



Make It Happen! Volume 3 Issue 2 June 2024

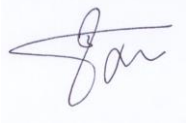
Dear friend,

Welcome to this issue of "Make It Happen." Let's begin with the inspiring stories of two remarkable individuals, Mike MacLeod and Tasha Werry, who truly embody the spirit of making things happen. Though they may not know each other, they share an unwavering passion for the younger generation. Both Mike and Tasha are on a dedicated mission to make it safer and easier for young people to learn and grow. As you glance through the list of our past workshops and events, please recognize that



our successes would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our program mentors and friends. We owe a heartfelt thank you to Nathaniel Berger, Michael Bond, Brett Burns, Bobby Rosenstock, Grant Schneider, Leah Seaman, Suzanne Schultz, Bill Wilkinson, Mike Workman, and Tres Ross. These individuals, along with our program sponsors and other mentors and members of our advisory board, have been instrumental in offering the diverse range of workshops and competitions that we do. To each of you, my sincere gratitude for your dedication and support. If you feel inspired to share your expertise with us and contribute to this meaningful mission, please don't hesitate to reach out. A simple email to khorassj@marietta.edu is all it takes.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Khorassani, Ph.D.
Senior Director

IN THE SHADE OF SAFETY: THE LEGACY OF MIKE MACLEOD

By: Laura Hartman**

It was 1975, and the students of Walnut Springs Junior High in Westerville, Ohio eagerly anticipated career day. Mike MacLeod sat in Mabel Griffith's 7th-grade class, unaware that his future was about to change. The accountant had been dull, the mailman uninteresting, and even the fireman failed to captivate him. But then a forester, a man of the woods, took the stage and MacLeod was instantly captivated.



This newfound fascination with forestry stayed with Mike as he grew up, but it was not his only passion. MacLeod's love of athletics led him to Marietta College where he excelled in football and baseball. In 1983, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Three months later, he married his childhood sweetheart, Susan.

While Susan supported Mike's love of forestry, she wasn't keen on a life away from civilization. However, Mike was determined to leverage what he had spent the last four years studying. Since telecommunications was one of the top users of forest products (telephone poles), MacLeod felt called to work there.

His first job out of college was with Norstan, a reseller of IBM phone systems. He quickly realized that the skills he'd learned at Marietta were applicable beyond the trees. His success at Norstan caught the eye of Comdial, a manufacturer of the systems that Norstan sold.

From 1987 to 1995, MacLeod worked his way through the ranks of Comdial. When the company added an arm designing telecommunications software, he was tasked with leading the new venture. Comdial Enterprise Solutions (CES) was born in 1996.

Under Mike's leadership, CES launched software aimed at enhancing customer sales. One of their most successful ventures was the Fast Call solution for Domino's Pizza, promising your pizza on your doorstep in 30 minutes or it was free.

CES was thriving in April of 1999 when the nation came to a standstill over the unthinkable horrors at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Like all Americans, MacLeod was devastated. Watching the events unfold, it occurred to him that the information flowing into the 911 center was doing nothing to help the people still inside the school. He realized that true first responders are the people who are still able to help inside a building when a crisis happens.

Using his core competency, Computer Telephony Integration (CTI), he knew he needed to create a universal middleware-embedded alert server that would give real-time situational awareness to teachers and administrators, allowing them to make informed, life-saving decisions.

MacLeod shared this with Comdial's leadership, but they weren't interested. Schools didn't have money; it was too risky. Never one to have risk aversion, he stepped down from Comdial, told Susan and his kids that things might be tight for a while, and got to work in the basement.

His goal was to offer life-saving solutions. He recognized that his innovations would also protect property and assets, but his true passion had always been about safeguarding people. He set out to revolutionize situational awareness by leveraging middleware technology. MacLeod named his company [Status Solutions](#), aiming to break down the barriers of the status quo.

Like a true forester, MacLeod developed a thirty-year plan broken down into decades. He would begin with Status Education then Status Healthcare and finally Status Commercial. Somewhere early on he realized "a room is a room is a room," and providing situational awareness for a space, whether it's a classroom or a retail space doesn't change anything. He named his solution [Situational Awareness and Response Assistant](#), or simply SARA.

Shortly after SARA was released MacLeod developed his next solution, [Communication and Access To Information Everywhere](#), or CATIE. With that, the little sister suite was born. CATIE Portal was initially designed to keep residents in senior living facilities engaged with the world. It was to empower them to be active in their communities and empower their caretakers to interact with them. Today CATIE has evolved.

In senior living, CATIE Portal is an in-room tool and even offers a way for facilities to increase their revenue with advertising opportunities. CATIE Web provides users access to much of the same information found in CATIE Portal but on residents' personal devices. CATIE TV is a digital signage application displaying information in common areas. All of the CATIE solutions have evolved beyond senior living and are applicable in all industries.

The latest evolution, [CATIE Mobile](#), is a 7-time award-winning school safety application that allows teachers to call for help with the tap of a button on their phone. It allows for student mustering, safety check-ins for crisis management, and simple things like a custodian. *In July of 2024, CATIE Mobile will also be launching an event application.*

MacLeod, still unsatisfied with his efforts to thwart the Grim Reaper, introduced a third sister to the solution suite, this time focusing on prevention. Drawing on his forestry analytics skills, he introduced: MIMI, [Merging Information into Meaningful Insights](#).

MIMI, utilized in senior living and schools, analyzes pertinent data to offer insights into communities and individuals. Its advanced analytics detect mood and behavioral changes, facilitating early intervention for depression and assisting individuals before they pose harm to themselves or others.

As Status Solutions grew and the years passed, MacLeod grew frustrated that despite his best efforts children and teachers still went to school and didn't always make it home to their families. He spoke with parents who lost their children in these senseless tragedies and he realized something had to be done to ensure that schools could afford the safety measures needed.

In 2022, MacLeod launched his boldest endeavor yet, [Status Solutions Network](#) (SSN) a franchised business whose sole purpose is to fund school safety. It works like this: Status Solutions [grants the use](#) of its core solution, SARA, to any school that wishes to use it. There are no lengthy grant applications to fill out and no large invoices to pay.

Once a school or district has accepted the granted use of SARA, the SSN crew gets to work finding a local entrepreneur to run the program. This franchisee finds local businesses to become SSN members who are then advertised on various Status Solutions platforms, listed on a local directory and a national directory. Fifty percent of those membership fees are then given to the school to offset the cost of additional safety measures. The families in the district are happy to patronize the businesses that pay to keep their students and teachers safe. Businesses grow, schools get funding, and students are kept safe. Everyone wins.

Always willing to take a risk on youth, MacLeod is offering Marietta graduates ownership of their own SSN franchise. With no investment upfront, he'll train individuals who want to be a part of his Better Citizens Bureau by helping secure funding to protect students and teachers. He believes that the next generation will be the ones to change the world.

"I just want to provide shade for people. Let them work and learn in places where they feel safe," MacLeod said. As the third decade of his 30-year plan unfolds the forester isn't slowing down any time soon. "The next part of the journey is underway, and we've got a lot to accomplish."

If you're interested in an SSN Franchise, please email info@statusolutionsnetwork.com.

*Mike MacLeod '83 is the CEO/Founder of Status Solutions. **Laura Hartman is the Director of Community Engagement at Status Solutions.

FROM PROBLEMS TO POSSIBILITIES: A PATH FORWARD

By: Tasha Werry*

Adapting to change has been a constant in my life, thanks to my father's military career and the diverse roles I've embraced over the years. This adaptability fuels my belief that everyone, whether a student or an adult, deserves the opportunity to experience success.

My career has been a tapestry of roles that span teaching, administration, and community engagement work. I started as a classroom teacher at Marietta City Schools, teaching various grades and subjects. Once I gained experience with teaching, I was willing to take on more responsibilities within the school, which propelled me into leadership roles. While my interests didn't include being a principal or superintendent, I did want to do more to support my students and fellow teachers. From 2011 to 2016, I coordinated Marietta City Schools' "Race to the Top" and "Teacher Incentive Fund" initiatives and served as the "Young Entrepreneur Consortium Fund Coordinator" from 2014 to 2019. The "Ohio Appalachian Collaborative (OAC)" project was the springboard for these federal and state grants and was something that I think still has a profound effect on the school districts and educators that were involved.

In 2012, I became a member of a county-level group called the "Teen Career Awareness Initiative" and learned about grass roots efforts that can make a difference. This experience combined with my participation in the OAC, the implementation of the federal grants, and my desire to encourage adults in the area to truly engage with students in our schools led to the founding of "Building Bridges to Careers (BB2C)" that year. I served as the facilitator of BB2C until 2017, and became the Executive Director when it was incorporated as a 501c3.



Change in Perspective

When I worked at the middle school, my principal expected all teachers to be a part of a committee. The last year I was there, I realized that there wasn't a committee that I felt the need to join. I was entering my fifth year of teaching and was beginning to understand the difficulty of students who lack resources. I decided to create my own committee, the "Mentor Committee". The main idea was for students to have a mentor from the community that would visit them once a week and inspire them somehow. Naturally, the first year of the program didn't pan out that way. Basically, it was an after-school program that provided snacks and focused on practicing math facts. However, it provided those students with extra attention and support. The next year, the district consolidated and I was placed in third grade in one of the elementary schools. I continued

the pursuit of the "Mentor Program" with my new colleagues. As things do, it progressed over the next several years and became ingrained in the school's culture.

My naivete, paired with a desire to do more was really the impetus for the changes that would come in my life after this experience.

Moments in Time

Our district hired a new superintendent in the fall of 2010, this being our district's fifth superintendent since I was hired. In the meantime, our district had become a member of the OAC, and was implementing the first year of "Race to the Top (RTTT)" and "Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF)" grant requirements. Out of necessity, a grant coordinator's position was created to help organize and fulfill the many initiatives of the grants. This position was taken in March 2011 by the middle school assistant principal at the time. Both grants required a district committee composed of 50% teachers and 50% administrators. I was a part of the TIF committee due to my position on the District Leadership Team. By May of 2011, the superintendent had already accepted a new position elsewhere and the newly hired RTTT/TIF coordinator moved to an elementary principal position. Someone had to be the new coordinator. Things seemed to be falling apart. Everyone from the board president down was anxious about next steps. I was asked to be the new coordinator.

Making this decision was as hard as making the decision to date my husband when we first met. I knew it would lead to bigger things. I am not sure how I knew, but I did. **I guess you just have to trust the strange feeling you get in your stomach.**

Everyone Needs a Mentor

As mentioned, once I gained teaching experience I started to look up from what I was doing and began to see things that I didn't know were there. I wrote my first grant after my 3rd year teaching fifth grade math and science. I wanted a document camera and I had learned about writing grants from a colleague who had success with this. So, I wrote a grant and it worked! This propelled me into the grant world, which naturally led me to connect with the Marietta College Academic Grants Officer, Beth McNally, in 2009. As mentioned, the next year was rather pivotal for me. Once I stepped into my new role, Beth appointed herself as my mentor. Thank goodness!!! I had no idea what I was doing, and neither did anyone else in the school district. She was even the person that determined I should pursue an educational doctorate. I didn't even know what a dissertation really was! Her guidance and leadership were exactly what I needed. Because of this, I have appointed myself as a mentor to others in my life, which I am sure I wouldn't have done had it not happened to me.

Leadership and Grants

Leadership roles have been a significant part of my career. I have served, and still serve, on multiple boards and committees and was a fellow at the Appalachian Leadership Institute". My

involvement in strategic planning for workforce development and career readiness reflects my commitment to fostering connections between education and industry. "However, my heart strives for all of this because I want to make genuine connections between community adults and students that will help the village raise our children.

I've successfully secured grants from prestigious organizations, including the "*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*" and the "*Martha Holden Jennings Foundation*". These funds have supported initiatives like the "*(MC)² Science Collaborative*" and various community service projects, enhancing educational experiences and community engagement. And, BB2C would not have come to fruition without these grant experiences.

Stay Open to Change

Throughout my journey, I have remained steadfast in my belief that people have the power to bridge gaps and create opportunities. Stay open to change. You never know where the change will lead you.

*Tasha Werry is the Executive Director at [Building Bridges to Careers](#)

NEWS & EVENTS RECAP

March 12, 2024

Life After Graduation Miniseries: Part 1 – Managing Debt

With: **Brett Burns '15, CPA, CGFM**
Advisory Senior Manager
[Perry & Associates](#)



March 19, 2024

Life After Graduation Miniseries: Part 2 – Budgeting

**With: Brett Burns '15, CPA, CGFM
Advisory Senior Manager
Perry & Associates**



**March 21, 2024 Dexko Global
Info Session and Hiring**
**With: Danean Whipkey
Vice President – Human Resources**
[DexKo Global](#)



March 26, 2024

Life After Graduation Miniseries: Part 3 – Employment Documents

**With: Caprice Hudson, SHRM-SCP, CPSP
Director of Human Resources
Marietta College**



April 11, 2024

Status Solutions Information Session

With: Hannah Dubec

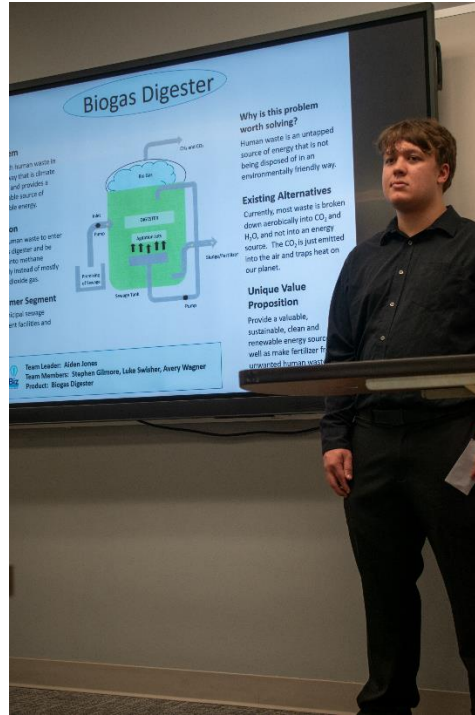
Human Resource Coordinator at Status Solutions



April 11, 2024

Junior PioBiz Poster Competition

A Problem/Solution Competition for High School Students



The picture above shows Luke Swisher, a member of the top award-winning team from Waterford High School, presenting *Biogas Digester Dome*. Other team members were Aiden Jones, Avery Wagner, and Stephen Gilmore.



The picture above shows the Competition Judges and the Competitors

April 16, 2024

Dos and Don'ts of Resume Writing

With: Bill Wilkinson

Owner of the [Mid Ohio Valley Employment](#)



April 18, 2024

PioBiz Competition

Round 2: Proof of Concept



In the picture above, Jared Farnsworth '23, the first-place award winner, presents his Appalachia Mobile Health Project. Jared graduated with a major in Health Science.



The picture above shows the competition winners with judges.

April 25, 2024

End of the Year Award Ceremony and Networking



Above: Kaitlyn Gough '25, describes the experiential education project for which she received a grant. For more information [click here](#).



Liam Sherman '25, the recipients of the Nancy Dare Luce '76 Experiential Learning Award, is receiving valuable advice from Leah Seaman, a member of CECD Advisory Board and a mentor. For more information on Summer Experiential Education Endowed Awards, [click here](#).



Above: Jared Farnsworth '23 and Alexis Sommers '24, the first and second-place PioBiz award winners with President Margaret Drugovich. For more information on this competition, [visit here](#).



Despite her busy schedule, Provost Kathleen Dougherty joined the celebration too.



Gabe Slotter, the recipient of the [Greene Scholarship](#) with Bobby Rosenstock, a member of CECD Advisory Board and a mentor.



Many thanks to [Qdoba](#) for donating their Hot Bar was extremely popular.



Great food, nice conversation!



Peer mentoring!



Mentor-faculty collaboration!

Fall 2024

Upcoming Professional Development Events

10
SEPT

Speed Connect

Upgrade your networking skills. This event is an opportunity to meet your fellow faculty and community members who are available to support you.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
The Great Room

19
SEPT

PioBiz Workshop

Join our workshop on preparing for Round 1 of the PioBiz Competition on December 5 and learn how you can win cash prizes.

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Thomas 327

24
SEPT

Job Market Prep Mini-Series

PART ONE: RESUME & COVER LETTER CREATION

Learn how to effectively build a resume and cover letter tailored to you.

12:20 PM - 12:50 PM
Thomas 209

8
OCT

Job Market Prep Mini-Series

PART TWO: INTERVIEW COACHING

This is a chance to hone your interview skills while learning to think like a recruiter or hiring manager.

12:20 PM - 12:50 PM
Thomas 209

22
OCT

Job Market Prep Mini-Series

PART THREE: MOCK INTERVIEW

Once you have learned how to prepare for an interview you will get a chance to practice responding to questions.

12:20 PM - 12:50 PM
Thomas 209

14
NOV

BIG Workshop

This is a great opportunity to enhance the knowledge gained from your courses and expand your professional network.

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Various Rooms

5
DEC

PioBiz Competition

Problem Solution Poster Competition.

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Gathering Place



**REGISTRATION
ON HANDSHAKE**

Questions email:
cc@marietta.edu

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

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It is, in part, due to the generosity of our sponsors that we can offer our cocurricular and extracurricular events and workshops to the community either free of charge or at a discount. We do this because our goal is to build a network of young and seasoned entrepreneurs that together create economic, social, and environmental values through collaboration and cooperation. [Read More.](#)

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