



# BREAKING BARRIERS BUILDING FUTURES

COMMUNITY • EDUCATION • OPPORTUNITY

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# NEWS RELEASE

Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center | Serving Ashland County & West Holmes School Districts since 1973



Our mission is to inspire students to career success by providing real-world skills and credentials.

Our vision, as an education institution, offer programs to drive economic growth of the region through prepared graduates.



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## Questions?

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We are excited to announce that the future of the Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center is looking bright, as the district is being offered state funding to renovate the facility, creating an improved learning environment and meeting current building standards.

The overall aspirations for this *Breaking Barriers, Building Futures* project would provide students, both high schoolers and adult learners, access to premier educational programs with hands-on training, by creating an innovative, modernized school campus.

The Career Center facility plays an integral role in our community and student education. The internal core of the school has been ever-changing to accommodate expanding academic courses, career technical programs, adult education and a growing school population. The building has not expanded since its inception, however enrollment, services and program offerings have exceeded capacity.

## Room To Learn, Room to Grow

In the past five years, the programs have evolved to reflect industry and regional needs, resulting in reaching even more students.

In constant evaluation and analysis of the industry trends and region's employment needs, the high school and adult education program offerings need to be able to accommodate those influencing factors. With the current building size restraints, the option to add programming or to reprogram current offerings, is no longer a viable option.

Sophomore application trends are indicating that facility renovation and expansion are a necessity to best serve the overall student population wanting to attend the Career Center from our associate schools; Ashland, Hillsdale, Loudonville, Mapleton and West Holmes. (Chart 1)

Although the pathway programs are offered as a choice for juniors and seniors, district sophomores are also given an opportunity to change the trajectory of their high school experience through the Career Based Intervention (CBI) program. This program allows 36 sophomores to explore four program labs, while focusing on the valuable high school credits needed for graduation. Based on freshman applications for CBI, a larger sophomore population needs to have access to the services available through this program (Chart 2). A *Sophomore Academy* would allow additional students to be directly engaged in quality academics and experience programs offered for their junior year. The current CBI program students boasts a 90% retention rate to their junior year at the Career Center.

## Why Now

The OFCC has chosen the Career Center to be the only JVSD in the state to receive grant funding for the 2021 year. This funding will cover 51% of the building renovations to bring the facility up to code and rework existing educational spaces (Chart 3). Should the funding not be approved by the taxpayers, the Career Center would be replaced by another JVSD, resulting in the this much needed project being wait-listed for several years.

Recruitment Year	No. of Sophomores at Assoc. Schools	Percentage of Applications from Assoc. School Sophomores
2016-2017	803	21.8%
2017-2018	736	26.7%
2018-2019	712	29.2%
2019-2020	653	32.8%
2020-2021	642	34.3%

Chart 1

Recruitment Year	No. of CBI Applications
2016-2017	28
2017-2018	32
2018-2019	55
2019-2020	54
2020-2021	72

Chart 2

OFCC Assessment Area	Rating	OFCC Assessment Area	Rating
Electrical Systems	Repair	Interior Lighting	Replace
HVAC	Repair	Technology	Replace
Roofing	Replace	Walls	Repair
Plumbing/Fixtures	Replace	Site Condition	Repair
Handicapped Access	Repair	General Finishes	Replace
Windows & Exterior Doors	Replace	Security System	Replace
Life Safety	Repair	Loose Furnishings	Repair

Chart 3