



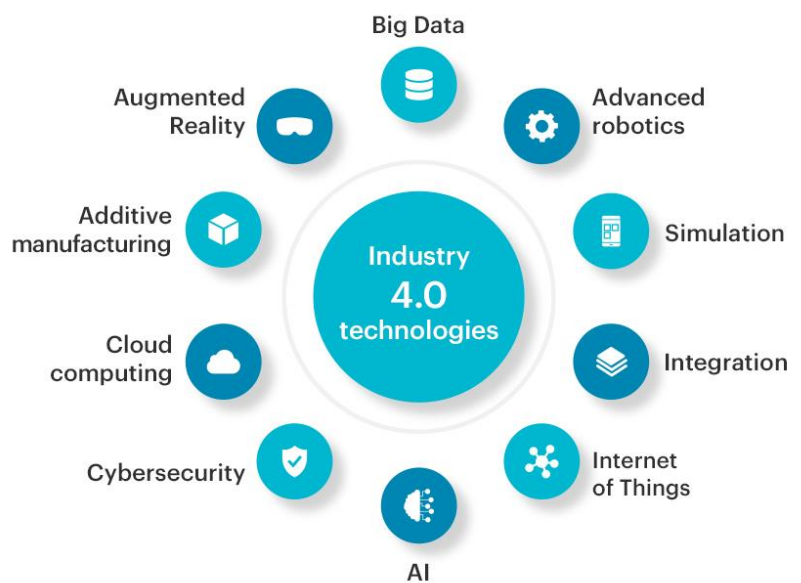
# FINDLAY·HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Economic Development In Focus This Month

#### Retention & Expansion |

- Project Peak continues to move closer to an announcement. The Economic Development office has been working closely with state and local entities to finalize roadway upgrades needed to handle the additional traffic from additional associates.
- Economic Development met with a legacy manufacturer to discuss Project Dunkin, a potential 80,000 sf expansion that would allow for additional production space and better alignment and flow of process.
- The ED team has begun working with a small Hancock County manufacturer on Project Tetra as they seek to find a new space to expand their production.
- Industry 4.0: Industry 4.0 can be defined as the integration of intelligent digital technologies into manufacturing and industrial processes. It encompasses a set of technologies that include industrial IoT networks, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, robotics, data harmonization and automation. Smart Industry is not a new concept. Over the last year or so the activity in the manufacturing and logistics community related to process and workforce capacity and improvement has slipped into a higher gear. Capital investment over the past eighteen months in Findlay-Hancock County manufacturing & logistics sectors has primarily been directed into process automation guided by AI, the addition of robotics and platoons of co-bots. With the advent of IoT related to the manufacturing floor operations are becoming much more efficient. Now, data from legacy machinery and equipment is being integrated with smart systems offering a holistic real-time view of the production chain. ED will look to hold an Industry 4.0 seminar in the first half of 2024.



#### Workforce |

- ICYMI: The A.F.T.E.R. Hours Task Force Comprehensive Report is available on our website [here](#). The group was launched with a vision of “Attracting Future, Talent, Entertainment, and Resources” to the Findlay-Hancock community. Individuals met over the course of a year to collectively identify and work towards the opportunities and resources desired by young professionals in an attempt to boost employee retention rates. The task force is excited to share their ideas with our employers, local businesses, and other economic development stakeholders who share an interest in the potential of Findlay-Hancock County.

- Raise the Bar® is working to provide resources to employers regarding the immigrant workforce. Resources being collected and distributed include handling visas and verifying paperwork, workplace changes to accommodate English Second Language (ESL) associates and current success stories.
- Hancock County students as young as 13 years old (7<sup>th</sup> grade) are now learning about their career interests and abilities thanks to a continuum of career exploration and engagement being enacted by ten (10) area school districts. Employers should start connecting with these future employees as often as possible to build rapport over the years. Connect with [Raise the Bar®](#) on ways to be involved, including career days, mock interviews, job shadowing, internships, etc.
- The Economic Development team has been working with a local and national developer on [Project Powell](#). The project would include a mix of duplexes and triplexes with two-bedrooms. This project is just one type of housing product that Findlay needs in order to retain current residents and attract current commuters to relocate to the community.

## Other |

- The Findlay-Hancock County Alliance was excited to welcome Melanie Delgado to the team as Office Coordinator in September. Please make sure to say hello if you stop into the office and keep an eye out for emails from her in your inbox!
- It was a beautiful day for the 2023 Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development Golf Outing! We had nearly 100 Economic Development Council members join us for networking, refreshments, and golf. Thank you to everyone who came out to spend the day with us.
- Dan and Sarah attended the International Economic Development Council Annual Conference in Dallas in September. Breakout sessions included discussions of brownfield redevelopment projects, developing accessible and affordable workforce housing, the role of public-private partnerships, and more. The team was also able to spend some time exploring Dallas – it is always great to see what other cities are doing to be successful and what ideas could be brought back to our community.
- Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development, in cooperation with the University of Findlay, helped host the 2023 Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) Grassroots Summit. JASCO is dedicated to celebrating the US-Japan relationship in Ohio, where Japan is the largest foreign direct investor and nearly 11,000 Japanese residents live and work. The Findlay Grassroots Summit is an annual celebration of the ongoing friendship between the US and Japan. To learn more about this program, please [see this website](#).
- Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development will once again help host the Fukui International Business Seminar. Young professionals from Japan will visit in November to get first-hand knowledge of American business. We have a strong relationship with Fukui Prefecture. The relationship with Fukui Prefecture was formed through the University of Findlay and has grown to include government and business partners. In 2017, we established a Fukui/Findlay International Business Training Program in which young professionals from Fukui spent ten days in Findlay for business training. There is a strong commitment to maintaining and growing the business, education, and government relationships formed over the years with our Japanese partners.
- In October, ED will participate in the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Nakama-no-Kai networking dinner held on the campus of Bowling Green State University. Nakama which translates to “friend” in Japanese, brings together people who believe in fostering friendship and cooperation between Japanese and American business executives. The event, which was started in 1989 by the Asian Studies Program, also encourages mutual understanding of Japanese and American cultures. This fall’s event—the 56th Nakama meeting will welcome individuals representing Japanese businesses, U.S. companies and organizations that do business with Japanese companies, higher education, and the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit.

## Additional Reading |

- **How IoT is Transforming the Manufacturing Industry.** Read the article [here](#).
- **The IoT-Powered Logistics Industry: Use Cases, Benefits And Challenges.** Read the article [here](#).