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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Chamber Sponsors Trip-of-a-Lifetime China Tour in April 2010

The ancient Chinese culture is responsible for the inventions of gunpowder, fireworks, ice cream and pasta. Today, it is increasingly becoming a modern economic powerhouse. Both China and the United States are undeniably tied together through commerce, and these trips are a chance for business people and American citizens to experience this remarkable nation firsthand.

In April 2009, the Greater Akron Chamber hosted their first trip to China, attracting 73 guests. Due to the overwhelming demand for reservations, the Chamber organized two trips for 230 guests in October. The initiative to offer these tours to China began with the expectation that business people would travel there to explore business opportunities. Soon, however, it was clear that China appealed to a far broader base than just those within the business world and that there was an opportunity for cultural emersion as well as the chance to bolster business.

This Chamber-sponsored trip included all of the usual tourist attractions. The group not only traveled to Beijing, but also to Suzhou, Hangzhou and China's center of commerce, Shanghai. Travelers experienced the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City and the Ming Emperor's Tombs.

There were low-cost optional events to attend, including the Peking Opera House and an evening cruise on the Huangpu River. There was also the optional Hutong tour in Beijing where participants were offered the chance to take a rickshaw ride to visit with a modern Chinese family and experience their lifestyle. An optional tour to Xi'an to visit the Terra Cotta Warriors was offered to the fall schedule. This extra excursion was designed for those individuals returning for a second trip, but open to first-time guests as well.

"The trip was unbelievable," said a participant. Victor and Patricia Voinovich, who went on the trip, added "The professionalism and organization displayed before and during the trip were extraordinary. This trip was the best of its kind that we had ever been on. The accommodations, scheduling, logistics, value proposition and professionalism were outstanding. You guys accomplished something very unique in today's world – you under-promised and over-delivered."

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Because the trip was a group expedition sponsored by the Chamber and attended mostly by Northeast Ohio residents, the experience was much less intimidating than it would be going alone.

Once again, the Chamber is offering two trips to China in the Spring of 2010: **April 9-17, 2010, and April 10-18, 2010.** This 9-day tour is only \$2,099 per person (based on double occupancy). The price includes round-trip airfare from JFK airport, three full meals a day, English-speaking tour guides, transportation to and from every destination (including a shuttle to JFK from Akron) and 4-star and 5-star hotel rooms. The registration deadline for the April 2010 trips is **EXTENDED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9;** at which time, all payments are due. Mainland base fare is \$2,099, and a current passport, valid through October 16, 2010, plus a Chinese Visa are required. Contact the Greater Akron Chamber at (330) 434-SAVE for details or visit the Chamber's web site at [www.greaterakronchamber.org](http://www.greaterakronchamber.org).

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