Technology, Cybersecurity, Transportation, and Business Technology.

This is a great resource for your businesses. Please register and the Zoom link will sent to you. This event is free and open to BusinessFirst! members!

### [EVENT REGISTRATION](#)



### BusinessFirst! November Virtual Meeting

On November 7th, we hosted our first Virtual Resource Meeting, and it was a great success! Our featured guest, Mr. Jelani Johnson from the Dayton Chamber of Commerce, shared invaluable insights on navigating the state's loan programs and certification processes.

He also spotlighted the incredible support offered by the Minority Business Assistance



### Cold Storage Roundtable Recap

Held at ISupply on November 18 in Fairborn, this BusinessFirst! facilitated roundtable meeting provided a platform to engage individuals and businesses within, interested in, or connected to the cold storage industry.

This event was joined by ISupply, Hinkle Fine Foods and Killer Brownie. Greene Country requested the event to help them understand the local needs.

This event gave participants the opportunity to foster valuable networking opportunities, strengthen connections as well as facilitate discussions on available resources, shared industry insights and explore potential collaborations.

If you are interested in participating or hosting additional roundtables or events in 2025, please contact any BusinessFirst! representative to set up!

Center (MBAC). Whether you're just starting out or looking to grow, MBAC is there to help—guiding businesses through ideation, start-up, and expansion phases. From securing certifications to accessing capital and tapping into procurement opportunities, their resources can make a real difference at every stage of your business journey. They work with minority, women and veteran owned businesses.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to connect and learn in future sessions!



## DRMA Annual Meeting

**December 5, 2024**  
**The Steam Plant**

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 2025 budget, changes to the by-laws, and ratification 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!

### **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION**



**Steps to Starting Your New Business - SBDC**



## Website Accessibility & ADA Compliance

**December 5, 2024**  
**Smith's Boathouse Restaurant**

Web accessibility is more crucial than ever with nearly 2 billion people worldwide living with disabilities and depending on the web for essential services, information, education, shopping, and more. How do you know if your website is user-friendly and accessible for everyone?

Discover what you need to know about website accessibility & ADA Compliance

- Why it matters
- Who it affects
- What to look for when checking the accessibility of your website

Featuring Heather Taylor, CPWA, Senior Product Designer/Accessibility Lead at Lumen Learning

### **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION**



**O H I O  
E C O N O M I C  
D E V E L O P M E N T  
I N S T I T U T E**

## Site Selection & Development Course

**December 5-6, 2024**  
**Ohio University - Dublin**



**December 5, 2024, 1 - 3:30pm**  
**Deerfield Township Admin Building**

**FREE SEMINAR STEPS TO STARTING A NEW BUSINESS** Topics to be discussed: Business Plans, the Business name, Professional Service Providers, Taxes, Licenses, Permits, Legal Issues, Record Keeping, Business Loans and Alternative Financing and much more.... Anyone considering starting up a business or anyone who recently started a business should attend.

Email: [mike.stater@warrencountysbdc.org](mailto:mike.stater@warrencountysbdc.org)

Speakers include reps from Warren County SBDC, Wesbanco, Bricker Graydon Law, Deerfield Township Office of Economic Development, Mason-Deerfield Chamber of Commerce and more!

### **EVENT REGISTRATION**



**GENERATION  
DAYTON**

## **DRMA Annual Meeting**

**December 12, 2024**  
**The Dayton Beer Company**

Ring in the holiday season with **Generation Dayton** at a festive evening filled with fun, networking, and celebration at the Dayton Beer Company! Join us as we toast to a successful 2024 and introduce the dynamic members of the 2025 Steering Committee. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow early-career professionals and build new relationships in the Dayton region.

**Event Details:** Your registration includes one drink ticket and light appetizers to enjoy throughout the evening. A cash bar will be available for additional drinks, and we encourage you to wear festive cocktail attire to get into the holiday spirit! Feel free to bring a guest—this is a great chance to introduce them to the vibrant Generation Dayton community and celebrate a fantastic year together.

### **EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION**

This course covers both site development and the site selection processes. The site development aspects of the course will focus on the process of how to make sure that Ohio communities have shovel-ready sites that are competitive. The site selection portions of the course are designed to give the economic development professional an understanding of the JobsOhio site selection program, the specifics of the SiteOhio site certification program, the Ohio Future Fund, and how economic developers can work with site selectors and consultants.

### **EVENT INFORMATION & REGISTRATION**



## **Technology First Events**

Established in 1997, Technology First has been at the forefront as the go-to trade association for technologists in the Dayton, Ohio, region.

We are more than just an organization; we are a vibrant community that connects leading-edge technology professionals. We provide a space where thought leaders can come together not only to engage and collaborate but also to strengthen their skills and networks, championing both individual growth and the evolution of the broader tech industry.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## DACC - Workforce Resources

The Dayton Chamber Workforce Partnership works closely with a number of regional partners to find quick answers from various resources in our area. From government agencies to education and private sector entities, we help you uncover the information you need to succeed. Use our searchable database to identify the data you require.

### REGIONAL RESOURCES

## Ohio Cybersecurity for Small Businesses Pilot Program

Small businesses face cyber-attacks daily, often finding themselves highly vulnerable and ill-prepared to respond. According to the Cyber Readiness Institute, two-thirds of cyber-attacks target small businesses. These enterprises frequently serve as gateways to larger corporations or supply chains, making them attractive targets. Cyber-attacks can lead to substantial financial and reputational damage for these businesses.

To mitigate these risks, small businesses should invest time in cybersecurity training. This training not only provides industry-recognized credentials and badges, but also educates employees on crucial security practices. Training can help small businesses improve their cybersecurity measures, reducing the likelihood of attacks and enhancing their ability to respond effectively if targeted. It is essential for small businesses to be prepared to handle cyber incidents.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

### PROGRAM REGISTRATION

## OhioTechNet

### Training Ohio's Manufacturing Workforce

The members of the Ohio Technical Skills Innovation Network, or Ohio TechNet is nationally recognized for developing & implementing collaborative, inclusive, innovative solutions that meet manufacturing and technology workforce needs.

Ohio TechNet supports workplace development and academic professionals at Ohio educational institutions to incubate, develop and sustain innovative programming that accelerates the growth of Ohio's manufacturing and technical



### Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans

The Reynolds and Reynolds Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans (EBV) program supports the success of military veterans who are aspiring entrepreneurs.

The EBV at Wright State is part of a larger consortium of higher education institutions, initiated by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University. The consortium is comprised of universities across the U.S., including Texas A&M,



workforce.

Ohio TechNet partners benefit from peer-to-peer collaboration, technical assistance and access to resources, making program expansion and innovation at their institution more efficiently, faster to implement, and easier to sustain.

**[DISCOVER HOW OHIO TECHNET CAN HELP YOU!](#)**

UCLA, the University of Connecticut, Louisiana State University, Florida State University, Saint Joseph's University and the University of Missouri.

The full program is taught by entrepreneurs, professionals and faculty in Wright State University's Raj Soin College of Business who support small business development.

Post-9/11 veterans with honorable discharge are eligible to apply for the program. There is no requirement that applicants be enrolled as a student.

**[INFORMATION & APPLICATION](#)**

## Look Out For These 2025 Events!



### 2025 Dayton AI Day

**January 15, 2025**  
**Sinclair Conference Center**

AI is rapidly transforming industries, driving innovation, efficiency, and competitive advantages. However, with rapid change comes the need for upskilling, considering ethical guidelines, and navigating regulatory landscapes. Dayton AI Day is not just another conference - it's a hands-on exploration of how to implement AI effectively. It's a place where theory meets practice, where leaders from diverse sectors can learn actionable strategies to incorporate AI into their operations.

#### Who Should Attend?

From the C-Suite to the frontline in industries from healthcare and finance to human resources and law to information technology and academia, if you want to remain at the forefront of your industry, you won't want to miss Dayton AI Day!

**[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)**



### Workforce Virtual Meetup

**January 28, 2025**

Workforce/Human Resources Meet Up is for anyone responsible for human resources or skilling up your manufacturing workforce. This roundtable discussion group covers topics ranging from recruitment/retention, building the workforce pipeline, training resources, funding sources, HR policies and practices, and others.

At this meet up, we'll be discussing the key components of an Internship Program and how SOCHE can help!

In order to simulate an in-person event and to ensure a worthwhile discussion, please be prepared to **turn on your video AND contribute with questions, best practices, and suggestions.**

**[EVENT REGISTRATION](#)**



## 2025 Dayton Development Coalition Annual Meeting + Economic Review

**February 2025**

Join the Dayton Development Coalition as they celebrate the previous year's success. Details will be provided as they become available!

[EVENT WEBSITE](#)

## NATO Parliamentary Assembly 2025 Spring Session

**May 23-26, 2025**

Details to be provided soon!

[EVENT WEBSITE](#)



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.

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