



For Immediate Release

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Ohio Workforce Coalition to Launch Workforce Leadership Academy in Collaboration with the Aspen Institute

November 30, 2022, Columbus, Ohio – Today the [Ohio Workforce Coalition](https://www.ohioworkforcecoalition.org) (OWC) announced that it is sponsoring a Workforce Leadership Academy, a fellowship designed to support leaders in workforce development committed to advancement of local workforce ecosystems. The OWC was one of only eight organizations chosen from across the country – the only in Ohio – to deliver an Academy in partnership with the Aspen Institute. The first Academy will run in Cleveland | Cuyahoga County.

The Workforce Leadership Academy brings leaders – recognized as Fellows of the Academy – from across a local workforce ecosystem together for a year-long series of retreats, workshops, and action learning projects. Fellows work with leaders throughout the country as they deepen networks; strengthen systems leadership skills; apply race, equity, and systems change frameworks to their work; and increase understanding of effective strategies and programs. Alumni of the Academy become part of the Aspen Institute’s Economic Opportunity Fellows Network, joining Fellows from fourteen previous Academies in eleven cities in the US and Canada.

“A high-capacity, responsive, and agile local workforce ecosystem is critical to increasing the chances of sustainable and equitable economic recovery,” said Sheila Maguire, Senior Fellow with the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program.

Locally, OWC is partnering with the Northeast Ohio Workforce Coalition (NEOWC). An affiliate of OWC, the NEOWC is staffed by Towards Employment and convenes workforce stakeholders to align programming across systems, identify shared issues, and grow local capacity. “OWC is excited to have energy and commitment from partners in Cleveland. Towards Employment and The Literacy Cooperative serve on OWC’s Leadership Committee and share our commitment to system thinking and capacity building,” said Rebecca Kusner, OWC Director and lead facilitator for the local Academy. Other local partners include Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, MAGNET, New Bridge, and Youth Opportunities Unlimited. OWC hopes to offer the Academy in other locations across Ohio in the coming years.

Fellows will be selected through a competitive application process led by a local advisory council being convened this fall. Applications will be accepted from senior-level managers from across the ecosystem of nonprofit organizations, business associations, union-based training efforts, adult literacy, public agencies, and post-secondary education and training who have the authority to implement changes to apply.

More information is available at <https://www.ohioworkforcecoalition.org/wla>. Email info@ohioworkforcecoalition.org to be added to the Academy mailing list for invitations to informational webinars, updates about the advisory council, and notice when applications are available.

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