

Chamber aims to enhance local businesses

Paige Chastain joined the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce staff in early 2017 as vice president of workplace development, a new position that is currently part-time. This was a strategic board initiative to respond to the needs of the business community to a survey conducted in February 2017.

Highlights of the survey are as follows:

A. 67 percent of employers were experiencing hiring difficulties.

B. Of these, 41 percent viewed vacant positions as critical to their growth.

C. Top needs are work experience, education and/or training, and technical skills.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

TODD HERZOG



D. 59 percent of the employers cited lack of dependability as the top soft skill lacking.

E. 36 percent of employers reported using overtime to respond to the hiring difficulties.

With the increased emphasis and acceleration of domestic manufacturing growth, the above needs take on much greater importance. Paige,

working closely with Chamber president, Mandy Eller, has a multi-part program in place and coming to squarely address this critical need in our industrial and business community.

STEM SUMMER CAMPS: (STEM = SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH)

Last summer, six one-week summer camps were conducted for a total of 72 students in grades 4-6 involving STEM learning and competition. Warren County guidance counselors assisted with selection of the student participants as well as open applications.



Located on Court Square, the Chamber of Commerce is often a hotbed of activity.

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