



NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2020



## HOW LOCAL ECONOMIES GROW & EXPAND: THE MANUFACTURING CONNECTION

### NURTURING BUSINESS GROWTH

Last month, we talked about how we accomplish our shared vision for a more vibrant and growing Stark County. William Furth, *The Flow of Money* author and President of POLICOM Corporation, explains the basics of what every community needs to do to cause growth or to stop decline in *Economic Analysis Everyone Understands*. Business growth and sustainability is one of the 3 key areas of focus to create economic vibrancy and we pay particular attention to those businesses who sell their goods and services outside of Stark County. Strengthening Stark has several community partners who drive growth in Manufacturing, Plastics and Polymers, and Agriculture and Tourism. This month, we'll explore the work that's focused on growing and retaining businesses in the manufacturing sector.

One of Strengthening Stark's key partners, the **STARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (SEDB)** focuses on businesses that manufacture goods or services that bring revenue from outside of Stark County into the community. Their mission is to strengthen Stark County by driving business growth and leading its economic transformation. In addition to helping businesses obtain grant dollars that support their growth and development, SEDB seeks to be a point of contact, directing businesses to the great network of partners who can assist them with opportunities and remove barriers to their success.

Below are the YTD performance metrics for the Stark Economic Development Board. These numbers reflect the collaborative work of partners across Stark along with assistance from our regional and state partners at Team NEO and Jobs Ohio. As you can see, the numbers below are a significant improvement over 2019 and we still have several weeks to go in 2020!

Driving Economic Growth for Stark County	2020 YTD	2019 Results	Growth %
<b>Grant Dollars Secured from Jobs Ohio for New &amp; Existing Companies</b>	\$7,418,724	\$4,000,000	85.5%
<b>New Payroll Committed by these Companies</b>	\$31,265,617	\$30,000,000	4.2%
<b>Corresponding Jobs</b>	622	568	9.5%
<b>Capital Investments made by these companies</b>	\$118,213,584	\$115,700,000	2.2%

This year's efforts include large expansion projects by existing companies like Superior Dairy, Solmet Technologies, Howmet Aerospace, and new companies to the community like GOJO and Polytech America, to name a few. SEDB is cautiously optimistic that they are on track to celebrate another large win by year end which will further increase the great results they've achieved to date!

These are amazing results from our partners at SEDB, particularly in light of the COVID crisis we've all been working through this year! Congratulations to the Stark Economic Development Board Team for exceeding their goals for 2020 and there's still 5 weeks to go!



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CONNECT  
CONNECTION

# HOW WE STRENGTHEN STARK: EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

## COMMUNITY COMMITMENT



## EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

Started in 2000, the Early Childhood Resource Center is a nonprofit organization that promotes the development of young children by improving the quality of their early education and care through comprehensive programming, resources, and support services for families, their children and early childhood professionals.

As the state of Ohio designated Child Care Resource and Referral agency for Stark County, our primary role is to increase demand for and the supply of high quality child care.

The Early Childhood Resource Center first connected with Strengthening Stark in spring 2020 and immediately realized numerous ways in which our work connects to support families in the workforce. Child care is essential to the economy. Without child care, parents cannot work.

Here are just a few ways that we will work together in the future to support parents and their children:

- Provide quality child care referrals and consumer education for parents to meet their individual employment needs
- Building high quality child care programs so families have stable child care solutions
- Support economic development through child care business start-up and by sustaining existing child care businesses including employer operated child care
- Refer parents in our programs to Strengthening Stark's employment resources
- Offer parenting education opportunities to support the family unit

The Early Childhood Resource Center offers a number of programs, resources and services that support parents:

- The SPARK kindergarten readiness program is a family focused program that helps children, ages 3 & 4, get ready for kindergarten by building reading, language, math and social skills
- Parenting Education sessions highlighting child development stages, creating a strong bond, positive discipline techniques and teaching responsibility are offered to Stark County parents in neighborhood locations. Sessions are offered in groups, individually and through online sessions.
- Professional Development classes, technical assistance and mentoring are offered to local child care providers/educators/staff and people interested in the child care field. Classes are offered online and in group sessions.
- Our Canton location houses a children's library, an indoor play area called the Inspiration Station and an outdoor playground that is perfect for families to explore.

Whether you are a parent, employer, or Stark County resident, check out how the Early Childhood Resource Center can help you by visiting the [ECRC WEBSITE](#) or following them on [FACEBOOK](#).







## STARK TANK: COLLEGE EDITION!

### DEVELOPING OUR TALENT

Stark Tank is back for a second year and is expanding to include a College Edition. The team of Stark County Sharks (successful local entrepreneurs) are on the hunt to find and fund the best entrepreneurial ideas in our community. Students from area colleges and universities with an interest in entrepreneurship have the unique opportunity to present their killer business idea as part of Stark Tank: College Edition.

Individuals and teams will showcase their entrepreneurial, business, storytelling and presentation skills in an elevator business pitch submitted online by February 1. Sharks will hold open office mentoring sessions leading up to this due date. Eight teams will be chosen from all the pitches submitted to participate as finalists in front of our panel of Sharks. The live, virtual final event will take place on April 7, 2021. Finalists could potentially earn up to a \$10,000 investment from Stark County Sharks to pursue their killer business idea.

More information about the Stark Tank: College Edition is available at [WWW.STRENGTHENINGSTARK.COM/STARKTANK](http://WWW.STRENGTHENINGSTARK.COM/STARKTANK). If you are interested in participating in the program or have any questions, contact Stark Education Partnership's Jay Moody at 330-495-4022 or [jay.moody@edpartner.org](mailto:jay.moody@edpartner.org).

The first open mentoring office hours with the Stark County Sharks will be held from 7-9 p.m on December 8, 2020, and all online pitch applications are due February 1, 2021 to be considered for the final round.



**NAME:** Jay Moody

**TITLE & EMPLOYER:** Consultant - Stark County Educational Service Center

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR JOB TO A CHILD?** I try to make learning fun.

**WHAT LED YOU TO YOUR CURRENT EMPLOYER?** My mother taught for 40 years. I was inspired by how much she loved teaching and always proud of how she could make learning fun. I wanted to be a part of that. I love helping students and trying to find ways to improve education.

**HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE STRENGTHENING STARK MOVEMENT?** I first learned about Strengthening Stark during Stark Tank planning meetings. The next thing I knew I was working directly with Strengthening Stark and the Stark Education Partnership to help organize and implement both Stark Tank and Smart Stark.

**WHAT DO YOU WISH OTHER PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT STARK COUNTY?** Stark County has outstanding educational institutions, amazing people, a quality healthcare system, and great places to visit. The cost of living is low and the quality of life is high.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO NEW STARK COUNTY RESIDENTS?** Take time to explore all that the county has to offer. I love the McKinley Museum, the Players Guild, the Canton Museum of Art, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the events at the Canton Civic Center (just to name a few of our many places to explore).

**IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY AND COULD PURCHASE ONE THING FOR OUR COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?** If I won the lottery, I would invest funds in our startup tech companies to help them grow and flourish. I would also want to donate to our many cultural organizations.

**WHAT STARK COUNTY RESTAURANT SHOULD WE CHECK OUT THIS WEEKEND?** I LOVE to eat out. We have a ton of great food choices. Since the pandemic hit we have been ordering carryout and using Grubhub. One of my absolute favorite places to eat is Gervasi.





**STRENGTHENING STARK**

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## 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.

## ONE STEP IS ALL IT TAKES TO CHANGE YOUR DIRECTION

Talk to a community navigator today about job opportunities, training options, career paths, college options, and how to overcome the barriers between you and your professional goals.



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