

SPOTLIGHT ON

# Educational Service Center of Central Ohio



In this interview, **John Hambrick**, the work-based learning coordinator for the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Central Ohio describes how the ESC is bringing new job opportunities to students through new virtual tools.

## **Q: How did the pandemic affect your students?**

It really drove us to engage virtually. It forced us to look at utilizing broader resources and new technology to make things more readily available. **Our goal was to make the community aware of the work opportunities for students and family members.**

People so often think our area has stereotypical work environments. So, we set out to show people it can be so much more. We wanted to eliminate the stereotypes and educate the emerging workforce about the industries that thrive here in Central Ohio.

## **Q: What careers did you introduce to students?**

**We brought the conversations into the environments that they could one day be working in.** Places like the manufacturing industry and healthcare. A few examples include showing the students the Nationwide Children's Hospital 3D printing lab and Honda's augmented reality lab.

## **Q: What tools do students now have to make the job search easier?**

We partnered with a virtual recruiting platform, which allows employers to share information about jobs that do not require a bachelor's degrees. These are career-launching opportunities.

One of the great features we've found made a difference is the chat feature. **Students can use the platform to schedule one-on-one conversations directly with the people who are hiring.** Helping students make that connection between school and their future is key.

