



TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chris Abbuhl – Kerry Metzger – Joe Sciarretti

Commissioners Contribute to Small Business Development Center

On Wednesday, June 18th, the Commissioners approved a \$3,000.00 contribution to the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which has the goal to accelerate business success. Steve Schillig, District Director, attended the meeting not only to request the contribution for Fiscal Year 2019, but to also share some highlights of the SBDC during the previous year.

Some major highlights included:

- For the 8 months of this current fiscal year, we have:
 - Met with 74 clients (76 prior year)
 - Provided 500 counseling hours (534 hours)
 - 10 businesses startups
 - Access to \$1,390,000 in loans and/or capital (\$140,000)
 - 30 jobs created (12) and 65 retained (41)
- Won 2018 Small Business Development Center Excellence in Innovation Award (2nd time in five years)
- Assisted with the transition of a 60 year old business – Midvale Speedway
- Working with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to identify and promote services to minorities, veterans, women, etc.
- Hosted a roundtable with bankers to discuss changes in the SBA's loan policies
- Hosted annual Women in Business Expo

The SBDC also offers several classes including, but not limited to:

- International Trade
- Social Media
- Business Tax Requirements
- Start-up classes with pre-venture clients
- Cybersecurity

Commissioner Abbuhl said he not only appreciated the update, but also the work SBDC does in regards to job creation. Commissioner Abbuhl added that this is money well spent in economic development in Tuscarawas County. Commissioner Sciarretti stated that this underscores the value of the whole idea of economic development, noting that economic development is not merely attracting and starting new business, but assisting those current businesses. Dr. Bill Beisel, of Kent State Tuscarawas, was also in attendance and took a brief moment to express that the SBDC is not only an important part of the community, but also is a widely respected on the campus of Kent State Tuscarawas. Ending his comments fittingly, Dr. Beisel expressed that he is proud to have the SBDC here in Tuscarawas County.