



**OHIO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

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CONTACT:

Amanda Ehrmantraut

Press Secretary

567-203-8868

aehrmantraut@ohiochamber.com

Ohio Chamber Research Foundation Appoints Mark Beeler as Chief Development Officer to Drive Statewide Expansion of “Ohio @ Work”



COLUMBUS, OHIO — The Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation today announced the appointment of Mark Beeler as Chief Development Officer for Ohio @ Work. In this role, Beeler will lead efforts to expand the career-connected learning initiative from its current regional pilot into a statewide program.

Launched in partnership with the Montgomery County Educational Service Center (MCESC), the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and Defined Learning, with funding from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's *Pathways with Purpose* initiative, Ohio @ Work connects classroom learning with the needs of Ohio employers.

The initiative is currently being piloted across 19 school districts serving approximately 77,000 students in the Dayton region. Beeler will focus on building employer partnerships and securing support to expand the model to communities across Ohio.

"Ohio's economic momentum depends entirely on our ability to build a steady, prepared pipeline of skilled talent for our state's growing industries," said Demetrius Thomas, Executive Director of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation. "Mark brings extensive business development experience to this role and a strong commitment to serving Ohio

communities. We're excited to have him lead the effort to connect more employers and students through Ohio @ Work."

Beeler brings more than 27 years of experience in enterprise technology, strategic business development and revenue growth. Throughout his career at companies including Adobe, Microsoft, Afiniti, Hyland Software, and Porch.com, he has led partnerships and worked with C-suite executives at major corporations including American Express, JPMorganChase and Dell. He also serves as Chairman of the Cuyahoga Regional Board for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio.

"Workforce readiness is the single most important investment we can make in Ohio's future competitiveness," said Beeler. "Ohio @ Work gives employers an opportunity to play a direct role in helping students understand career opportunities and develop the skills they need to succeed. I am thrilled to join Demetrius and the Ohio Chamber team in their work to expand these opportunities for students across Ohio."

In his new role, Beeler will focus on:

- Building partnerships with Ohio employers to support career-connected learning.
- Working with regional chambers, Educational Service Centers and school districts to expand the program.
- Developing corporate, foundation and public-private support for Ohio @ Work.

For more information about Ohio @ Work or to explore partnership opportunities, visit ohiochamber.com.

About the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing non-partisan, data-driven research that fosters a stable, prosperous economic climate in Ohio. As the research arm of the state's largest business advocacy organization, the Foundation provides objective policy research, economic impact modeling, and strategic workforce solutions to help Ohio businesses and communities thrive.

About Ohio @ Work

Ohio @ Work is an employer-driven career-connected learning initiative led by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation. By integrating employer-defined competencies into K-12 project-based learning, custom virtual internships, and skill-based micro-credentials, Ohio @ Work empowers students to discover high-wage career pathways and ensures Ohio employers have access to a skilled, job-ready workforce.

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