



**Friday, February 7, 2020**  
**ConxusNEO (Ballroom)**  
**277 E. Mill St., Akron, OH**  
**9-10:15am**

## **AGENDA AND MEETING NOTES**

### **Next Meeting**

**DATE:** Friday, April 24

**TIME:** 9am-10:30am

**LOCATION:** TBA

### **Welcome and Introductions**

*Ming-Hao Shiao, Project Manager, ConxusNEO*

- Attendance (30 total) – attendance details enclosed

### **TECH CORPS: Creating access, talent, and fun through technology**

*Michelle Moore, Regional Manager, Northeast Ohio, Tech Corps*

- Why we do it: ALL K-12 students should have access to high-quality computer science learning experiences
- Design computer science and IT programs for K-12 students and teachers and delivers programming through recruitment of IT/tech talent
- Partnership-focused programs in Ohio, New Jersey, Georgia, and Rhode Island
- Akron/Summit County: Hackathon Akron (Fall) and summer camps (HS Tech Camp, Techie Camps)

### **Mid-Tech Strategy: Proposed pilots**

*Ming-Hao Shiao, Project Manager, ConxusNEO + Network members*

- By-project overview enclosed
  - A: Tapping new talent: Short-term certification/credentialing to entry-level IT careers
  - B: R.A.I.S.E. Good Jobs for Greater Akron
  - C: Careers in IT engagement for K-12 students
  - D: Bridging the digital divide: Increasing digital connectivity and digital literacy
  - E: Tech 101: Professional development/learning series
  - F: Database: Regional IT/Technology certification and/or degree-based program

### **Proposed Pilots – Small group discussion and feedback**

*All*

- Highlights of feedback provided by discussion groups, reflecting on discussion, ways to further partnership (e.g., UA Cyber Range), information transparency (e.g., training portal/database), and greater IT awareness for K-12 through teacher training and student awareness programming

### **Wrap-up and Next steps**

- Sign up for project working team and/or indicate projects to support



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### Meeting Participants

<b>Company</b>	<b>3</b>
Epiphany	1
GOJO	1
Summa Health	1
<b>Business Development Organization</b>	<b>3</b>
Greater Akron Chamber	1
JumpStart	1
RITE	1
<b>Education</b>	<b>11</b>
Akron Promise	1
Akron Public Schools	4
Barberton High School	1
New Horizons	1
The Computer Workshop	1
The University of Akron	2
Twinsburg City Schools	1
<b>Community-based Organization</b>	<b>10</b>
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	1
Akron Urban League	2
Akron-Summit County Public Library	1
PCs for People	1
Project Learn of Summit County	1
Stark County Community Action	1
TECH CORPS	1
The Well CDC	1
United Way of Summit County	1
<b>ConxusNEO</b>	<b>3</b>
ConxusNEO	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>30</b>

# PROPOSED TECH SECTOR PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

The following proposes projects for your review and feedback. This proposed list is the outcome from the first round of feedback and mapping of resources across the IT Talent Ecosystem, which took place during fall 2019. The projects are aligned with the key opportunities highlighted in the Mid-Tech Strategy Community Campaign.

## Mid-Tech Opportunity

Build a foundation of digital literacy in our community to lay groundwork to position Akron as a tech industry hub and increase access to good and promising tech jobs for Akron's black residents by:

- Increasing the number of black residents in entry-level tech positions that offer a career pathway
- Creating a new pool of untapped talent while adding diversity to the tech workforce
- Supporting companies to upscale entry-level tech staff into higher level tech positions
- Promoting Excel skill development which is a common skill in tech job postings

## Proposed Projects

We will be reviewing and discussing these projects at the February 7 Tech Sector Partnership meeting:

### A. Tapping new talent: Short-term certification/credentialing to entry-level IT careers

- Objectives:**
- Create and strengthen short-term credentialing training to provide under-represented communities and untapped talent access to entry-level IT careers
  - Increase industry engagement through opportunities such as company presentations, site visits, shadowing opportunities, and part/full-time employment
  - Identify opportunities to grow and scale programming building a talent pool to meet regional entry-level/early career IT demand
- Examples:**
- Akron Urban League Ignite IT program (CompTIA A+ certification)
  - Stark County Community Action Agency (Grow with Google IT certification)

### B. R.A.I.S.E. Good Jobs for Greater Akron<sup>1</sup>

- Objectives:**
- A neighborhood-based "roadshow" to deliver quality talent to employers in Summit County, engaging City of Akron and City of Barberton neighborhoods to connect residents with information and opportunities to pursue high-demand, good and promising jobs
  - Special emphasis will be placed on engaging residents in the neighborhoods of Kenmore, West Akron (Buchtel/Perkins Park), South Akron, Summit Lake, East Akron, Sherbondy Hill, and Barberton
  - Position the Job Center and its partners to be the portal through which jobseekers and companies connect and by which jobseekers connect with other career opportunities and wrap around services
- Upcoming:**
- Tue., March 3, 5:30pm-7:30pm: Test run at Buchtel Community Learning Center (CLC)
  - Thu., March 26, 4pm-8pm: Job Fair at Buchtel CLC

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<sup>1</sup> R.A.I.S.E stands for Reach-Access-Inform-Support-Elevate

## C. Careers in IT engagement for K-12 students

- Objectives:**
- Identify opportunities to attract, develop, and strengthen in and out-of-school programming to help area K-12 learn more about IT/tech career pathways
  - Strengthen communication of existing and potential programming and/or opportunities for youth to access IT/technology related learning (e.g., calendar, newsletter) that can be shared with educators, students, families, etc.
  - Increase opportunities for students to engage with industry representatives via presentations, site visits, internships/externships, and/or coaching/mentoring opportunities
- Examples:**
- RITE Passport to IT Careers event/RITE “News to Use”
  - Tech Corps summer programming and hackathon

## D. Bridging the digital divide: Increasing digital connectivity and digital literacy

- Objectives:**
- Identify existing resources focused on digital connectivity, digital literacy, and basic computing/technology training
  - Define opportunities to support existing program with greater wraparound and/or complementary services/programming
- Examples:**
- Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority-PCs for People device distribution events
  - Akron-Summit County Public Library computer training, including mobile computer lab

## E. Tech 101: Professional development/learning series

- Objective:**
- Provide area educators, practitioners, counselors/advisors with information about in-demand IT/tech roles in the region, including required/desired skills and aptitude
- Potential next steps:**
- Identify list of topics with emphasis on entry-level IT careers and demand (e.g., computer support specialist, CompTIA and/or Cisco related certifications, cybersecurity)
  - Identify potential training audience and presenters and timing/frequency

## F. Database: Regional IT/Technology certification and/or degree-based program

- Objective:**
- Create an online reference of regional degree- and certification-based training that links to and/or fulfills education requirements for in-demand IT/tech positions in the region. Information will be compiled into a central database and will be shared with industry representatives for insight and feedback
- Example:**
- ConxusNEO Healthcare Sector Partnership training database