
The Power in Partnerships

Leveraging a Win! Win! Win! Scenario



The Greater Cincinnati Occupational Health Center
"Protecting workers and their communities"

Brian Griffin

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Brian Griffin joined the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council in August of 2017 as Director of Communication. In that role he was responsible for managing and directing the organization's internal and external communication, creating, and executing the organizations' communication strategies, and serving as a key spokesperson and media contact for the organization.

He brings with him 4 decades of experience in public, private, and non-profit sector management leadership roles, with special emphasis on business reorganization, optimization, communication, marketing. He has an extensive background in Information Technology and visual and electronic communication (Film, Video, Digital Media, and Live Events).

Griffin is Vice Chair of the City of Cincinnati Civil Service Commission and is engaged with several social services and career and technical education organizations. Currently, he serves on the United Way of Greater Cincinnati (UWGC) Board of Directors and Policy Cabinet as well as Fire/EMS Programs Occupational Advisory Committee, Great Oaks Career Campuses and Business Advisory Council, Butler Tech Career Technical Education for High School Students and Adults.

He attended Ohio University where he received his BFA in 1982 and then an interdisciplinary studies master's degree in business & Journalism from the Ohio University Graduate Studies Honors College in 1985. He is a professional vocalist and Music Minister in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He lives in Fairfield, Ohio with his wife Susan.



GCOHC

Introduction and summary

- *Celebrating four decades of service to industry and workers throughout the Midwest, GCOHC is a training center that specializes in emergency response and hazardous worker operations.*
- *We are a wholly owned subsidiary of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council and as such is one of the first labor-sponsored occupational health clinics in the nation.*
- *GCOHC's training program in emergency response and hazardous waste operations is carefully monitored by our Board of Directors, comprised of representatives recognized nationally and internationally in emergency response, hazardous waste operations, and other environmental fields.*



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Why Partnerships?

***"Necessity is
the mother
of invention"***

- The primary driving force behind most innovation is **need!**



Why Partnerships?

When I took over primary responsibility for GCOHC:

- Years behind on MWC Paperwork and basic program compliance matters
- Program training was at an all-time low in our nearly four-decade history
- Experienced available program trainers had dwindled down to few
- Due to an untimely and sudden transition in Labor Council Leadership, GCOHC training center leadership was uninformed and unengaged in meeting MWC Program minimal requirements
- In short: What we didn't know was killing us!



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Why Partnerships?

- **Build / rebuild your program** faster, cheaper, easier
- **Ready access to training facilities** that have a vested interest in partnering for the good of their institution and their students
- **Ready access to greater numbers of trainers** already providing training in disciplines that require emergency response and hazardous waste operations
- **Ready access to greater numbers of students** already needing training in emergency response and hazardous waste operations
- **Win! Win! Win!**
 - You win...The Partner Institution Wins... and most importantly, the training recipient wins with a higher level of job and career readiness – More competitive!



Career Readiness, Technical Education Programs, and Community Colleges



Mutual Interest, Shared Opportunities

- *Both Organizations are seeking the same prospective students*
- *Both Organizations have shared interest in Skills-based, career readiness training*
- *Both Organizations provide knowledge, skills and abilities students want and need to excel in the tasks, duties and responsibilities of their career choice.*
- *Both Organizations are acting with the Students best interests in mind*
- *Win! Win! Win! You – The Training Partner – and most importantly, the students*

Labor Apprenticeship Partnerships

Meeting key needs of Labor Apprenticeship Programs:

- *Partnerships must meet the needs of all parties involved in the system in order to be successful.*
- *Partnerships help Labor Unions recruit and retain members; boost service quality; or reduce costs.*

Indeed, these goals are particularly important as employers confront a wave of retirement among Baby Boomers.

For unionized workers, apprentice program partnerships help

- Expand recruitment opportunities;
- Allow members to advance in careers and obtain higher pay;
- Benefit workers in another meaningful way

Finally, using apprentice program training partnerships help

- Expand workforce diversity
- Helps both unions and government because it allows unionized workers of color to advance in their careers
- Expands access to high-quality public services for residents by ensuring that the workforce better reflects the diversity of the communities it serves.

