



**OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE
CENTER ASSOCIATION**

***“Outstanding Leadership Award”
(Community Service)***

MARK LAMONCHA

Marrying public education with business manufacturing is being spearheaded by Mark Lamoncha. He is changing the face of education by embracing STEM learning in a unique way. Mark’s company, Humtown Products in Leetonia and Columbiana Ohio, utilizes molds that are 3-D printed. This industrial 3-D printing uses sand rather than traditional plastic. Mark also collaborates with America Makes, a leader in revolutionizing additive manufacturing and 3-D printing technology where the mission is to accelerate this technology in the United States to increase competitiveness. This technology comes with challenges and this is where Mark saw a unique opportunity to infiltrate the educational process in Columbiana County in a big way.

Mark’s knowledge and experience has allowed him to put problem solving techniques in the hands of young students with a breakout program in Crestview Local School District in Columbiana, Ohio. His partnership with SilverApple, a learning community that provides cohorts of educators and their community and/or industry partners an opportunity to explore and implement instructional practices into their classrooms, brought problem based learning to 3rd and 4th grade students tasked with creating a solution for removing excess sand from molds. When solutions proved challenging for his company, Mark decided to partner with the school system where he challenged students to collaborate with one another, study, and design ideas that could be an integral starting point to building a real time solution.

Mark’s overwhelming contribution to education is additionally shown by his commitment to Ohio as a State School Board member. He was a founding member of the Columbiana County Educational Service Center’s Business Advisory Council and attends monthly county superintendent meetings where he gains knowledge on the needs and concerns in Columbiana County’s school districts. This collaboration also allows Mark the opportunity to share updates from the Ohio Department of Education with a willingness to work together for real solutions. His contributions are leading the path to new methods in learning.

Mark Lamoncha is the President and CEO of Humtown Products. Originally a pattern shop for the metal-casting industry, Humtown was doing a significant amount of work for the railroad industry across the country in 2010. When coal deliveries diminished in 2014, the company reinvented itself and embraced 3D printing and additive manufacturing to make sand cores for metal casting in addition to conventional manufacturing.

Humtown’s success has offered Mark the opportunity to be an integral part of the community. He continues to be a sponsor for the Columbiana County Educational Service Center’s Kids STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) University where

students grades preschool through fifth can come together with schools, community partners, and local businesses for a day of activities and learning. This educational event has shown tremendous success and that is thanks to partnerships like Humtown Products. Mark's business is also an exhibitor at this event as he values hands-on education and interacting with the students in the surrounding communities. Mark has hosted local teachers at both of his business locations for summer professional development opportunities. He has also hosted county administrative meetings for county principals.

Nominated by Anna Marie Vaughn, Columbiana County ESC
November 11, 2019