

Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel's new role: Tackling Ohio's workforce barriers

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COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel is getting a new playbook.

The [former Ohio State football coach](#) was put in charge of "Ohio's Workforce Playbook," an initiative Gov. Mike DeWine announced during his annual State of the State speech on Wednesday.

"Ohio's Workforce Playbook is really the logical extension of our economic success," DeWine said. It will "help clear the barriers holding Ohioans back" from employment.

It also will be regionally focused. DeWine said Tressel will identify job needs and education/skill requirements for different areas across the state. He will work with higher education institutions, career and technical schools, state agencies and businesses to assemble strategies to meet local needs.

"He knows education. He knows workforce, and he knows Ohio," DeWine said of Tressel, who was the president of Youngstown State University for nine years.

The role is at least tangentially related to the one former Lt. Gov. now Sen. Jon Husted held in DeWine's administration. Husted focused on career tech and workforce development.

Husted left the administration in January after [DeWine appointed him](#) to now-Vice President JD Vance's U.S. Senate seat.

Ohio's Workforce Playbook isn't Tressel only new assignment. DeWine said he wants the former football coach to "lead a statewide initiative to promote fitness in our schools."

The governor did not offer additional details, saying "more on that to come."