



**DATE:** October 12, 2010

**CONTACT:** Rebecca J. Guzy Woodford  
Senior Vice President

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Greater Akron Chamber Wins Economic Development Award**

The Greater Akron Chamber received a 2010 Excellence in Economic Development Honorable Mention Award in recognition of its Summit Business Partnership program. Richard Rebadow, Executive Vice President for the Greater Akron Chamber was presented the award at the International Economic Development Council's (IEDC) Annual Conference on September 26-29, 2010.

The IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognize the world's best economic development programs and partnerships, marketing materials, and the year's most influential leaders. These 28 awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Winners are recognized at IEDC's Annual Conference.

The Summit Business Partnership recently celebrated its seventh anniversary by conducting its 1,750th business visitation. The Chamber is proud to be one of the initial supporters of the Summit Business Partnership – Summit County's business retention and expansion program designed to promote economic development by assisting companies already located in our community. Over the past several years, the program has effectively brought the public and private sectors together to promote economic development.

By working closely with a network of key regional stakeholders, including the Akron Urban League, Cascade Capital Corporation, City of Akron, Dominion East Ohio, FirstEnergy, Kent State University, MAGNET, NEOTEC, Job Center, Ohio Department of Development, Summit County Port Authority, The University of Akron and the United States Department of Commerce, the Summit Business Partnership has assisted companies – both large and small – with economic development issues at the local, state and federal levels.

–more–

**Serving Medina, Portage & Summit Counties**

Since the program was initiated in September 2003, 940 individual businesses have been visited by the Summit Business Partnership. During 2009, 281 companies were visited by an economic development outreach professional. These companies represent an employment level in excess of 15,000.

Currently, 22 communities throughout Summit County are partners in the program. Participating communities include Akron, Barberton, Boston Heights, Clinton, Coventry, Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn, Green, Hudson, Macedonia, Mogadore, Munroe Falls, New Franklin, Northfield, Norton, Reminderville, Richfield, Springfield, Stow, Tallmadge, Twinsburg and Twinsburg Township.

“The Summit Business Partnership is more than just another program. It is an economic development initiative that has identified investment opportunities that have led to the creation of well-paying jobs in our community,” stated Richard Rebadow. “It is our intention to work with our partners to expand the program over the next 12 to 18 months.”

For additional information on the Summit Business Partnership, please feel free to contact Sheri Shields, Manager of Business Development at the Greater Akron Chamber at either (330) 237-1209 or [shields@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:shields@greaterakronchamber.org).

###

***The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to drive economic development and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron Region.***



Left to Right: William Best, FM – Chairman of the IEDC Board of Directors; Richard Rebadow – Executive Vice President, Greater Akron Chamber; Gregg Cramer – Vice President, Economic Development, Greater Akron Chamber; and Timothy Solomon, CEcD – Chairman of the IEDC Awards Task Force.