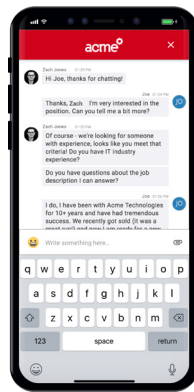# SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

DEVELOPING OUR TALENT

Strengthening Stark will be hosting a virtual job fair on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 from 4:00-7:00pm. We are partnering with ConxusNEO and the event will be proudly supported by OhioMeansJobs. Our team is confirming multiple employers across Stark County who are hiring multiple positions, from entry-level work up through skilled professionals.

Participants can attend the job fair using a computer or mobile device. You can get involved anywhere, from your home to the park. Anywhere you have your device and access to internet will allow you to attend.

If you'd like help registering from one of our community partner navigators, please visit our **WEBSITE HERE** and we will get you connected to someone who can walk you through the process of registering and putting your best foot forward when talking to the hiring companies.

The virtual event will be held on Brazen's virtual job fair platform. It is designed look and feel as much like an in person job fair as possible, connecting job seekers and employers through online employer job booths. Once a candidate enters an employer booth, they will be able to seamlessly share written documents such as work profiles, resume's and job descriptions and interact via text conversations and video chats.

Save the date and check back on **FACEBOOK** and **LINKEDIN** in the next few weeks for more information!

> " THE CHAT OPTION WORKED FANTASTIC AND I WAS ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ON POSITIONS I WAS INTERESTED IN! "

OUR BUSINESSES. OUR PEOPLE. OUR HOME.

STRENGTHENING STARK

Partnering with
ConxusNEO
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PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
Ohio MEANS Jobs. | **Stark and Tuscarawas Counties**
A proud partner of the American Job Center network

LOCAL COMPANY SUCESS: STERI-WRITE

While practicing in one of his facilities, Dr. Brian Wind, an eye surgeon in North Canton, had a need to ensure the pens used in his surgery center were free of germs. They say necessity is the mother of invention, so Dr. Wind began a journey to gain a better understanding of product development and manufacturing and to ensure his new company was set up for success!

The journey of Steri-Write started over a decade ago and was accelerated with a JumpStart Market Validation session in late 2018. Steri-Write is the world's first UV-C LED pen/electronic stylus sanitizer that interrupts the pathway of germ transmission on shared writing instruments. Since then, Dr. Wind has taken advantage of numerous other JumpStart resources and has also worked with Magnet, Gatehouse Media, Stark State and the Small Business Association to hone his product and marketing plans.

In January of 2020, he attended the CES convention, known as the global stage for innovation! At this convention, his product design was validated by many and he received his first order for 1,000 units! Thanks to all his planning, he's now awaiting the first samples of the new product and will then begin production to fill his first order!

Thanks to the on-going support from JumpStart and others in our community, a new business venture is on its way to success!

Please contact Linda Hale, Canton Innovation District Community Manager to schedule a MEETING to discuss your next new venture!

A TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH (DEB) SHAMLIN

Deb Shamlin was a founding member of Strengthening Stark's Minority Action Committee, dedicated to ensuring that the movement benefits the minority communities. Our movement was saddened to hear about her passing last month.

Before stepping down, Deb was president of the Stark County NAACP and also served on city of Canton Fair Employment Practices, Domestic Violence Project, Inc., and Symphony League of Canton boards.

Our committee appreciated her intelligence, her tenacity, and her expectations to get work done. We are sure that the committee will make her proud with the plans in place to make Stark a better place for the minority communities.

CONNECTING OUR KIDS

Each resident of Stark County has inherent value, but many of our youngest residents lack the access to learning tools for the opportunity to academically keep up with their peers. Education is the path out of generational poverty, and to provide that opportunity, our community partners are working to provide solutions and support for our kids without access to the internet.

In most communities, there is a gap between underprivileged residents who don't have access to technology or the internet and privileged residents who do have access. This is often referred to as the digital divide, and it became increasingly clear that the digital divide was prevalent in Stark County when the COVID-19 crisis hit and schools quickly transitioned to remote learning for students. Many of our youngest residents couldn't academically keep up with their peers because they lacked access to learning tools. How can we expect children to actively engage in remote learning if their home doesn't have internet access?

The digital divide consists of three elements:

1. Availability – Is the infrastructure available for households to have broadband internet?
2. Access – Do students have the necessary equipment (laptop, iPad, etc.) to connect to the internet?
3. Adoption – Are students and parents able to afford the internet or willing to use the internet?

Under the leadership of Dr. Teresa Purses of the Stark Education Partnership and Bob Gessner, retired president of MCTV, along with Marty Bowe, Assistant Superintendent from the Stark County Educational Service Center and District leaders and community leaders recently joined together to launch Connecting Our Kids: an initiative to close the digital divide in Stark County during the 2020-2021 school year.

Community partners have been working collaboratively over the last few months to find solutions to help kids without access to the internet succeed academically, and we are pleased to share the outcomes to date:

Availability – About 350 student households have no conventional access to internet service. Each schools district with support from great partners like the Stark Library and others are working to ensure that resources like hot spots will be available for these families. Additional support may be needed and longer term solutions are also being evaluated.

Access –School districts have purchased laptop type devices for students so they will be prepared for remote learning when necessary, but the data shows that there are hundreds of Stark students who do not have high quality internet available in their homes to engage in the online curriculum.

Adoption – Our local internet service providers have come together and will be providing special programs adequate to support the curriculum being planned for the 2020-2021 school year to eligible families. School district leaders have submitted grant applications and are awaiting to hear from the Governor's office regarding additional funding to support internet connections for families. These grant dollars will be extremely helpful, but additional funding will be needed to ensure all of Stark students have online access to their education.

Thanks to Stark County public schools and the following community partners that are working collaboratively to "connect our kids!"
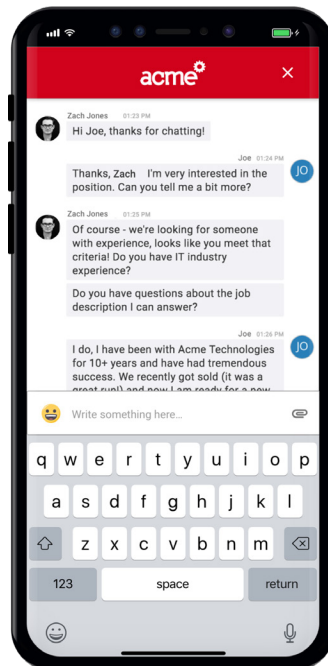
STRENGTHENING STARK
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OUR BUSINESSES. OUR PEOPLE. OUR HOME.

STRENGTHENING STARK

OUR
MISSION

Strengthening Stark is a community-wide movement of residents, business, government, nonprofits and philanthropists who share a vision for a vibrant, growing county. Our goal is to make Stark a great place to start and grow a business, develop one's talent and pursue a career, and live and raise a family.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28 4-7PM

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