

May 2026

The Premier
Newsletter for
Ohio's Career
Based
Intervention
Programs

CBI Chronicle



Executive Board Members

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Presidents Message

Dear Members and Partners,

It is a privilege to step into the role of President of the Board of Directors for Career-Based Intervention. Having dedicated 27 years to education in a variety of roles and 16 years working directly as a Career Based Intervention (CBI) Coordinator, currently CBI Coordinator at Margaretta High School, I have seen firsthand the transformative power of this programming on student success and workforce readiness.

My time in the classroom and education has shaped my belief that actionable, career-focused education is essential! As President, I am committed to Career-Based Intervention and the tremendous value it brings in schools across the state of Ohio.

I look forward to collaborating with all of you to build upon our foundation and drive future success.

Sincerely,

Steve Keller Jr.

President, Board of Directors





CAREERBASED 
INTERVENTION PROGRAM

SAVE THE DATE

**Fall Ohio CBI
Conference**

Monday, November 9, 2026

More Details Coming Soon

OACTE - CBI Division Spring Conference at a Glance

Embassy Suites, Dublin, Ohio

Monday, May 4, 2026

Subject to Change

7:45 - 8:45 AM	Registration with Coffee and Tea
9:00-9:10 AM	Conference Welcome Board Member Intros
9:15 - 10:30 AM	Round Table Discussion Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newbies: Grades 7-12• Knowledge Bowl• WBL Tracking, Networking & Resources
10: 35 -10:50 AM	Dismissal to the Regional Business Meeting
10:50-11:00 AM	Break
11:00 - 11:10 AM	Ohio ACTE Executive Director Dee Smith
11:10-11:30 AM	ODEW Update and Q&A with Emily Menker
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Awards - Partnership Awards, Scholarships, Gold Star, Knowledge Bowl, and Hall of Honor
12:00 - 12:45 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 1:50 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Breakout #1</p> Ballroom A: <u>Classroom Resources: Tiggbee</u> Ballroom B: <u>State Teachers Retirement System: Tamla Cole, Assistant Director, Member Engagement and Outreach</u> Ballroom C: <u>Service Learning: Scott Davis, CBI Board Member and CBI Coordinator, Mahoning CTE. Diane Earich, CBI Teacher, Hubbard High School</u>
2:00 - 2:50 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Breakout #2</p> Ballroom A: <u>Classroom Resources: EverFi:</u> Ballroom B: <u>ODEW Office of Career-Technical Education Q& A: Emily Menker, Education Program Specialist: CBI and JTC</u> Ballroom C: <u>ODEW: PortfolioOH Kayla Mack, Office of Graduate Success, and Jeff McClellan, CEO of PortfolioOH</u>
	Thanks for attending! (Projected 2027 Conference, May 3, 2027)



ACCA's CBI Program

ACCA's CBI Program Leads with Innovation. The Career-Based Intervention (CBI) Program at Ashland County Community Academy (ACCA) continues to redefine hands-on learning through creativity, career readiness, and community engagement. Under the leadership of Instructor Nichole Helenthal, ACCA's CBI students are developing an impressive range of real-world projects that blend business, design, and technology. This year, students have launched a new student-run School Store, developed the ACCA Makerspace, and expanded the school's media initiatives to include a student newspaper, weekly video announcements, and the ACCA Yearbook—complete with student-led photo sessions for seniors and school pictures.



Beyond the walls of the classroom, CBI students are engaging in work-study opportunities with local businesses, gaining valuable workplace experience that connects education to employability. Inside the Makerspace, students are exploring Arduino programming, robotics, and engineering concepts, building the technical and creative skills that prepare them for today's evolving workforce. Through these projects, ACCA's CBI Program gives students the opportunity to take ownership of their learning, apply classroom knowledge to authentic challenges and discover their potential as leaders and creators. Ashland County Community Academy is proud of its CBI students for turning ideas into action—and learning into lasting success.



2026 Knowledge Bowl Winners

Kenton High School Senior Division 1st Place



FCCC-Archbold Senior Division 2nd Place



Senecaville-Murphy Junior Division 1st Place



MCCTC and Valley STEM Junior Division 2nd Place



Senecaville-Ray Junior Division 3rd Place



USV Team 2 Middle School Division 1st Place



USV Team 1 Middle School Division 2nd Place



Knowledge Bowl 2026-2027

The cost is \$100. This includes access to the Knowledge Bowl website plus one team registration. (You can purchase the program and choose not to compete at the regional or state level.) The order form can be found by going to www.cbiohio.com and clicking on the Knowledge Bowl tab.

Regional competitions- It will be up to each region whether they host an in-person or virtual competition. In order to be eligible for state competition, regional competition results must be sent to me **PRIOR TO MARCH 31ST**.

State Competition- (The cost is \$100 PER TEAM to compete.) An in-person competition is being planned; however, the date, location, and time is undetermined at this time. Once secured, registered teams will be notified.



Scholarships

The Thomas Hyde Memorial Scholarship is in honor of one of Ohio's founding Occupational Work Experience (an early form of CBI), Coordinators. Any student in grades 10-12 enrolled in a Career Based Intervention Program is eligible to apply.

Thomas Hyde Scholarship



Omar Bdaiwi
Greene County Career Center

The Jeff Akers Scholarship is given in honor of one of Ohio's pivotal CBI Coordinators and former CBI Consultant at the Ohio Department of Education. Any student in grades 7-9 enrolled in a Career-Based Intervention Program is eligible to apply for the Jeff Akers Scholarship.

Jeff Akers Scholarship



GIA Crespo
MCCTC and Valley STEM

Scholarships and other Awards!

Do you have students who wish to continue their education after graduation? We all know that money is tight and everything little bit counts. That is why the CBI Board of Directors offers scholarships every year. Please tell your students to take advantage of these great opportunities!

Jeff Akers Scholarship - \$1000

Available to any student (grades 7-9) enrolled in a Career Based Intervention-Career Connections Program is eligible to apply. (Applications limited to 2 per program.)

Thomas Hyde Memorial Scholarship - \$1000

The Thomas Hyde Memorial Scholarship is in honor of one of Ohio's founding Occupational Work Experience (an early form of CBI-CC) coordinators. Any student (grades 10-12) enrolled in a Career Based Intervention-Career Connections Program is eligible to apply. (Applications limited to 2 per program.)

Partnership of the Year Award

The Partnership of the Year Award recognizes those who have had a positive influence and have contributed to the success of a CBI program in the state of Ohio. The partnership should enhance the CBI program.

2027 Gold Star Teacher/Coordinator of the Year Award

The Gold Star Coordinator of the Year award highlights the accomplishments of CBI teachers throughout the state of Ohio who have gone above and beyond in their classrooms in the quest for student success.

Dr. James Pinchak Service Learning Award

This award will be given to the CBI program that has completed a Service Learning project of high regard in the state of Ohio for the calendar year of 2026.

If you would like more information about these scholarships or any other awards, please go to <https://cbiohio.com/awards/> or the CBI Web page at <http://www.cbiohio.com> and click on the Awards tab.

Heartland Technical Education Center

The CBI students at Heartland Technical Education Center have had a busy year. We started the school year off with a new name. (We were the Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center.) When we returned to school after Christmas break, we were all under one roof again after spending the past year and a half using two buildings during our construction project.



We have had several service projects this school year. For the second year in a row, we are participating in NexTrex's plastic bag recycling program. Since August of 2024, we have collected over 2,000 pounds of plastic bags, film, and wrap and have received two free benches as a reward for our efforts.

We are currently halfway towards our goal of receiving a third free bench. In November, we sponsored 5 wreaths for Wreaths Across America, an organization that places wreaths on the graves of veterans at Christmastime. We also held a competitive food drive between our three



sections of CBI Related in March. We collected 123 cans, boxes, and bags of food, which we donated to our local Salvation Army. Lastly, in April we sponsored a Plinko fundraiser. We raised \$95.50. We used the money to buy toys for kids at Akron Children's Hospital.

To celebrate National Manufacturing Day in October, the CBI students took a field trip to two local businesses, Barbasol and Return Polymers. We learned about the different ways each factory runs and the different types of jobs available at each place.



In February, we had our annual mock interview day. Each student had an in-person interview and an interview via Zoom with volunteers from local businesses who not only interviewed them and gave them feedback, but also critiqued their resume and provided feedback on that as well. Then students wrote thank you letters to the volunteers. This day always starts with students full of nervous energy who feel very relieved to have the practice and experience of interviews under their belt.

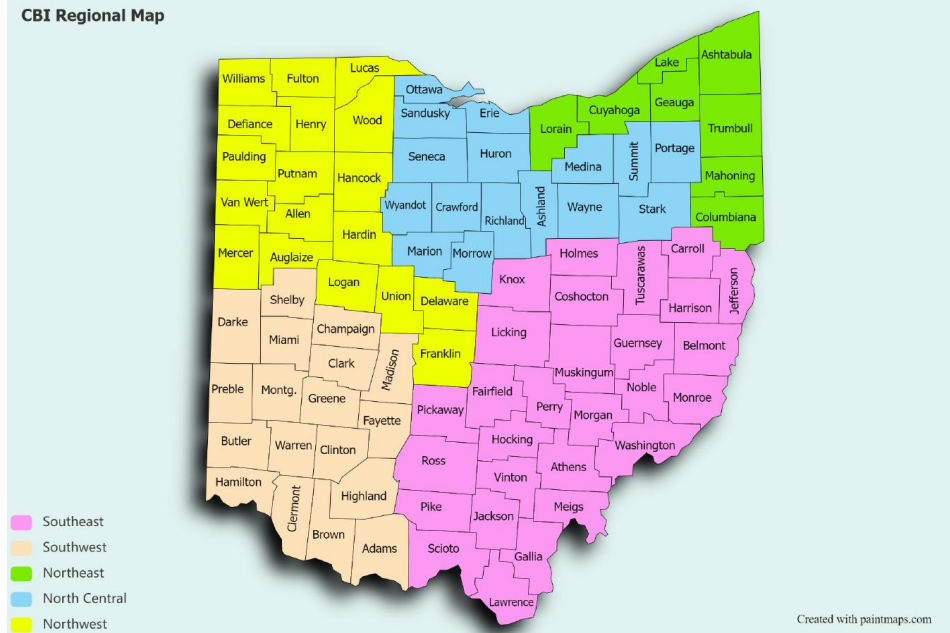


Figure 1: Brody, Erik, Jaden, Kora, Jasmine, and Kate.

Six of the CBI students participated in the state Knowledge Bowl competition on April 24th. We placed 6th out of 11 teams in the junior division. Afterwards, we went to lunch at Raising Cane's, which the students absolutely loved.

Over the course of the year, each student visited 4 programs at Heartland Tech. All of them have been accepted into a program for their junior year and are looking forward to spending a half day in their lab next year instead of just 40 minutes. They enjoyed visiting the different programs and trying new things.

CBI Regional Map



Northeast Region

Michelle Sawyer

Pickerington Alternative School

Michelle.Sawyer@plsd.us

North Central Region

Jared Smeltzer

Ashland High School

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Tony Pentello

Sandy Valley Local

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Northwest Region

Sherri Camden

South-Western City Schools

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Southeast Region

JoAnne Hodgson

Greene County Career Center

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Brent Noes

Great Oaks Career Campuses / Miami Trace High School

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Sondra Schneider

Upper Valley Career Center

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Northeast Region

Scott A Davis

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Newsletter Submissions

We would really like to hear from you! Please send your lesson ideas, questions, comments, or article ideas/submissions to cbiohio@gmail.com

CBI IS NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Make sure you visit our website regularly!

www.cbiohio.com

You will find our updated calendar, regional information, Knowledge Bowl updates, archived Chronicles, helpful resources, scholarship forms, Award nominations, and CBI Board of Director's contact info.

Like us on FB @ "CBI-Ohio"

Better Yet! Join the Group!

Follow us on Twitter @cbiohio

Win a Free Career Based Intervention T-Shirt!

Do you have an idea?

A story about something that happened in your classroom?

A lesson that you would like to share?

Do you want to share the great things happening in your program?

We want to read about it!

Write an article and submit it to be printed in the Chronicle.

We will pick a winner from those who submitted articles.

It's that easy!

