

# Middlefield-based Mercury Plastics sponsors Geauga Growth Partnership's Youth Programming

- [By Chad Felton cfelton@news-herald.com @believethatcfnh on Twitter](#)



Mercury Plastics \$5,000 grant to Geauga Growth Partnership, Inc. is part of Masco's Million Differences campaign, an initiative in which Masco Corp., through its business units, is allocating \$1 million of its philanthropic funding in 2019 to support organizations across the country working to break down barriers to diversity and inclusion in America's corporate workforce through education or career resources.  
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Mercury Plastics in Middlefield will join Cleveland Foundation, Fairmount Santrol Foundation and The Catherine L. & Edward A. Lozick Foundation in efforts to support [Gauga Growth Partnership's](#) Youth Workforce Development programs.

According to a news release, [Mercury Plastics](#) leads the industry in providing state-of-the-art thermoplastic solutions to a variety of markets including appliance, automotive, construction, medical, offshore oil and plumbing.

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Mercury Plastics President Jay Burnett said the company values the benefits of rising talent with different perspectives and experiences.

"Ensuring that we continually seek and attract diversity in our team is an overall goal within our recruitment strategy," he added. "We look forward to working with GGP and their youth development programs as we strive to enhance our culture as an attractive employer in Northeast Ohio."

Geauga Growth Partnership is a business-led organization dedicated to the retention, growth and attraction of jobs, investment and economic growth in Geauga County.

Its Youth Workforce Development program was created with the mission to "Prepare Tomorrow's Workforce Today," and is comprised of the following:

- Ignite Your Career: Pathways to Success for students (grades 7-12) with parents. Students participate in an evening symposium/job fair with their parents where they are introduced to career pathways by guest professionals and interact one-on-one with employers.
- Eighth-Grade Career Awareness Events: Students attend day-long field trips touring a minimum of three businesses, interacting with workers and learning about job training and skill requirements for various jobs.
- Sophomore Career Readiness: Day-long interactive workshops. Students explore career pathways, learn workplace expectations, and gain soft skills from seasoned professionals.

- Junior Career Readiness Training: Day-long interactive workshops. Students create resumes, participate in mock interviews and gain insights into workplace expectations from guest speakers and a panel of Geauga employers.
- Senior Career Readiness Training: Day-long interactive workshops. Students participate in personality assessments and soft skills training, explore career choices, and learn about the educational and funding options that can lead to future careers.
- High School Internship Program for high school junior and senior students: Students apply for paid summer internships with partnering companies. Students who are successfully placed complete learning workshops hosted by GGP, as well as a paid summer internship experience. This experience broadens their knowledge of business operations and helps them develop an understanding of various industries.

According to the organization, in 2018 alone, more than 1,400 Geauga County students participated in GGP's Youth Workforce training programs. On average, 90 percent of these students reported feeling more prepared to enter the workforce. Additionally, 40 percent of businesses employing interns continue that employment relationship beyond the initial internship period.

The Internship Program's annual economic impact on Geauga is \$80,000, the organization confirms.

Kimm Leininger, president of Geauga Growth Partnership, noted that the group is grateful for the support it's receiving from Mercury Plastics.

"Their sponsorship is opening new doors and new possibilities for kids allowing GGP to provide opportunities to connect Geauga County's youth to the real employment opportunities right in their own backyard," she said. "Mercury Plastics is helping to bridge a critical gap in Geauga County."

For more information, call 440-564-1060, contact [info@geaugagrowth.com](mailto:info@geaugagrowth.com) or visit [www.geaugagrowthpartnership.com](http://www.geaugagrowthpartnership.com).