

September 14, 2017

Tiffin City Schools Superintendent Gary Barber Serves on the Ohio Task Force for Career Readiness

Superintendent Gary Barber, Tiffin City Schools (TCS), is currently the only K-12 Superintendent in the State of Ohio to serve on the Ohio Team for the “New Skills For Youth” (NSFY) initiative. Ohio received a \$2 million grant from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and JP Morgan Chase & Co. to strengthen and expand career pathways. This initiative aligns with Governor John R. Kasich’s Executive Workforce Board’s initiatives and many Ohio Department of Education activities focused on a strategy to make sure Ohio’s students are ready for the workforce upon graduation.

CCSSO and JP Morgan Chase awarded \$20 million in grants to ten (10) states, including Ohio, to increase the number of students who graduate from high school prepared for careers. Each winning state is to work with government, business and education leaders to strengthen career education and create pathways to economic success. These ten states demonstrated the strongest plans to work across sectors to transform how they design and develop career preparedness education programs and provide young people with the skills they need to compete for high-skill, well-paying jobs.

Ohio will use these grant funds to support the recommendations and other related activities to enhance high-quality, rigorous career pathways that align with the needs of businesses, foster greater business-education collaboration, expand work-based learning opportunities for students and promote pathways leading to industry-recognized credentials.

The goals for Ohio include: identifying and aligning career pathways and programs; increasing the number of high-quality, in-demand pathways; scale pathways by permitting schools to integrate academic content so students may earn simultaneous credit in career-focused courses; making recommendations to the State Board of Education on college- and career-readiness metrics; working with the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation to align state and federal funding streams; and to increase the percentage of students graduating with industry-recognized credentials. Governor Kasich stated, “Getting kids excited about job opportunities can begin to capture their imagination. By connecting employers with qualified workers, we’re changing the lives of our students and strengthening Ohio’s economy.”

Good jobs in today’s economy require education and training beyond high school. This career-readiness initiative is aimed at investing high-quality, career-focused education that prepares young people to prosper in their communities. As economies continue to require a more-skilled workforce, young workers need education or training beyond high school to find well-paying jobs that enable them to join the middle class.

In November, Superintendent Gary Barber will be traveling to Cincinnati for a 3-day **Career Readiness Network Fall 2017 Convening** to participate in the New Skills for Youth State-to-State Sharing and Learning on Scaling High Quality Pathways. States will share their year one successes and challenges with other state team, reflect on common areas of focus and identify next steps and goals.

Superintendent Barber works closely with State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria and Steve Gratz, Executive Director for Student Support and Education Options. They have been on the state team for a little more than two (2) years. Last year, the team from Ohio was awarded \$2 million to enhance career-

readiness across the state. "This is a great opportunity to network with different states, the Ohio Department of Education and the head of the Governor's Workforce Development Task Force. It allows me to represent Tiffin City Schools in my role," Gary Barber, TCS Superintendent.