



Summer Caucuses with State Lawmakers School Districts, Colleges and Universities Caucus Tuesday, August 3, 2021

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – The School Districts, Colleges and Universities Caucus met virtually on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via GoToMeeting. Cindy Jewell, director of grants and strategic initiatives at Lourdes College and caucus facilitator, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

TMACOG members in attendance included:

- Eli Faes, Director of State Relations, University of Toledo
- Bob Falkenstein, Assistant Superintendent, Penta Career Center
- Meghan Gallagher, Regional Business Development Coordinator & Account Manager, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission
- Adam Greenslade, Mayor, Village of Green Springs
- Sarah Helbig, Jones and Henry Engineers, Ltd.
- Traci Hernandez, Director of Marketing/Business Development, DGL Engineers
- Cindy Jewell, Director of Grants and Strategic Initiatives, Lourdes University
- Mark North, Superintendent, Wood County Educational Service Center
- Todd Ritzler, SVP, Government Relationship Manager, Huntington Bank
- James Rossler, Treasurer/CFO, Rossford Exempted Village Schools
- Sean Smith, Development and Equity Officer, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority
- Mark Stahl, Commissioner, Ottawa County Board of Commissioners and Chair, TMACOG
- Megan Stretavski, Workforce Initiatives Manager, Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Non-TMACOG members in attendance included:

- Lori Brodi, Northwest Regional Liaison, Office of Ohio Auditor Keith Faber
- Reid Courtney, LSC Fellow, Office of Ohio State Rep. Haraz Ghanbari
- Ohio Sen. Teresa Fedor, 11th District
- Ohio Sen. Theresa Gavarone, 2nd District
- Erin Glossop, Legislative Aide, Office of Ohio Sen. Teresa Fedor
- Ohio Rep. Jim Hoops, 81st District
- Erica Krause, Northwest Ohio Regional Representative, Office of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
- Christa Luttman, NW Regional Liaison, Office of Governor DeWine
- Ohio Rep. Mike Sheehy, 46th District
- Cory Stine, Terra State Community College

TMACOG support staff in attendance included:

- Jennifer Allen, Executive Assistant
- Alex Aspacher, Public Information Specialist

- Bill Best, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Tim Brown, President
- David Gedeon, Vice President of Transportation
- Sara Guiher, Water Quality Planner
- Gilda Mitchell, Director of Membership and Outreach
- Ann Nair, Water Quality Administrative Assistant
- Michael Tippett, Digital Communications Manager
- Nate Reiter, Accountant

Overview of Meeting – Discussion of Issues - The following topics were discussed by the caucus:

- **Legislation: Anti-hazing, SB 135 (higher education and free speech)**
 - Lourdes does not have many issues here but wants to learn from public partners.
 - When the Senate Bill 135 reform package was introduced, it was not what it needed to be. They worked through changes with representatives from colleges to make it better, and it was a great opportunity to have conversation.
- **Workforce development**
 - Toledo Chamber of Commerce is working on talent alignment strategies and wants to know how to involve educators.
 - They are looking for partnerships to encourage students to go into transportation, health care, manufacturing, and technology.
 - They are also working on a re-entry development initiative for released prisoners, older adults, immigrants, veterans, and people with disabilities.
 - Penta has partnership with Owens and is seeing good growth in manufacturing and machinery classes. They get their students into communities to get real-life experience.
- **Return from COVID-19**
 - Terra State is opening normally but has plan in place if change is needed.
 - Lourdes is not requiring vaccines but is strongly encouraging it and making them easily available.
 - Penta is following Wood County Health Department guidance and was open all of last year, partially in a hybrid format.

What legislative action might be helpful?

- There should be a push to get students interested in career tech earlier, by the time they are in 7th grade.
- Sen. Gavarone said she was just in a meeting the day before and they discussed this very topic.
- There is a stigma about career tech that needs to be addressed, as well as a need to educate students and parents about career opportunities and the demand for labor in these fields.

Other Business

- There is a disparity in the ratio of teachers of color to students of color. There is an effort being made to bring more students of color into the field, getting them degrees

and placing them in schools.

Adjourn – Ms. Jewell thanked everyone for attending the caucus and adjourned the meeting.