

Urbana University, CEP Partner in Workforce Development

Urbana University, a branch campus of Franklin University, is a **Champion Level partner investor of the Champaign Economic Partnership**.

The University's support goes well beyond this. Dr. Christopher Washington, Executive Vice President and CEO of Urbana University, said the University shares the CEP's commitment to workforce development.

"The CEP is an important channel for making connections with employers and their needs and the kind of educational experience they need to build their workforce," he said.

This fall the University launched **UrbanaWORKS**, which offers participating businesses educational options to recruit, train and retain workforce. UrbanaWORKS features tailored onsite and online training. In addition, business leaders are invited to speak to classes, and the University helps connect businesses with students for internships and co-ops – which could lead to jobs after graduation.

Another benefit for participating UrbanaWORKS businesses: a tuition discount for employees and their dependents.

The program is off to a great start, Dr. Washington says. "That's a real testament to the value of education in workforce development and of the confidence employers have in Urbana University to deliver workforce solutions."

Other news he shared:

- Admission is rising. First-year student enrollment is up 50 percent from a year ago.
- The University is putting a greater emphasis on STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – education to prepare students for high-tech jobs.
- In addition to new academic programs, the University has made extensive improvements to the campus, including a new multi-purpose athletic building.
- Ties between the University and community are strengthening.



Students gather outside the UU Student Center.

Bailey on Goodwill Trip

CEP Director Marcia Bailey is traveling to Japan with the Dayton Development Coalition and other regional economic development leaders, to strengthen ties with Japanese companies that operate in Ohio.



Bailey will meet with the parent companies of two Champaign County manufacturers, KTH Parts Industries and Parker Trutec, as well as other companies such as Honda. KTH, Parker Trutec and Pioneer Electric Cooperative are sponsoring Bailey's trip.

Mercy Health Expands Local Healthcare

Mercy Health-Urbana Hospital has recruited new physicians and invested about \$3 million in the past 18 months to provide more local services in Champaign County, says Jamie Houseman, the hospital's President. Mercy Health is an **Advocate Level partner investor of the CEP**.



New services and improvements to the hospital have included:

da Vinci Robotic Surgery for certain minimally invasive general and gynecological procedures. Mercy expanded its central

sterile processing area to support robotic surgery.

New surgeons, including orthopedic surgeon Gregory Carozza, DO, and general surgeons Colleen Alexander, MD and Terry Carman, MD. Drs. Alexander and Carman are trained in robotic surgery,

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Students Compete in Challenge

The Triad High School students pictured above won first place in the Champaign County Design Challenge Showcase November 2 at Urbana University. A team from Graham Middle School won second place.

The CEP partnered with the Champaign County Manufacturers Council, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center and the University to provide the event.

Allison Koch, satellite supervisor for Ohio Hi-Point, organized the Design Challenge Showcase in conjunction with Manufacturing Month in October. Teams from all five Champaign County school districts created Rube Goldberg machines to solve a given problem. Mentors from local manufacturing companies advised them. Teams that advanced from their school competitions advanced to the final competition at the University, where they gave presentations and showed videos of their projects in action.

The mentors who advised the students include Jeff Hillman of Rosewood Machine and Tool, Steven Brandeberry of Johnson Welded Products, Inc., Michael Pelfrey and Jake Thompson of Weidmann Electrical Technology, and Stephen Oser and Zack Zizzo of ORBIS. Zizzo, a graduate of Triad High School, was enrolled in Ohio Hi-Point's Advanced Manufacturing program at Triad.



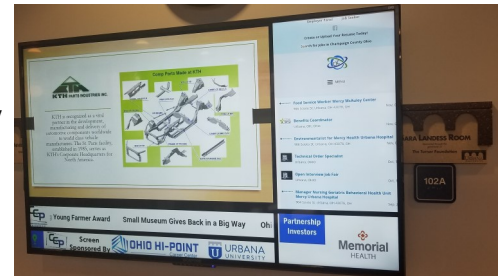
Angela Hayes, Rittal human resources representative, talks with students during a local manufacturers trade show set up for students who competed in the Champaign County Design Challenge Showcase at Urbana University. Other manufacturers that participated in the trade show and provided students information about career opportunities included ORBIS, Advanced Technology Products, KTH Parts Industries, Inc., Bundy Baking Solutions and Rosewood Machine and Tool. Clark State Community College also participated.

Monitors Share Good News about Economic, Workforce Development

The CEP, with the help of local businesses, is spreading good economic, community and workforce development news – on 11 TV monitors placed around Champaign County.

The CEP started with a monitor placed in its own Monument Square office window – thanks to the financial support of Weidmann Electrical Technology, Inc.

Ten more monitors have since been installed, one at each of the five Champaign County high schools and one each at Urbana University, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center, and in the windows of three downtown businesses in Champaign County's three largest villages – at the Hive in Mechanicsburg, Champaign Realty in North Lewisburg and the Mercy Health medical clinic in St. Paris.



Monitor outside Sara Landess Room of Urbana University Student Center.

The University and Ohio Hi-Point provided funds for the 10 monitors and associated equipment, while DP&L, FASTLANE, and Darby and Urbana Dental Smiles are funding ongoing media service to broadcast content on the monitors. Berry Digital Solutions helps the CEP manage the project. The CEP generates the content.

The purpose of the monitors, CEP Director Marcia Bailey said, is to inform students, county residents and visitors about economic and community development growth, local job opportunities, and education and workforce training.

Kelsey Webb, Ohio Hi-Point Director of Communications and Marketing, said, "We're participating because this is completely in our wheelhouse to prepare students for career or college. We're excited to help spread the message that there are great opportunities here for students."

New Administrative Assistant Joins CEP

Carie King, a Mechanicsburg area resident, is the new administrative assistant of the CEP.



Carie King

King, a residential real estate agent with King-Tuttle Realty, Inc. of Springfield, said she was attracted to her new position, "because I'm impressed by how much the CEP has accomplished in the last three years." In her role with the CEP, she will assist CEP Director Marcia Bailey with day-to-day operations of the office, as well as assist with special projects and CEP Business Liaison Ashley Cook (Summer 2018 CEP newsletter).

Originally from Springfield, she, her husband, Sean, and their four children have lived in the Mechanicsburg area for the past 17 years. "We like the hometown feel of Champaign County," she said. Their two youngest currently attend Mechanicsburg schools.



CEP Board members and community partners listen to a presentation at the CEP's Annual Investors and Grantors Meeting in September at Pioneer Electric Cooperative.

CEP Reviews Year of Progress

The CEP's Annual Investors and Grantors meeting held in September at Pioneer Electric Cooperative featured a review of the past year's local economic development successes and CEP initiatives.

Representatives of many of the 21 businesses, organizations and local government entities that support the CEP's economic development mission attended the meeting. Here's a sampling of highlights that CEP Director Marcia Bailey shared:

- Manufacturing employment in Champaign County is rising, from under 3,000 jobs in 2013 to more than 4,000 in 2017. Manufacturing pay in the county exceeds the state average. Manufacturing employment in the 19- to 24-year-old age group has increased to 9% of the total workforce – a sign that efforts to market manufacturing careers to students is paying off.
- For the first time ever, Urbana made the list of top 100 U.S. micropolitan communities for economic development.
- The project developer is optimistic that all funding will be obtained by next year to redevelop the former Urbana South and North Elementary Schools and the Douglas Hotel into 51 affordable senior apartments.
- Clean up of the Q3-JMC property in Urbana is nearly complete, preparing the property for new development.
- The CEP launched the Community Job Connect job board to provide Champaign County employers a free job posting site.
- The CEP created the JOBS (Jobs, Opportunities, Buildings and Space) team, which visits local businesses to learn what support they need to succeed and grow.

Development Grant Considered for Downtown

The Moving Downtown Forward (MDF) initiative to revitalize downtown Urbana (reported in Summer 2018 CEP newsletter) continues advancing. In a related development, the City of Urbana may apply next summer for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to provide matching funds to help downtown property owners improve facades and bring structures into code compliance.

This could complement the MDF vision to improve downtown buildings for retail development and upper floor living, says Doug Crabill, Community Development Manager for the City of Urbana.

LUC Releases Results of Comp Plan Survey

The Logan-Union-Champaign Regional Planning Commission has released results of the Comprehensive Plan community survey. You can see them on the LUC website, lucplanning.com (on the Links page, under Champaign County).

The survey closed October 1 with 711 respondents, a statistically significant representation, says LUC Director Dave Gulden.

The results will be used in drafting a new comprehensive plan to guide future economic and community development in Champaign County. The plan was last updated in 2004.

The comprehensive plan draft, to be completed by early 2019, will be shared with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee before being presented at a public meeting. The public will be provided a comment period before the plan is formally adopted.

Here are a few highlights of the results:

- 63% report traveling weekly outside the county for shopping, social activity and recreation
- Single-family homes are by far the preference of respondents
- 72.26% reported using parks and bike paths – and about 80% favor extending the paths
- 71.47% said they are concerned about abandoned properties and 64.9% said they support Champaign County forming a land bank to acquire, manage, maintain and repurpose vacant, abandoned and foreclosed properties
- About 60% said if a hotel is built, someone they know would use it

Urbana Hotel Takes Step Closer to Reality

Urbana City Council has approved rezoning property along South High Street, near the intersection of Ohio 55 and U.S. 68, for construction of a proposed hotel.

The proposal calls for a 54-room Cobblestone brand hotel with a swimming pool, fitness room and breakfast lounge. If the project goes forward, construction would begin in March with completion by September 2019.

The project reportedly has enough local investors, but others interested in investing in the hotel may contact the CEP at 937-653-7200 or info@CEPOhio.com.



New surgeons at Mercy Health-Urbana Hospital, from left, Colleen Alexander, MD, Terry Carman, MD and Gregory Carozza, DO.

Mercy Expands Services

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as are two other Urbana Hospital general surgeons — Tedros Andom, MD and Magued Khouzam, MD.

Senior Behavioral Health — This new 10-bed unit provides short-term care for senior patients having acute mental crisis episodes. This is the first such facility available in Champaign and Clark counties. Patients previously had to go to Columbus, Dayton or Sidney for this kind of care, Houseman said.

Primary Care — A suite in the medical office building next to the hospital has been renovated for Urbana Internal Medicine, the practice of Aijaz Ahmed, MD, Khadija Ahmed, MD and nurse practitioner Sue Berger. They provide primary health care for adults.

MRI — Availability of MRI services has been increased from two to five days a week, including Saturdays.

Facility Improvements — The inpatient unit, emergency department and common areas have been renovated for patient and visitor comfort.

In addition, Mercy Health has opened a primary care clinic in downtown St. Paris. And with the help of local philanthropists, Mercy Health will update the hospital's front façade. This will include improving the front entrance and reestablishing it as the main entrance for visitors and patients, other than emergency patients. This project will begin next spring.

CEP Playbook Guides Businesses

When you need advice on starting or expanding a business in Champaign County, the place to start is the CEP Business Playbook, at the top navigation bar of the CEP website, cepohio.com.

The CEP recently enhanced the Business Playbook, which answers common questions about starting a business and where to go for help — with everything like registering your business, locating financial support, finding property, zoning, and recruiting and training workforce. The Playbook also will be available soon on the website as a downloadable file.

And the CEP is ready to help you succeed and connect you with the right people. Call us at 937-653-7200 or email us at info@cepohio.com.

Todd Garrett Joins CEP Board

The CEP welcomes our newest board member, Todd Garrett, manager of community and government relations for Pioneer Electric Cooperative.

Garrett, who has been with Pioneer for 14 years, is the CEP Board's infrastructure representative. He replaces Ron Salyer, Pioneer president/CEO, who was instrumental in beginning the CEP in 2015 as a partnership of business and local government.



Todd Garrett

"We're grateful to have Todd on our board and for Ron's service and vision in uniting local business and government through the CEP — to advance economic development, job creation and workforce development in Champaign County," CEP Director Marcia Bailey said.

New Development Incentive

The Qualified Opportunity Zone (QOZ) is a new economic development tool created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. This incentive was created to promote development in economically distressed areas by reducing or deferring capital gains taxes of taxpayers who invest in businesses and real estate developments located in QOZs.

Urbana has been granted a QOZ, one of 320 in Ohio. The Urbana QOZ is located primarily in the northeast quadrant of the city.

The CEP recently invited Chris Knezevic, an attorney with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, to provide a presentation on QOZs, so that the CEP can begin promoting this new incentive, along with other economic development incentives.

For more information about QOZs, visit <https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/resourcecenters/OZ.html> or call the CEP at 937-653-7200.

And for information on other business incentives, visit this page on the CEP website: cepohio.com/financial-incentives.html.

Contact Us

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