

# THANK YOU TO OUR INVESTORS

We Appreciate Your Support Of Wayne County



Wayne Economic  
Development Council  
WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Creating connections,  
partnering for prosperity*



### PLATINUM

City of Orrville/Orrville Utilities  
City of Wooster  
Daisy Brand  
Noble Foundation  
Schaeffler  
Seaman Corporation  
The J.M. Smucker Co.  
United Titanium  
Wayne County Commissioners

### GOLD

Akron Brass  
American Axle & Manufacturing  
BCI, Buckeye Corrugated, Inc. -  
Wooster Division  
Briggs & Starr Wealth Management  
Commercial & Savings Bank  
Farmers National Bank  
Huntington  
Jarrett Companies, Inc.  
McElroy Packaging  
The Ohio State University CFAES  
Wooster Campus  
Venture Products, Inc.  
Wayne Savings Community Bank  
Western Reserve Group  
Westfield Bank  
Wooster Community Hospital

### SILVER

Artiflex

Campbell Construction  
Certified Angus Beef  
Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston  
D+S Distribution  
G&S Bar and Wire LLC  
Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Hummel Group, Inc.  
Last Arrow Manufacturing  
MCTV  
Meaden & Moore  
Morton Salt  
Pallotta Ford  
PRC-Salttillo  
RBB  
Rea & Associates, Inc.  
Sayre Hospitality Group, Inc.  
Serpentini Chevrolet of Orrville  
The Apple Creek Banking Co.  
The College of Wooster  
The Will-Burt Company  
Wenger Excavating, Inc.  
Wooster Glass Co.  
Wooster Hydrostatics, Inc.

### BRONZE

Akron Children's Hospital  
Alpine Heating & Cooling  
Armstrong  
Aultman Orrville Hospital  
Bloomington Medical Services  
Bogner Construction Company  
Boreman Norton Cook Wealth Partners

Buckeye Oil Producing Company  
Buehler's Fresh Foods  
Centerra Co-Op  
City of Rittman  
Cleveland Clinic  
Dasco Home Medical Equipment  
Dix 1898, Inc.  
Edward Jones - Kim Cowgill  
Engineering Associates, Inc.  
E-Pak Manufacturing LLC  
Flextur  
Hasenstab Architects  
Ingredient Innovations International  
(3i Solutions)  
JAE Tech, Inc.  
Justin Haislip State Farm Insurance  
Kitty Poo Club  
Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative  
Lorson Financial, LLC  
McClintock Electric, Inc.  
Mennonite Mutual Insurance Company  
Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce  
PFI Displays  
PNC  
RDM Equipment Co., Inc.  
Ross & Storck, Ltd.  
SH Distributing  
Sol Harris/Day Architecture  
Speed North America  
The J. Horst Manufacturing Company  
The Village Network  
The Wooster Brush Company

### SUPPORTER

Wayne County Community Foundation  
Wayne County Farm Bureau  
Wayne County Schools Career Center  
Wayne Insurance Group  
Weaver Commercial Contractor  
Weaver Custom Homes  
Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company  
Whisler Plumbing & Heating  
Whitaker-Myers Group  
Wooster Eye Center  
Wooster Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

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Whitaker-Myers Group  
Wooster Eye Center  
Wooster Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

### SUPPORTER

AC Split Bolt (AC Electric)  
American Electric Power  
Compak  
Dominion Energy  
Global Body & Equipment  
Goodwill Industries of Wayne &  
Holmes Counties  
Home Builder's Association of Wayne  
& Holmes Counties  
Lowe & Young, Inc.  
Main Street Wooster  
Mike Mariola Restaurants  
Murr Printing & Graphics  
Park National Bank  
Steinhurst Farms  
TILMOR LLC  
Wayne Center for the Arts  
Wayne-Holmes Association of REALTORS  
Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce

### A special thank you to the companies that have continued to support and invest in the WEDC for 20+ years:

Akron Brass  
American Axle & Manufacturing  
American Electric Power  
Bogner Construction Company  
Briggs & Starr Wealth Management  
BCI, Buckeye Corrugated, Inc. - Wooster Division  
Buckeye Oil Producing Company  
Campbell Construction  
City of Orrville  
City of Rittman  
City of Wooster  
Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston  
D + S Distribution  
Dominion Energy  
Engineering Associates, Inc.  
Huntington  
Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Lorain Medina Rural Electric Co-Op  
Meaden & Moore  
Murr Printing & Graphics  
Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce  
The Ohio State University CFAES Wooster Campus  
RBB  
Ross & Storck, Ltd.  
Schaeffler Group  
Seaman Corporation  
Steinhurst Farms  
The Apple Creek Banking Co.  
The J.M. Smucker Co.  
The Will-Burt Company  
The Wooster Brush Company  
United Titanium  
Wayne County Commissioners  
Wayne County Schools Career Center  
Western Reserve Group  
Whitaker Myers Group  
Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce

Significantly impacting Wayne County's economic prosperity and quality of life for the past 30+ years, the Wayne Economic Development Council (WEDC) is inspired to continue creating connections that help build an economic ecosystem which supports and champions our businesses, communities and citizens through well-planned and balanced growth.

Continuing to serve as the local conduit to our regional economic development partners, Team NEO and the state economic development organization, JobsOhio, the WEDC will continue to connect our businesses with the programs and resources to foster their continued success. There are many exciting projects in the 2024 pipeline, and we look forward to celebrating the continued growth of Wayne County.

The WEDC remains focused on our three strategic priorities – cultivating, connecting and aligning networks within and beyond Wayne County; supporting business development with particular attention to retention and expansion; and driving a focused set of issues key to Wayne County's future competitiveness.

We are fortunate that Wayne County's businesses remain strong, however, the WEDC recognized common themes surfacing last year throughout our more than 200 meetings with businesses throughout the county. These common themes, such as the costs and lack of workforce housing and childcare options, transportation concerns, and the lack of workforce, emerged as pain points for local businesses.

Knowing the majority of the county's growth comes from existing businesses, the WEDC got to work helping to further explore these issues.

In partnership with Community Action Wayne Medina (CAWM), a Childcare Roundtable was held to gather insight from local businesses and organizations. From there, students from The College of Wooster's Applied Methods and Research Experience (AMRE) program conducted a childcare survey. The survey data showed a lack of childcare facilities throughout the county, a lack of licensed in-home providers and no programs offering service after 6 p.m., despite all the second and third shift manufacturing jobs in the county.

Currently, the WEDC and CAWM are exploring options with a possible new childcare offering and hope to speak with other businesses who expressed interest in hosting a childcare program in their facility.

To help foster a competitive workforce both now and in the future, the WEDC has partnered with

the Wayne County Commissioners, the City of Orrville and the City of Wooster on a county-wide housing assessment project. It's hard to attract a workforce if there's limited available housing.

While we look forward to sharing the results of this initiative soon, this assessment will provide us with best practices, incentive options to help attract developers and the overall development of growth strategies.

Already supporting several workforce development initiatives, such as Vital Connections, Wayne County Summer STEAM Camps, and the Ohio Means Jobs Wayne County Career Expo, the WEDC is also developing a program to market manufacturing careers to the upcoming workforce due to the lack of current workers to fill these roles. Our event will be held in October to help celebrate Manufacturing Month. While we're still in the planning process, our event will also focus on parents. It's critical that we expose these new technologies to both parents and students to show careers in manufacturing are not what they are often perceived to be.

Committed to delivering high-quality, professional economic development services, the WEDC will also embark on a future growth assessment later this year to develop a long-term site strategy. Currently lacking shovel ready sites for business attraction opportunities in Wayne County, this assessment will help us recognize areas for industrial growth within the county, while maintaining our agricultural roots.

With the recent announcements of Schaeffler's continued success with the addition of 200 jobs at their Wooster facility, Jarrett's groundbreaking for the fourth warehouse expansion project in Orrville, and Welch Packaging opening a facility at the Wooster Innovation Park, Wayne County remains an attractive area for business growth and continues to be recognized nationally for our economic strength.

The WEDC looks forward to our continued collaboration with our local, regional, and state partners, as we know supporting business development is truly a team effort.

We thank you for your continued support of Wayne County and the WEDC, and we look forward to a prosperous 2024!

Jeff Swartz

Maribeth Burns

### EVENT SPONSORS:



### THE WEDC TEAM

**Maribeth Burns**  
President  
mburns@waynecountyedc.com

**Traci Carmony**  
Marketing and Development  
Coordinator  
tcarmony@waynecountyedc.com

### CONTACT US

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# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



**150**  
JOBS CREATED



**700,000**  
SQ FT NEW SPACE



**\$150M**  
IN TOTAL INVESTMENTS

## 2023 Site Selection Recap

**82 Potential Projects from JobsOhio**

- 21 requests for existing building
- 37 requests for land
- 23 land and/or building

## Wayne County Site Submissions

- Wooster 10
- Rittman 13
- Wooster and Rittman Combination 8

## 2023 WINS IN REVIEW



## Award Winning Micropolitan Area

The Wooster Micropolitan Statistical Area is ranked #10 of the best performing micropolitan areas in the country according to Site Selection's Annual Top Micropolitan Rankings and was ranked 17th out of 543 micropolitans in the country, and number 1 in Ohio from Policom's Economic Strength Rankings report.

## BizConnects

Wayne Economic Development Council

### Supporting the growth and development of existing Wayne County businesses

The WEDC BizConnects program solicits feedback from area employers on the condition of the local business environment, as well as individual company performances and projected growth plans. This information allows the WEDC to identify trends and to align businesses with the proper resources to succeed.

## WAYNE COUNTY B4B BRIEFINGS FOR BUSINESS

### Supporting economic growth services, resources and activities

This event series provides educational and networking opportunities for the Wayne Economic Development Council's investors and followers. The programs feature workforce and leadership experts, manufacturing consultants, and state and regional economic development representatives.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

Featured Guest Speaker:  
**Loretta Mester,**  
President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

Thursday, May 16 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Greystone Event Center, Wooster

Brought to you in partnership with:  
GROW@ASHLAND, STARK, MAGNET, MCTV, OhioMeansJobs, Team NEO

Event Series Sponsors:  
MAGNET, MCTV, OhioMeansJobs, Team NEO

RSVP by May 9 to [bit.ly/b4bmay2024](http://bit.ly/b4bmay2024)  
Cost is \$55 for individual tickets or \$300 for a table of six.

## WORK IN Wayne

Designed for job seekers, the Work in Wayne website focuses on all things Wayne County. In partnership with Ohio Means Jobs Wayne County, job seekers can view all available job opportunities and learn more about working, living, learning and playing in Wayne County.

## Quality Growth Award Winners

### Corporate Investment

Congratulations to the following companies for their continued growth and investment in Wayne County:

- Centerra Co-Op (Sterling)
- Daisy Brand (Wooster)
- GMEG, LLC (Orrville)
- Jarrett Companies (Orrville)
- Johnson Bros. Rubber Co. (West Salem)
- Kidron Investment Group (Kaufman Realty) (Kidron)
- Lowe & Young (Wooster)
- Morton Salt (Rittman)
- Schaeffler (Wooster)

### Community Investment

Congratulations on investing and enhancing the quality of life in Wayne County:

- Mike & Diane Jarrett

### Chris Schmid – Community Impact Award

Congratulations and thank you for the positive impact made on Wayne County through philanthropic and economic development support:

- The Noble Foundation (Dave & Don Noble)

## Wayne County Quick Facts 2023

Data from TeamNEO



**116,806**

Population



**60,795**

People in workforce



**4,814+**

Employers



**1,587**

Employment in Agriculture Industry:



**\$7.33B**

GRP (Gross Regional Product)



**2.74%**

Unemployment rate (national 3.61%)



**24.4%**

Bachelor's degree+ (2022)



**15,087**

Manufacturing jobs (national avg: 4,220 per county)

## Moving Forward in 2024

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



#### Cultivate, Connect & Align Networks

Within & Beyond Wayne County



#### Support Business Development

With Attention to Retention & Expansion



#### Drive Critical Issues

To ensure future competitiveness

### MISSION

#### Partner, Promote, Prosper

The Wayne Economic Development Council is a business-led, public private partnership that maintains and promotes the strength of Wayne County's cities, villages and agricultural areas. By aligning and engaging key stakeholders, the WEDC fosters balanced and sustained economic growth and prosperity for Wayne County and addresses issues critical to its competitiveness.

### VISION

The Wayne Economic Development Council is a leading and collaborative go-to organization that contributes to Wayne County's national recognition for achieving high quality growth that benefits both businesses and residents while maintaining a balance between industry, agriculture, commercial and residential development.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lisa Armstrong\*, Schaeffler
- Sarah Baker, Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston
- Adam Briggs, Briggs & Starr Wealth Management
- Greg Brunn\*, Western Reserve Group
- Jonathan Hofstetter, Wayne County Commissioner
- Richard Lewin\*, The Will-Burt Company
- Ben Maibach, The Wooster Brush Company
- Armand Massary, Artiflex
- Lesley Mast\*, Rea & Associates, Inc.
- Amy Miller, PRC-Salttillo
- Lynn Moomaw\*, Wayne County Schools Career Center

- John Nicholas, The J.M. Smucker Co.
- Matt Plybon, City of Orrville
- Bob Reynolds, City of Wooster
- Bill Robertson, City of Rittman
- Andrea Russell\*, Akron Brass Company
- Eddie Steiner\*, Commercial & Savings Bank
- Kurt Steiner, Steinhurst Farms
- Jeff Swartz\*, Seaman Corporation
- Mike Toth\*, Westfield Bank
- Kevin Trent, D+S Distribution

\* 2024 Executive Committee

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Bobbie Beshara, City of Rittman
- Dan Franks, Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Matt Grassmyer, Daisy Brand
- Ryan Jones, Aultman Orrville Hospital
- Clay Matthew, Wooster Hydrostatics, Inc.
- Ray McConnell, TILMOR LLC
- Andy Michel, The Ohio State University CFAES Wooster Campus
- Rich Owens, Wayne County Job & Family Services
- Logan Rohr, Wayne County Farm Bureau/ 3D Meats
- Bill Sheron, Wooster Community Hospital
- Vince Tricomi, PFI Displays
- Samira Zimmerly, Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce