



Findlay · Hancock County  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# FINDLAY·HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

November 2023

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS THIS MONTH

### Retention & Expansion |

#### Grob Systems

After eighteen months of planning, Grob Systems announced it will create 200 jobs through a \$25 million expansion of its North American headquarters in Hancock County (Bluffton) for new global business with EV makers and suppliers. Grob Systems is based in Mindelheim Germany and is a major producer of advanced manufacturing production and automation systems. The company specializes in universal machining centers, multiple types of machining technology and advanced assembly lines. FHCED visited senior leadership of Grob in Mindelheim in 2015.

In the mid-1990s, Grob strategically located their U.S. operations in Hancock County in order to support their automotive customer base in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. FHCED began to assist the company with this expansion project in the winter of 2022 inviting its state partners JobsOhio and Regional Growth Partnership to assist. Other partners in the project include Ohio Department of Transportation, Dominion Energy, Hancock Wood Electric Cooperative and the Village of Bluffton. As with any large project, coordination of all the moving parts is essential. This is a core competency of FHCED.

### Attraction |



The petition for annexation by the parcel owner was just approved by the Hancock County Board of Commissioners. The petition will now go before Findlay City Council to be taken up by that body in early Q1 2024.



### Workforce |

## Owens Community College Receives Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Awards

Owens Community College has been awarded a total of \$130,758 to help students seeking to earn a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The Toledo-area Campus was awarded \$98,754 and the new addition of the program to the Findlay-area Campus was awarded \$32,004. The money is part of \$2.54 million from the Ohio Department of Education distributed to 35 institutions to help fuel this high-demand career.

The financial aid will be provided to in-state students who complete the program and agree to live and work in Ohio for at least one year upon earning their CDL. This financial aid will be distributed to students as a 50% grant, and 50% loan, that will be forgiven upon the graduate working for an Ohio transportation company within a year following their graduation from the OCC CDL program. For more information on the Truck Driving program at Owens, visit [www.owens.edu/cdl](http://www.owens.edu/cdl).



## From the Ohio Manufacturer's Association

### Recreational Marijuana Law Has No Impact on BWC's Drug-Free Safety Program

The legalization of cannabis for certain medical conditions has had no effect on the Ohio BWC's position that a drug-free workplace means a marijuana-free workplace. What will change now that Ohio's legalized recreational marijuana law takes effect Thursday, Dec. 7? In short, and until further notice, nothing, according to [this insight](#) from Frantz Ward, an OMA Connections Partner. The firm provides an overview of the BWC's [Drug-Free Safety Program](#), which gives Ohio employers premium discounts for fulfilling and incorporating certain requirements into their drug and alcohol policies.

## Residential Development IS Workforce Development

Yates Management recently partnered with Dingey Movers of Zanesville, OH to transport a two-story, 12-unit apartment building just under a mile and a half through downtown Findlay. The building was moved from its location of nearly 40 years on Grand Avenue to McPherson Avenue. The building had been set to be demolished. Once in place on a few more units will be added. A new floor will be added for a total of 16 units.

