



Lake County, Ohio

Board of Commissioners

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Lake County Announces Scholarship Program

The Board of Lake County Commissioners, with support from the Clerk of Courts, announced the Lake County Emergency Services Telecommunicators Scholarship at the March 25, 2021 board meeting. The program will be offered to qualifying students who are enrolled in Auburn Career Center's Emergency Services Telecommunicators Program.

"The Board of Commissioners provided funding in 2020 and have been looking to establish a scholarship program to grow enrollment. The Board of Commissioners have enjoyed a great relationship with Clerk of Courts Faith Andrews. When she was made aware of the initiative, she had no hesitation to provide assistance in this very important public safety need," said Commission President John Hamercheck.

The program is designed to give students the requirements and references needed to obtain the job skills for necessary employment as an Emergency Service Telecommunicator (EST). EST are public safety dispatchers or 911 operators whose duties and responsibilities include answering, receiving, transferring, and dispatching functions related to 911 calls; dispatching law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency; providing real-time information from federal, state, and local crime databases; and supervising or serving as the command officer to a person or persons having such duties and responsibilities.

"This will be a premier program in Ohio and I am grateful to the Clerk of Courts for funding this very important effort. Today's announcements will provide a qualified talent base for local dispatch centers, including Lake County Central Dispatch," said Commissioner John Plecnik.

Society and communications are becoming increasingly more mobile and accessible. With that mobility, the ability to access 9-1-1 services at any time and in any place has become a constant, and the need for consistent minimum training for the telecommunicator has been recognized by the 9-1-1 community. The program is for people who are searching for a career that is Covid proof, helps their community and also helps local law enforcement.

"Lake County has once again shown the strength of community partnerships. Thanks to Auburn Career Center, Clerk of Courts Faith Andrews and the Sheriff's Office for their vision to bring this program to fruition," noted Commissioner Ron Young.

"Auburn Career Center is excited to have the support of the Lake County Commissioners as well as the Clerk of Courts for our new Emergency Services Telecommunicator program. With this generous donation, we will be able to assist candidates with their tuition for this class. The new program meets the needs of the surrounding communities by providing a consistent and comprehensive training program for new telecommunicator dispatchers," said Michelle Rodewald of Auburn Career Center.

Noted Clerk Faith Andrews, "I am thrilled to be able to provide \$20,000 in seed funding to support the scholarship program. The seed money comes from Title surplus because of the hard work of my dedicated staff."

The program includes an internship component that will give students opportunities to shadow and receive hands-on training. Students will have many job opportunities as a result of taking this program. There is a shortage of local dispatchers and already communities are calling Auburn and asking for students.

Auburn looks forward to continuing to meet the needs of the local business community by offering in-demand career training. The next class starts soon! If you are interested in learning more, contact the Adult Workforce office at Auburn Career Center or visit the website at www.auburncc.org.