



**2009 – 2010 PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AGENDA
Volume XIV**

OUR MISSION

To drive economic development and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron region.

Invest in Human Capital

Develop our workforce to meet the needs of businesses by enhancing the education, training, and workforce development programs of the public school system; higher education institutions and other available resources.

a. Workforce Development

- i. Support the attraction and retention of a talented workforce. The Chamber will continue to collaborate with partners in efforts to advocate for policies and funding that will build a diverse and skilled regional workforce including apprentice, co-op, internship and skills retraining programs.
- ii. Support programs that align employee skills to business needs by supporting public and private efforts to bridge employment disparity.
- iii. Continue advocacy leadership on enhancing the urban core to retain and attract emerging talent/young professionals.

b. Education (P-16)

- i. Continue to support the National Inventors Hall of Fame School...Center for Science, Engineering, Technology and Math learning middle school.
- ii. Support the creation of a STEM based high school to compliment the STEM middle school.
- iii. Continue to work with community leadership on creating a program to fund a post secondary scholarship program.
- iv. Support policy to transform our education system to develop students to meet the challenges of employment in a 21st Century economy. The system would include implementation of ACT testing for all high students and curriculum alignment at all levels of education.
- v. Encourage communities, schools, and governments to work together to fund public education for the economic success of the region.