

# directions

## GREATER AKRON CHAMBER'S 103RD ANNUAL MEETING

# the power of partners

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We Rock!

The Greater Akron Chamber celebrated the lifetime achievements and outstanding visionary leadership displayed by Don Misheff of Ernst & Young. More than 750 people attended the 103rd Annual Meeting in March at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. After a welcome, Chamber President and CEO Dan Colantone introduced the Summa Health System Color Guard and the Boy Scouts of America for the presentation of the flags. Carla Davis, vocalist and Marketing Communications Director for the Akron-Summit County Library, sang an inspirational a cappella rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Chairman and CEO of ASW Global, LLC., delivered the invocation, recognizing the successes of the organization and area which are due to the region's "courageous leaders."

The theme of this year's meeting was "The Power of Partners; Together We Rock," honoring the importance of partnership in economic development.

"We are so proud of the continued relationships we have with each of these organizations," Colantone said. "You can't be successful in economic development if you don't leverage and link with all else that is going on. Everyone is working in alignment." Colantone thanked key sponsors and all individuals and companies who purchased tables, tickets of sponsorship and silent auction donors.

The meeting included a Silent Auction of more than 75 donated items which raised more than \$15,000.

Dave Brockman announced that BCG & Co. was making a \$4,000 donation to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank in the

name of Don Misheff to honor his dedication to the community and to "help put food on the tables of those who truly need it."

Members also honored Virginia Albanese, the new elected Chair of the Chamber. Albanese is the President and CEO of FedEx Custom Critical and the first ever woman Chair of the Chamber. While expressing her gratitude and excitement about her position, Albanese also emphasized her vision to reach out to members and investors to commit strong communication with the Chamber.



L to R: Don Misheff, Virginia Albanese and Tom Strauss.

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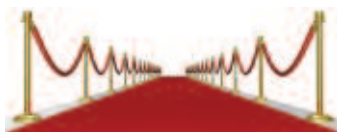
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# economic DEVELOPMENT

## CHAMBER RECEIVED UNIVERSITY PARK alliance award



The Greater Akron Chamber was one of nine award recipients during the 2010 University Park Alliance (UPA) awards held at The University of Akron (UA) Student Union Conference Center. The program, sponsored by Dominion Foundation, recognizes outstanding community members, businesses, institutions and service agencies, as well as UA students, faculty and staff, for their contributions to the revitalization of the University Park neighborhood surrounding the University. Proceeds of the event benefit the UPA's scholarship fund for long-term residents of the University Park neighborhood.

The Chamber was recognized as a neighborhood champion award winner for highlighting the area as a priority within its "Advance Akron" strategic plan along with promoting it in its 2009-10 economic development and relocation guides. The Chamber was also a supporting sponsor of UPA's 2010 Urban Innovators Speaker Series which featured nationally recognized speakers.

Paul Grogen, Urban Revitalization Expert and President and CEO of the Boston Foundation,

delivered the keynote address. Grogen became chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY) system on June 1. The GAR Foundation, The Andrew Jackson House and The University of Akron's Infocision Stadium – Summa Field were among the other recipients of the "Neighborhood Investor" award.

The mission of University Park Alliance is to revitalize and transform the diverse University Park neighborhood, a 50-block area immediately surrounding The University of Akron, through engaging the community and leveraging real estate and business investment. UPA was established through a major grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and is comprised of partners including The University of Akron, the City of Akron, Summa Health System, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Health System, Akron Beacon Journal, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, the Greater Akron Chamber, Akron Public Schools and the University Park Development Corporation.

## AKRON AND LE MANS build partnership

While many in the United States were busy studying the French healthcare system, a city and university in France wanted to learn something from Greater Akron: how universities can be drivers of economic development. At the invitation of the City of Le Mans and the Universite du Maine in western France, The University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF) sent representatives Barry Rosenbaum and Gordon Schorr to France to conduct a series of meetings on town-gown economic development. The two men discussed how UARF has worked successfully with the City of Akron, Greater Akron Chamber, The University of Akron and local entrepreneurs to create a symbiotic, vibrant economic model.

In response, the Universite du Maine led a delegation to Akron for three days of meetings with a number of local leaders, including U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan (D-Niles), Summit County Executive Russ Pry, Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic, Dr. Frank Douglas, Chief Executive of the Austen BioInnovation Institute, and Rick Rebadow, Executive Vice President of the Greater Akron Chamber. In addition, the deans from The University of Akron Schools of Engineering and Polymer Science provided an overview of their respective programs and the discoveries emerging from their research. There was a bit of time for fun too: the French delegation took a ride in one of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company's famous blimps.

As a result of these meetings, Mayor Plusquellic is exploring ways in which the City of Le Mans and the City of Akron could forge friendly and productive relationships in business and culture in the future. The Universite du Maine has received the documents necessary to create a French version of the UARF, and a partnership between the Akron Global Business Accelerator and an incubator planned for Le Mans is being explored.



City of Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic and City of Le Mans Mayor Jean-Claud Boulard pose for a picture during the French delegation to Akron.

## MAYOR PLUSQUELLIC RECOGNIZED FOR trade initiatives



Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic was recognized in June by the Israeli-American Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's Annual Award Gala Dinner held in Israel at the residence of the Hon. James B. Cunningham.

Mayor Plusquellic joined hundreds of chamber members, Israel's leading businessmen, and business delegations from Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio and Texas.

The keynote address, delivered by Minister Ben Eliezer, emphasized the

importance of business relations between Israel and United States, which he said have benefited the entire globe by enhancing the quality of, and saving of, lives, thanks to investments in medical devices, Internet technology and energy-saving products.

Plusquellic was honored for promoting trade relations between Akron – and other U.S. cities – and Israel.

For more information on Akron's trade relationship with Israel, go to: [www.ci.akron.oh.us/news\\_releases/2006/0219.htm](http://www.ci.akron.oh.us/news_releases/2006/0219.htm).

## CHAMBER HOSTS ANNUAL economic development FORUM



A crowd of approximately 100 economic development professionals from throughout the region attended the Greater Akron Chamber's sixth annual 2010 Economic Development Forum.

The program was sponsored by Roetzel & Andress for the second consecutive year, and it highlighted the Chamber's 2009-10 economic development activities. More than 30 different organizations from both the public and private sectors were in attendance.

Laith Wardi, President and Del Birch, Vice President of ExecutivePulse, Inc. provided the feature presentation on the fundamentals of a modern business retention and expansion programs.

"During the recession, Summit County enjoyed a distinct competitive advantage because of its well-established business retention program that was ready to assist firms impacted by the economic downturn," stated Birch. "The Summit County Department of Community and Economic Development, the Greater Akron Chamber and their local partners should be commended for their long-standing commitment to assist existing businesses in good times and bad. There is a clear understanding in Summit County that local businesses drive investment, job growth and overall economic prosperity."

Special Agent Michael K. Maltbie, a 21-year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation addressed the emerging counterterrorism and national security issues that American companies face both at home and abroad. He focused his presentation on ways to protect American companies from being a victim of international espionage.

"This event continues to be one of the premier networking events for economic development professionals in the region," stated Rick Rebadow, Executive Vice President for the Greater Akron Chamber. "One of the primary reasons the Chamber hosts this forum is to give our partners from Medina, Portage and Summit Counties the opportunity to collaborate, network and share best practices with one another."

## companies emerging FROM The University of Akron

Over the past several years, the Greater Akron Chamber has worked with The University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF) on the successful commercialization of University of Akron developed technology. As a result of these efforts, the local economy has become more diversified due to its focus on emerging markets.

"Currently, we have 37 start-ups in various stages of the business cycle," stated John Myers, Entrepreneurship Outreach Specialist for the Greater Akron Chamber and Executive in Residence at The University of Akron Research Foundation. "From established companies such as Akron Polymer Systems to our most recent effort KDNYX, The University of Akron is graduating a large number of entrepreneurs."

Akron Polymer Systems was founded in 2002 by University of Akron professors Dr. Stephen Cheng and Dr. Frank Harris. The company is currently located in a 20,000 square-foot facility within the Biomedical Corridor in Downtown Akron. With the \$3 million investment, the company is expected to expand to more than 40 employees within five years. Among other applications, Akron Polymer Systems develops materials for biomedical devices.

Since its inception in February, 2010, KIDNYX has made much progress in its quest to become a stand-alone company. Dr. Thien Kyu invented a polymer filter that reduces the stress on the blood that occurs during hemodialysis. The first phase of invitro testing has shown that the new filter membrane does less measurable damage to the blood. KIDNYX has developed its business plan, established the corporate structure and is in the initial stages of financing. It is the company's intention to commence with a second round of testing during the third or fourth quarters.

For more information on Technology Transfer, please feel free to contact Sue Dollinger, Executive in Residence, The University of Akron Research Foundation at [sed@uakron.edu](mailto:sed@uakron.edu).

## AKRON WINS APPLAUSE FROM global visitors

For several years, the Greater Akron Region has annually hosted 50-80 upcoming leaders from around the world who are invited by the U.S. Department of State to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Program. This year, participating countries included Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain and Turkey. Lonnie Hilliard with the U.S. Department of State said, the visit to Akron was "one of the best meetings of the entire trip."

Akron International Friendship acts as the host organization to the visitors while here and works with the City of Akron, The University of Akron and the Greater Akron Chamber to design a local program focused on economic development, entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships. Most recently, the visiting delegation – in addition to touring the community – visited the Akron Global Business Accelerator, Greater Akron Chamber and The University of Akron Research Foundation.

"Akron International Friendship is proud to feature Akron's many successful public-private partnerships that contribute to our community's economic development," stated Michelle Wilson, Executive Director for Akron International Friendship. "The visiting international delegations are quite impressed with the successful economic development efforts of our community."



Greater Akron Chamber hosts Armenian delegation.

# collaboration REGIONAL

## ohio tops IN SITE SELECTION: FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW



Site Selection Magazine, one of the nation's leading location assistance publications, has awarded the State of Ohio its fourth consecutive Governor's Cup Award for leading the nation in new and expanded facilities in 2009.

The magazine's March issue highlighted Ohio's efforts in leading the nation in new business development and expansion in both micropolitan and metropolitan categories, as well as the state's overall achievements in economic investments.

The top ranking for Ohio was based on the number of private capital investments for new or expanded facilities that involved an investment of at least \$1 million, created a minimum of 50 new jobs or added at least 20,000 square feet of new floor area.

According to Site Selection's rankings, Ohio won the award with 381 projects. Texas ranked second in the nation with 374 projects, followed by Michigan (371), Pennsylvania (333) and Tennessee (234) to round out the top five.

This year marks the eighth time Ohio has been awarded the Governor's Cup; it received the award in 1993, 1994, 1995, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Many business and public sector leaders have attributed Ohio's success to its improved business climate which focuses on significant tax reform complimented by the state's world class assets in advanced design, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing and academic support from its colleges and universities.

"The Governor's Cup competition and the acknowledgement of the success of cities and regions in Ohio are particularly important to local economic development professionals throughout the State of Ohio," stated J.C. Wallace, Executive Director of the Ohio Economic Development Association. "Ohio's economic developers work on a daily basis with businesses in our communities to help them expand and grow. And we work to attract new businesses to our communities. Recognition of these efforts is an indication that our efforts are bearing fruit. It also speaks to the spirit of cooperation that is prevalent in Ohio. The success of Ohio's economic development efforts is directly attributable to the collaborative efforts such as Team NEO, the Greater Akron Chamber, the City of Akron, Portage, Summit and Medina Counties and all economic development professionals at the local, regional and state levels."

# the power of partners

Continued from page 1

Tom Strauss, President and CEO of Summa Health System, addressed members for the final time as Chairman of the Greater Akron Chamber.

"Certainly Greater Akron's continued success is a testament to the vision, fortitude and hard work of our region's partners," Strauss said. "I am proud to say that the Greater Akron Region partnership is not merely an abstract, good idea. It is a way of life, I believe, for the businesses, companies, organizations that call this region home." Strauss served as the chairman for two years and recognized the growth of the region amidst the national economic challenges during his elected term.

Colantone announced that James J. Coats of BCG & Co. and Jay T. Griffith of ExxonMobil Chemical would be retiring from their position on the Chamber's Board of Directors. After introducing the Chamber's new board members, he extended sincere gratitude to Bridgestone/Firestone, the Small Business Council and Goodyear's new Chairman and CEO Rich Cramer. Following Colantone, Theresa Carter, executive committee

member and President of OMNOVA Solutions Foundation, conducted the business meeting which included the election of the new board of directors and executive committee members.

Following a heartfelt video honoring Misheff's life and accomplishments, both on a personal and professional level, Tom Knoll of Stark & Knoll presented Misheff with the H. Peter Burg Award.

"To be honored in the name of H. Peter Burg is the highest and most honorable award I could ever imagine," Misheff said. The award celebrates the life of the former CEO of FirstEnergy, set up by his wife Eileen after Burg's death in 2004.

Knoll, the 2008 recipient of the award, paralleled Misheff's "unwavering dedication," passion and loyalty to this region, along with his devotion to his wife and children, to Burg himself. "While Misheff clearly embodies the qualities that were established to single out recipients of the Burg Award, of equal importance, Don also emulates the remarkable qualities that made Pete so special," Knoll said.

THE CHAMBER THANKS THE FOLLOWING

## gold table sponsors

FOR THEIR SUPPORT AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING:



# 2010-2011 officers & board of directors

THE GREATER AKRON CHAMBER ELECTED ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT ITS 103RD ANNUAL MEETING

### Executive Committee

- **Chair** - Virginia C. Albanese, President & CEO, FedEx Custom Critical
- **Past-Chair** - Thomas J. Strauss, President & CEO, Summa Health System
- **Vice Chair Chamber Services** - S. Theresa Carter, President, OMNOVA Solutions Foundation
- **Vice Chair Finance Audit Committee** - J Michael Kolk, Partner in Charge - Tax, Cohen & Company, CPAs
- **Vice Chair Economic Development** - Charles E. Jones, Senior VP - Energy Delivery and Customer Service, FirstEnergy Corp.
- **Vice Chair Small Business Council** - John L. Shulan, President & CEO, Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers, Inc.

### Board of Directors

- Virginia C. Albanese, President & CEO, FedEx Custom Critical
- Elizabeth Z. Bartz, President and CEO, State and Federal Communications Inc.
- David A. Brockman, CPA, Managing Director, BCG & Company
- Nicholas V. Browning, President & CEO Akron Region, FirstMerit Bank NA
- S. Theresa Carter, President, OMNOVA Solutions Foundation
- William H. Considine, President & CEO, Akron Children's Hospital
- Timothy A. Dimoff, CEO/President, SACS Consulting & Investigative Services
- Edward Eliopoulos, Partner, Assurance Services, Ernst & Young, LLP
- Roger D. Emerson, Partner, Emerson, Thomson & Bennett, LLC
- Richard C. Fedorovich, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Partner, Bober Markey Fedorovich
- William J. Ginter, Principal, Akron Legacy Real Estate Development, LLC
- Louise J. Gissendaner, Akron City President, Director of Community Development, Fifth Third Bank
- Mark A. Goldfarb, Managing Director, SS&G Financial Services, Inc.
- Robert Handlos, Vice President, Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations
- Jeffrey T. Heintz, Managing Partner, Brouse McDowell
- Bruce A. Jentner, President, Jentner Financial Group

- Charles E. Jones, Jr., Senior VP - Energy Delivery and Customer Service, FirstEnergy Corp.
- Dennis A. Kleidon, President/CEO, Kleidon & Associates
- Thomas G. Knoll, Principal, Stark & Knoll Co., LPA
- J. Michael Kolk, Partner in Charge - Tax, Cohen & Company, CPAs
- Robert W. Malone, Chairman, Business Practice Group, Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP
- Andrea C. Mathewson, Publisher, Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com
- Philip H. Maynard, Chairman, ASW Properties, Ltd.
- Jeff Murphy, Managing Director, Commercial Operations, Dominion East Ohio
- Vivian Celeste Neal, Program Director, Akron, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- James P. Nilsen, President & Treasurer, Albrecht, Inc.
- Donald L. Plusquellic, Mayor, City of Akron
- Tia M. Ramlow, President, GreatWork! Employment Services
- Michael E. Rindler, Senior Advisor & Interim CEO, Akron General Medical Center
- Marcella Kanfer Rolnick, Vice Chair, GOJO Industries, Inc.
- James L. Ruhlin, President, The Ruhlin Company
- David Schipper, Owner and President, The Schipper Group
- John L. Shulan, President, Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers, Inc.
- Charles L. Sinclair, Senior VP Global Communications, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
- Thomas J. Strauss, President & CEO, Summa Health System
- Karen L. Talbott, President, Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates
- Donzell S. Taylor, President & CEO, Welty Building Company Ltd.
- Kevin O. Thompson, Regional President Akron/Canton/Wooster Area, PNC Bank
- Andre Thornton, President & CEO, ASW Global, LLC
- Thomas E. Tulodzieski, President, KeyBank

Theodore F. Walter, President Akron/Canton/Youngstown Region, CHASE  
 Jeffery A. Walters, Managing Director, CBIZ Mayer Hoffman McCann  
 Karl J. Warnke, Chairman, President & CEO, The Davey Tree Expert Company  
 Bernett L. Williams, President and CEO, Akron Urban League  
 Margaret E. Williams, Director-External Affairs, AT&T  
 Michael G. Wojno, Founder and Owner, Wojno Development, LLC  
 Bradley A. Wright, Partner-in-Charge - Akron Office, Roetzel & Andress, LPA  
 Vin Zachariah, Regional VP of Operations, Time Warner Cable

### Ex-Officios

- Richard C. France, Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch Representing Cascade Capital Corporation
- Dr. Jay A. Gershen, President, NEOUCOM Representing NEOUCOM
- Charles W. Keiper, II, Commissioner, Portage County Representing Portage County
- Dr. Lester A. Lefton, President, Kent State University Representing Kent State University
- Meghan MacDonald, State Farm Representing YP-Torchbearers
- Josh Martin, Senior Business Analyst, FirstEnergy Corp. Representing YP-ArtCetera
- Richard B. McQueen, President & CEO, Akron-Canton Airport Representing Akron-Canton Airport
- John Petures, President & CEO, Akron Community Foundation Representing Akron Community Foundation
- Donald L. Plusquellic, Mayor, City of Akron Representing City of Akron
- Dr. Luis M. Proenza, President Representing The University of Akron
- Russell M. Pry, Summit County Executive Representing Summit County
- Sharon A. Ray, Commissioner, Medina County Representing Medina County
- John L. Shulan, President CEO, Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers, Inc. Representing Small Business
- Michelle Tomer, Attorney at Law Representing YP-Akron Jaycees

### Life Trustees

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- D. Lee Tobler
- Thomas E. Tulodzieski

\*Deceased

### A special thanks to:

- 91.3 FM The Summit
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- Boy Scouts of America-Great Trail Council
- Bruce Ford, Photographer
- Carla Davis
- John S. Knight Center
- Mindgrab Media
- Summa Health System Color Guard
- The Akron Civic Theatre
- TRIAD Communications
- Woodsy's

Thank you to the generous contributors to this year's silent auction.

# advocacy

The Chamber represents the community voice for small businesses and must be supported and funded appropriately so important advocacy work for all business in Greater Akron is done effectively. Our investment in the Chamber is considered an investment in our company and the community in which it thrives.

– Elizabeth Bartz, President and Chief Executive Officer, State and Federal Communications



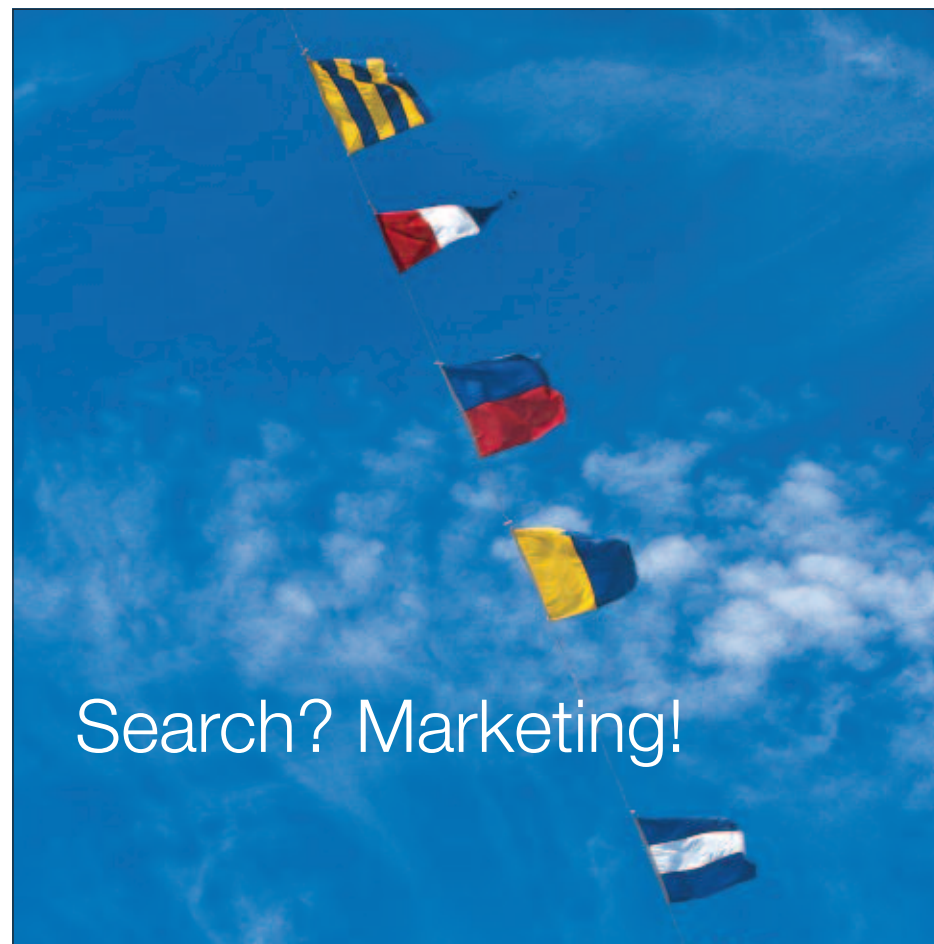
## THE CHAMBER played a part in...

### Lobbying

- Developed and implemented a comprehensive public policy agenda.
- Joined with the Ohio Metropolitan Chambers of Commerce to increase advocacy efforts with elected officials to address the projected deficit of the state budget.
- Member of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers of Commerce Coalition and participated in "D.C. Fly In" to advocate for Great Lakes Regional Public Policy Agenda.
- Led delegation of community leaders and stakeholders on a "D.C. Fly In" trip that focused advocacy on the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron.
- Provided educational information on issues and candidates each election cycle for member distribution to make informed choices while voting.

### Third Frontier

Advocated for successful renewal of the state technology funding program that has awarded over \$66 million to projects in the Greater Akron Region since 2003.



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# INVOLTA breaks ground IN AKRON



L to R: Chamber President and CEO Daniel Colantone, Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, Involta CEO Bruce Lehrman, Involta Chairman Lonnie Bloomquist, Governor Ted Strickland and Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry.

Involta, LLC of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, announced plans to construct a LEED Certified data center on land recently purchased from both the City of Akron and County of Summit. The facility will be situated on 18 acres at the historic Brown-Graves site in South Akron. Design of the facility is currently underway, and Involta anticipates that the facility will be fully operational by the fourth quarter of 2011. The data center will house computer systems, databases and related IT components for a wide range of companies and institutions. "The Involta Data Center will provide many advantages for both local and national businesses, including the ability to share the high costs of housing and managing mission critical systems and the option of off-site data storage for disaster preparedness planning," stated Bruce Lehrman, Involta CEO.



Bruce Lehrman, Involta CEO, gives an overview of the project.

At a groundbreaking ceremony moderated by Greater Akron Chamber President & CEO Dan Colantone, Governor Ted Strickland, Mayor Don Plusquellic and County Executive Russ Pry joined company representatives in announcing the construction of a 46,000-square-foot, high-security co-location data center. According to Involta, the \$20 million investment will result in the creation of over 50 new jobs – with salaries ranging from \$60,000 to \$70,000 a year – over the next two years.

"Without the assistance of Summit County, the City of Akron and the Greater Akron Chamber, this project would never have made it past the idea stage," stated Lehrman. The Greater Akron Chamber and its economic development partners have been working with Involta since the third quarter of 2009. "This project is yet



Dan Colantone provides welcoming remarks.

another great example of a public/private partnership that was able to bring reinvestment which will revitalize our community," stated Rick Rebadow, Executive Vice President of the Greater Akron Chamber.

"Involta's decision to build their state-of-the-art data center here means dozens of new, good-paying technology jobs for the south side of Akron," said Governor Strickland. "We have always been a high-tech city, and this investment by Involta shows that private, technology-oriented companies are confident investing their resources here," added Mayor Plusquellic.

Involta was founded in 2007, and it has recently been recognized as one of the fastest-growing private companies in the United States by *Inc.* magazine.



## 2010 hannover trade fair

For the 17th consecutive year, the Greater Akron Region and the State of Ohio were represented at the Hannover Trade Fair in Germany. The Hannover Trade Fair is the world's largest industrial trade show. This year, more than 5,000 exhibitors from 50 nations were expected along with approximately 175,000 attendees.

Robert Y. Bowman, Deputy Mayor of Economic Development for the City of Akron, led the delegation that was comprised of representatives from both the Greater Akron Region and the State of Ohio. For the second year in a row, the City of Akron partnered with the Chemnitz-Zwickau Region on a joint booth and display at the Hannover Trade Fair.

The delegation conducted 55 pre-scheduled meetings during its time in Hannover and eight side meetings at the Technical Center in Akron's sister city of Chemnitz, Germany. More than 20 leads resulted from the meetings, and a large number of companies requested information regarding the Greater Akron Region. The Greater Akron Chamber, along with the City of Akron, Kent State University, Northeast Ohio Trade & Economic Consortium (NEOTEC), Stark Development Board and The University of Akron, provided materials that were incorporated onto a promotional disk distributed in both Hannover and Chemnitz.

The meetings focused on those companies looking to establish or expand their presence in North America. With the Euro currently trading at 1.34 to the Dollar, there is continuing pressure on European exporters to establish a manufacturing presence in the United States.

Bob and Christina Agnew of Euro Market Services worked with the Ohio delegation to schedule a series of meetings with European companies. Christina stated, "The renewed spirit at this year's Hannover Trade Fair exceeded expectations. We are experiencing a pent-up demand of European companies looking to expand into the North American market. Our relationship with both the City of Akron and the State of Ohio has resulted in a number of direct investment opportunities from throughout Europe."

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THE GREATER AKRON CHAMBER IS PLEASED TO PRESENT OUR

## Legislative Action Center

Members can now easily stay **connected** with elected officials, become **engaged** in shaping public policy and stay **informed** on upcoming elections and legislative issues important to the advancement of the Greater Akron Region. Please log on to: <http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?content=startpage&g=akron>

# PRESIDENT'S perspective



The Greater Akron Chamber closed its first year of full implementation of its *Advance Akron* plan. The plan, also known as *The A-Factor* is an economic development plan with a five-year goal to create 10,000 jobs. This newsletter illustrates the return on investment and positive impact of the A-Factor.

More than 135 investors — key leaders and decision makers from both the private and public sectors have taken a significant financial stake in the future success of the improvement of the area's economy and quality of life.

Our region is fortunate to have a high number of CEOs and executives who are actively involved in the Chamber, business

life and the community. An investor-level membership demonstrates a company's extensive commitment to Greater Akron by providing resources needed to fund the core action plans of our plan — Growing Greater Akron, Investing in Human Capital, Improving Perceptions, Revitalizing our Physical Assets, Enhancing Value for our Core Businesses and Creating the Capacity to Succeed.

This stakeholder group is the "life blood" of the Chamber and our region and is the most notable collection of companies and people that make Greater Akron a great place to live and do business.

## Advance Akron. Our Region. Our Future.

# our priorities

the **A** factor  
**Advance Akron**  
 Our Region. Our Future.

An investment in the Greater Akron Chamber and the "Advance Akron. Our Region. Our Future." economic development program will pay handsome dividends. Investors encourage positive growth in our region and are vital to our continued success.

- 1 Grow Greater Akron** – Strengthen our economy by retaining and attracting businesses and talent;
- 2 Invest in Human Capital** – Build a competitive workforce prepared for the jobs of the future;
- 3 Improve Perceptions** – Tell our story to business leaders and talent locally, nationally and globally;

**4 Revitalize Our Physical Assets** – Reinvigorate our urban core and other strategic community areas to make them stronger environments in which to live, work and play;

**5 Enhance Value for Core Businesses** – Provide membership benefits and services that give small businesses an operational and financial competitive advantage; and

**6 Create the Capacity to Succeed** – Build a culture of leadership and implementation by strengthening stakeholder relationships and obtaining the resources necessary for success.

If we did not have the Greater Akron Chamber, the Greater Akron community would be enormously behind the curve and certainly not known, within and well outside Ohio, as a leader in such areas as polymers, biomedical initiatives, business incubators and as simply offering a great environment to live, work and play. In what now is truly a global marketplace, we need to have a well-crafted and articulate voice for our community in our efforts to grow and expand. The Chamber is certainly one of those much needed voices now, and will be long into the future without support."

– Jim Nilsen, President and Treasurer, Albrecht Inc., Akron

## investors

### Chairman's Council \$50,000

Akron Children's Hospital  
 City of Akron  
 Brennan Industrial Group  
 Dominion  
 FedEx Custom Critical  
 FirstEnergy Corp.  
 The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
 KeyBank NA  
 Summa Health System

### President's Circle \$25,000

A. Schulman, Inc.  
 Akron Beacon Journal  
 Akron General Health System  
 AT&T  
 BCG & Company  
 FirstMerit Bank NA  
 GOJO Industries, Inc.  
 Huntington Bank  
 Kent State University  
 Time Warner Cable  
 The University of Akron

### Cornerstone Partner \$10,000

Albrecht Inc.  
 ASW Global  
 Buckingham Doolittle & Burroughs LLP  
 Cascade Capital Corporation  
 CBIZ Mayer Hoffman McCann  
 Charles Schwab Corporate Services  
 CHASE  
 Cohen & Company  
 Ernst & Young LLP  
 J. Rayl Transport, Inc.  
 Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems  
 PNC  
 Portage County  
 Roetzel & Andress LPA  
 The Ruhlin Company  
 The Schipper Group  
 Signet Enterprises  
 SS&G Financial Services  
 Welty Building Company Ltd.  
 Wojno Development

### Champion Supporter \$5,000

AESCO Electronics Inc.  
 Akron Aeros  
 Akron METRO Regional Transit Authority  
 Apteryx Inc.  
 Bober Markey Fedorovich & Co.  
 Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations  
 ComDoc Inc.  
 The Davey Tree Expert Company  
 Exxon Mobil Chemical  
 Fifth Third Bank (Northeastern Ohio)  
 Hattie Larlham  
 Hilton Akron/Fairlawn  
 Hottle & Associates Inc.  
 Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors  
 Northeastern Ohio Universities College of  
 Medicine and Pharmacy (NEOUCOM)  
 OMNOVA Solutions  
 Sherwin-Williams Company  
 Visiting Nurse Service and Affiliates

### Vision Builder \$2,500

Akron Area Board of REALTORS  
 Akron-Canton Airport  
 Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority  
 Apple Growth Partners  
 The Babcock & Wilcox Company  
 Bruner-Cox, LLP  
 CAM Inc.  
 CAPTRUST Financial Advisors  
 CB Richard Ellis Inc.  
 Charter One Bank  
 CIGNA Health Care of Ohio Inc.  
 Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Eastern Great Lakes  
 Dave Towell Cadillac-Saab  
 GPD Group  
 Hammond Construction Inc.  
 Harwick Standard Distribution Corp.  
 Hitchcock Fleming & Associates  
 InfoCision Management Corporation  
 Jentner Financial Group  
 Meaden & Moore Ltd.  
 Mike Pruitt Honda  
 Northwestern Mutual Financial  
 Network/Northeast Ohio Group  
 The Reserve Group  
 Seal Master Corporation/ELBEX  
 SeibertKeck Insurance Agency Inc.  
 Stark & Knoll LPA  
 State and Federal Communications Inc.  
 Sterling Jewelers Inc.  
 Store TEK Engineering Inc.  
 Struktol Company of America  
 Summa Western Reserve Hospital  
 Veyance Technologies  
 Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP  
 Walmart #1911  
 Worthington Stairs LLC

### Foundations

Akron Community Foundation  
 Charter One Foundation  
 Dominion East Ohio Foundation  
 The Fifth Third Foundation  
 FirstEnergy Foundation  
 FirstMerit Foundation  
 GAR Foundation  
 John S. and James L. Knight Foundation  
 J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation  
 KeyBank Foundation  
 Lawrence B. & Christine H. Levey  
 Philanthropic Fund  
 Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation, Inc.  
 OMNOVA Solutions Foundation

### Business \$1,000

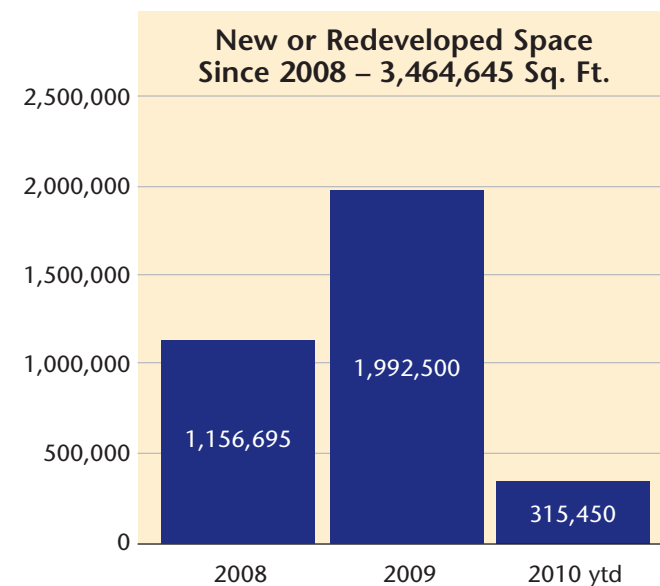
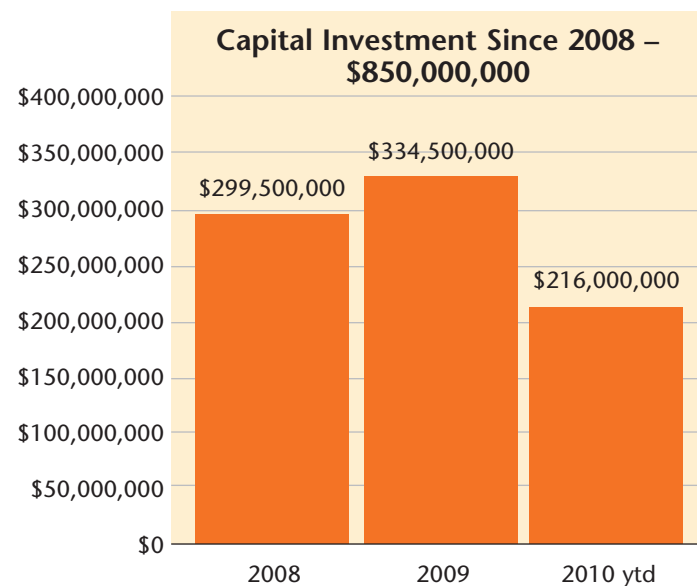
1-888-OHIOCOMP  
 Action Management Services, Inc.  
 ADT Security Services, Inc.  
 Akron Bar Association  
 Akron Institute of Herzog University  
 Akron Legacy Real Estate Development, LLC  
 Akron Rubber Development Laboratory, Inc.  
 Allegro Realty Advisors Ltd.  
 Allen Aircraft Products, Inc.  
 American Medical Response of Ohio

Any Lab Test Now Medina, Inc.  
 Arden Courts of Bath  
 ASC Industries, Inc.  
 ASD  
 Associated General Contractors of Akron, Inc.  
 AtNetPlus, Inc.  
 Automation Plastics Corporation  
 Babcox Publications LLC  
 Brouse McDowell  
 Brown Mackie College  
 Canal Pointe Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  
 Choice Aire  
 Cintas Corporation  
 Compassion Animal Services LLC  
 Coretec, Inc.  
 CSL Plasma Services  
 Cunningham Supply  
 Dan Marchetta Construction Co., Inc.  
 Diamond Polymers, Inc.  
 Emeritus at Stow  
 Emerson, Thomson & Bennett, LLC  
 Empire Die Casting Co. Inc.  
 Floyd Browne Group, Inc.  
 Friends Business Source  
 Furniture & Carpet Source  
 GMP Friction Products  
 H & M Metal Processing  
 Harry C. Lobalzo & Sons dba Hobart CFED  
 Healthy Life Screenings  
 Holiday Inn Express & Suites/Hampton Inn  
 Holland Remodeling & Building, LLC  
 IKON Business Solutions, Inc.  
 In-House Hospice  
 InterChez Logistics Systems, Inc.  
 ITT Technical Institute  
 Jennings Heating & Cooling Co., Inc.  
 JRB Attachments  
 KDCO Home Improvement, Inc.  
 Klais & Company, Inc.  
 Konica Minolta Business Solutions  
 Krock Esser Engineering, Inc.  
 Language Learning Associates  
 Lost Tribe Media, Inc.  
 Main Street Gourmet  
 McCaman Hardwood Flooring  
 MSA Companies, Inc.  
 National College  
 New Horizons Computer Learning Center  
 North Akron Savings Bank  
 Northern Ohio Medical Management Corp.  
 Owens Corning Foamular  
 Packaging Corporation Of America  
 Panera Bread  
 Paramount Distillers Inc  
 Patrick J. D'Andrea, Esq.  
 Premier Pontiac GMC  
 Quizno's Subs - Hawkins  
 R.C.A. Rubber Company  
 Radio One Cleveland  
 Reproductive Gynecology, Inc.  
 Revol Wireless  
 RMTC Energy  
 Rockynol Retirement Community  
 SaberLogic  
 SACS Consulting & Investigative Services Inc.  
 Sagemark Consulting Private Wealth Services  
 SB Equities, LLC  
 Select Specialty Akron/SHS  
 Senior Independence  
 Skoda Minotti  
 Smithers-Oasis Company  
 Summit Mall  
 Summit Racing Equipment  
 Superior Staffing Inc.  
 T. L. Squire & Company Inc.  
 Talecris Plasma Resources  
 Terminal Warehouse Inc.  
 The Knoch Corporation  
 The Oak Clinic  
 The Weekend Mall  
 The University of Akron Athletics  
 Virtual Hold Technology  
 Vista Data Systems  
 VOCON  
 Westfield Bank

# economic development goals FOR 2010

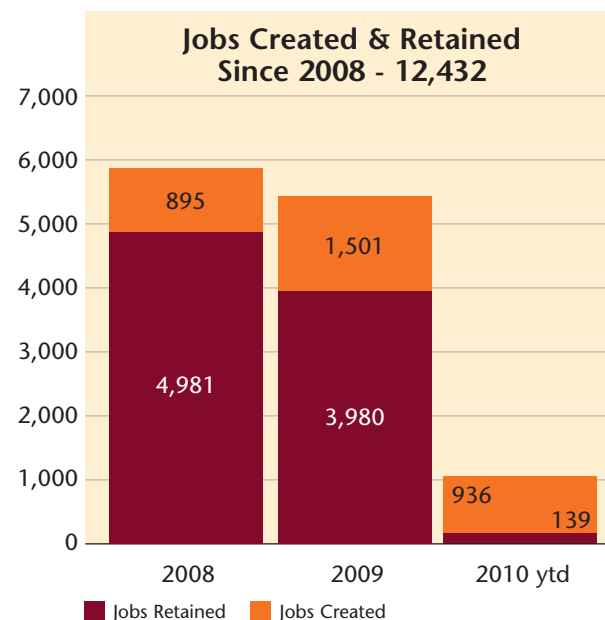
Since 2008, the Chamber has worked to bring over \$800 million worth of capital investment to the region. This is a return on our Investors' membership dollars of more than 100 to 1.

Year	Capital Investments	Jobs Retained	Jobs Created	Total Jobs	Sq. Ft.
2008	\$299,500,000	4,981	895	5,876	1,156,695
2009	\$334,500,000	3,980	1,501	5,481	1,992,500
2010 ytd	\$850,000,000	139	936	1,075	315,450
				12,432	3,464,645



## THE CHAMBER played a part

- The Chamber assisted in the expansion of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company headquarters in Akron.
- The Chamber worked with local and state economic development partners to support the Bridgestone Firestone Technical's new state-of-the-art facility in Akron.
- The Chamber mobilized members to help reorganize the board of directors for the All-American Soap Box Derby and coordinated fundraising efforts to keep the event in Akron.



## BUSINESS VISITATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES milestone

The Summit Business Partnership celebrated its seventh anniversary by conducting its 1,750th business visitation. The Greater Akron 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.

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 Rick Rebadow, Executive Vice President for the Greater Akron Chamber. "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).

## BIOINNOVATION INSTITUTE ADVANCES economic health OF GREATER AKRON

Greater Akron has a rich legacy in materials science with a particular expertise in research, intellectual property and commercialization that developed out of its place in history as the rubber capital of the world. The Austen BioInnovation Institute has capitalized on that legacy by creating a unique collaboration of complementary research, education and health institutions designed to pioneer the next generation of biomedical innovations.

Of course, the primary goal of the Institute – which includes Greater Akron's three hospital systems, a medical school, a foundation and The University of Akron – is to enhance and save lives through innovation. However, its role in the economic health of the Greater Akron area is also vital.

"The Austen BioInnovation Institute is helping move Akron toward a more secure economic future and is a critical element of the City of Akron's Biomedical Corridor, a unique effort aimed at attracting health-related ventures to the region," said William Considine, Chair of the Institute as well as President and Chief Executive of Akron Children's Hospital, one of the Institute's partners. "During the next decade, this collaboration has goals of enhanced patient care; nearly \$150 million in annual research volume; \$50 million in annual funding and investment in Greater Akron; 60 new bioscience companies and 2,400 new jobs."

## KENT RECEIVES FEDERAL funding

The Kent Central Gateway Project – an initiative centered on the continued revitalization of Downtown Kent and the reconnecting of the central business district with Kent State University – received a \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Congressman Tim Ryan (D-Niles) announced the grant will leverage more than \$100 million of redevelopment activity within the City of Kent. The investment will lead to the creation of 265 construction jobs and more than 500 permanent jobs. In addition to the construction of a state-of-the-art multi-modal transportation facility, the Kent Central Gateway Project will include a 120-unit hotel and conference center, 160,000 square feet of office space, 63,000 square feet of retail space and a new Portage County Municipal Court House.

"This is a once-in-a-150-year event," stated Kent State University President Lester A. Lefton. "This is a huge transformative event in the life of Kent, the university and Portage County."

The Chamber assisted the project by working with our Congressional delegation and drafting a letter to the Secretary of Transportation in support of the funding request.

"The Greater Akron Chamber has been a real partner throughout the process," stated Dan Smith, Economic Development Director for the City of Kent. "We are looking forward to working with PARTA, Kent State University and the Chamber as this important economic development project moves forward in Portage County."



# INVESTMENT IN STEM interns pays off FOR COMPANIES, STUDENTS

When electrical engineering student Jason Banaska went to work as an intern at Technical Consumer Products (TCP) in January, you could say the light bulb went on.

"He really got a lot out of it. He could see how what he was studying could be applied in the real world," said Chris Reda, Human Resources Director for the Aurora-based TCP, which makes lighting. Jason, a student at The University of Akron, was first slated to work in quality control because that department was short-handed, but the vice president of engineering for TCP noticed Jason's background and moved him to the engineering department.

"He worked on several projects of great interest to him," said Reda. "He was able to see how what he was learning in the college could be applied in the real, working world." It also helped him steer his course choices to fill in gaps in his knowledge, Reda said.

Things went so well between TCP and Jason, the company kept him on as a part-time employee after the internship was completed.

"I still see him around; he's always smiling," she said.

To date this year, the Greater Akron Chamber has assisted about 40 area companies in hiring college interns or co-op students who are majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics – also known as the STEM subjects. Several like Jason have stayed on as employees.

Through the program, employers are reimbursed for a portion of the student's wages through federal grant funds received by the Chamber. According to the Chamber, priority is given to companies that have not used interns before or recently laid-off interns and that are located in Summit, Portage and Medina Counties.

The program provides employers with assistance so that students can engage in on-the-job training experiences with area companies. Employers benefit by having qualified college students contribute to solving problems and working on specific projects using their academic knowledge. It enables businesses to train their future workforce and connects them with those they may eventually hire after the students graduate.

Interns Brian Eachtel, a student at Kent State University, and Timothy Meade of The University of Akron, helped bring new energy to the information technology department of the *Beacon Journal*, said Dawn Bonfiglio, head of the newspaper's Information Technology Department.

"They handled projects for us that allowed us to do other things. And they've given us fresh perspectives by bringing ideas to us from their classrooms," she said. Timothy has continued to work part-time at the paper while Brian has to return to classes full-time.

They learned new things. And we learned new things and got some extra hands," she said. "It worked out very well for everyone."



# STEM LEARNING PLANTS SEEDS FOR future growth

This fall, students at the National Inventors Hall of Fame® School – Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Learning Center, a middle school, will move into their new classrooms in a special addition to the hall in downtown Akron. The Akron Public Schools STEM school opened in a transitional building on West Market Street last year. Although that space was just its temporary home, students got right to work there, solving a noise problem by consulting the inventor of the electronic microphone, according to Traci Buckner, the school's instructional leader.

"It's learning through finding real solutions to authentic problems," Buckner said. The STEM school is designed to let students work collectively with inventors, STEM-related businesses and organizations, and with faculty and students from The University of Akron. The school allows students to take intellectual risks and prepares them to become inventive, creative problem-solvers.

Buckner said children in grades 5-8 are at a perfect point in their development to embrace the somewhat non-traditional approach to learning STEM promotes.

"By high school, many children have already formed their ideas about math and science – and whether they're good at them or not," Buckner said. "By reaching them at an earlier age, we can help shape their minds and attitudes."

To increase STEM education, the Chamber is partnering to create a STEM high school to open in the fall of 2012. If you would like to be involved, contact Megann Eberhart at (330) 237-1262 or [eberhart@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:eberhart@greaterakronchamber.org).



# AT&T ANNOUNCES major investment in Akron



AT&T recently announced a new mobility data center in Akron, which will provide core mobility network services. The planned \$120 million initial investment in this innovative center is driven by growth in mobile data. The new center is an integral part of AT&T's plans to expand 3G service and begin the launch of 4G LTE services which is important to providing consumers with the highest quality and most reliable wireless network.

"Ohio's strong business climate and tax structure makes it easier for companies like AT&T to grow its business here today, and our regulatory reform through Ohio's telecom bill will help us attract investments of the future" said Governor Ted Strickland. "I want to thank AT&T for its partnership and commitment to laying a solid foundation for prosperity in Akron."

The new center is at the same location as a former Ohio Bell Data Center which opened in 1985 and handled service orders and prepared customer bills. The Akron location has been retrofitted and will accommodate the latest in wireless network technology, once again establishing the building as a model for best-in-class technology centers.

"I want to congratulate the work of Governor Strickland who has worked so hard to encourage this type of investment in Akron and Ohio," said Mayor Don Plusquellic, the Mayor of Akron.

The Akron site becomes AT&T's ninth mobility data center, which will serve customers across multiple markets, states

and regions. All mobility data traffic travels through one or more data centers which provide features such as visual voice mail for the iPhone, Blackberry messaging, text messaging, multimedia messaging, mobile TV and other wireless applications, including access to the internet via AT&T's world-class tier 1 Internet backbone.

"With this new data center, AT&T is investing in the future of Akron and Northeast Ohio," said Congresswoman Betty Sutton. "This 'technology data hub' will help bring other investments to Northeast Ohio, making Akron a high-tech jobs hub."

"The investment in this new mobility data center here in Summit County will help consumers who are increasingly communicating on smartphones through data messaging," said Russ Pry, the Summit County Executive.

The announcement of the Akron mobility data center establishes a wireless corridor in Ohio for AT&T, with the data center on one end, and the Youngstown mobility customer care center on the other.

"Governor Strickland deserves to be applauded for his work to encourage investments like this one in Ohio," said Tom Pelto, President of AT&T Ohio. "This investment is also a true testament to the hard work of policy makers to keep our state competitive and well positioned for investment."



# DIAMOND POLYMERS expands

Diamond Polymers, established in 1988 as a distributor of imported polymer resins from Asia, is expanding production and employment in Akron. They recently added the Centrex line of thermoplastic resins to its production mix of polymer materials. Centrex was originally developed by Monsanto, and it has since been licensed to Diamond Polymers.

Alan Woll, CEO of Diamond Polymers, said, "In the wake of the recession, our company was faced with the challenge of re-evaluating our strategic plan in order to examine our strengths. By focusing on higher margin products and working with the Greater Akron Chamber, we have recently added a new Centrex line of thermoplastic resins that have well positioned ourselves for growth opportunities in 2010 and beyond. The Chamber has been very supportive of our efforts. It is vital to have a sustainable economic development organization in order to position an area for investment growth opportunities. We have partnered – and look forward to further partnering – with the Greater Akron Chamber to expand economic wealth creating opportunities within the Greater Akron Region."

## BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS



# Tire Operation Akron Technical Center



After a groundbreaking ceremony held in February 2010, construction on Bridgestone's new technical center began in April. The Port Authority will issue up to \$70 million in bonds to finance the project. Construction on the Pedestrian Connector

and Parking Facility is expected to begin in early 2011. Bonds will be issued again through the Port Authority with support from the City of Akron, County of Summit and Bridgestone.

"The Greater Akron Chamber is an important advocate for the growth and development of area businesses. The Chamber promotes the Greater Akron Region as a great place to live, to build a business and to raise a family. My investment in the Greater Akron Chamber plays a key role to help improve the quality of life for our citizens by helping businesses prosper. I encourage area business owners to get involved with the Greater Akron Chamber with their time, resources and people to help Greater Akron continue growing and prospering during these challenging times."

– Bruce Jentner, President, Jentner Final Group

# entrepreneurship



GREATER AKRON CHAMBER'S  
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL  
HONORS EXCELLENCE IN  
BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS AT LUNCHEON

## awards program

Six area companies were awarded the Excellence in Business honor given by the Chamber's Small Business Council at a luncheon June 11 at the Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls. The luncheon was sponsored by Apple Growth Partners and CFBank. These companies have consistently demonstrated outstanding performance, growth, staying power, innovation and proven leadership. The 2010 Excellence in Business recipients are:

- AtNet Plus, Inc.
- Knotice
- Lucky Shoes, Inc.
- MobilityWorks
- Ron Marhofer Auto Family
- State and Federal Communications, Inc.



Six Akron companies were presented Excellence in Business Awards from the Chamber's Small Business Council on June 11. From left are: Ron Marhofer, president and owner of Ron Marhofer Auto Family; Jonathon Grimm, president and CFO of Knotice; John Shulan, the Small Business Council vice chair and also president and CEO of Shulan's Fairlawn Jewelers; Elizabeth Bartz, President and CEO, State and Federal Communications, Inc; Daniel Colantone, president and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber; Tom Luck, CEO and chairman of Lucky Shoes, Inc.; Jay Mellon, partner in AtNetPlus, Inc.; and Bill Koebitz, CEO of MobilityWorks.

## BIZ RESOURCE WORKSHOP AIDS THOSE WITH ideas, needs



The Greater Akron Chamber and the cities of Solon and Twinsburg – in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) Community Economic Adjustment Program – hosted a Business Resource Workshop at the Main Library in Downtown Akron for about 100 area participants recently.

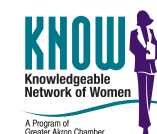
Federal, state and non-profit agency representatives made presentations about grants and other funding opportunities, services and support for business development, expansion, growth and start-ups. In addition, breakout sessions allowed agency representatives to meet one on one with community stakeholders to discuss the details of programs and resources designed for local businesses. Representatives from regional organizations, including the U.S. Small Business Administration, Ohio Department of Development, Summit County, City of Akron, Summit County Port Authority, SCORE, JumpStart, Small Business Development Center and The University of Akron participated in the half-day workshop. "These workshops have been especially beneficial to those companies – regardless of size – that have current or potential projects in the pipeline," stated Kristen Cunningham, Program Director for the EDA Community Economic Adjustment Program.

## GREATER AKRON CHAMBER'S KNOW wins award

The Greater Akron Chamber recently announced that its KNOW (Knowledgeable Network of Women) program was named the Best Women's Networking Group by *Cleveland Business Connects* (CBC) magazine for 2010. The Chamber accepted the award at the magazine's 3rd Connectors Choice Awards at the House of Blues in Cleveland on March 3.

The annual Connectors Choice Awards illustrate the outstanding corporate event-related companies and professional networking associations in Northeast Ohio. The voting was dictated 100 percent by CBC's readers. This was the first year there was a category of Best Women's Networking Organization. KNOW was also highlighted in the March issue of *Cleveland Business Connects* magazine.

KNOW grew to more than 200 members in 2009. It hosted four quarterly speaker programs, held its first KNOW Member Business Showcase and started a program called "KNOW on the GO," in which members got together in smaller groups to build stronger relationships. Established in 2004 by the Greater Akron Chamber, KNOW attempts to create a synergy and format in which businesswomen can grow professionally. "Celebrating our sixth year of programming, we can say that our vision has remained unchanged," program manager Theresa Byers said. Below are the KNOW committee members that are to be congratulated on helping make the KNOW program a success:



**2010 Committee Chair**  
Paula Lewis  
SS&G Financial Services

**2010 Chair-Elect**  
Mary Cowx  
BCG & Company

**2008-2009 Chair**  
Sally O'Neal-Lucas  
United Disability Services/Buckeye Baskets

**Logistics Committee Chair**  
Nancy Kropko  
AXA Advisors LLC

**Membership Committee Chair**  
Amanda Barna  
Center for Marketing & Opinion Research

**Speaker/Programming Chair**  
Mary Mittica  
Aramark Refreshment Services

**Hospitality Committee Chair**  
Paula Chesser  
Robert W. Baird & Co.

For more information on the KNOW or Greater Akron Chamber, please visit [www.greaterakronchamber.org](http://www.greaterakronchamber.org)

AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT HAS BUSIEST JUNE OF ALL TIME; SECOND BEST MONTH IN HISTORY

## AKRON-CANTON AIRPORT REPORTS \$398.6 million economic impact

More and more travelers across Northeast Ohio are getting happy at Akron-Canton Airport (CAK). New flight options and low fares attracted more than 147,300 passengers to and from CAK in June, making it the airport's busiest June of all time. It's also the airport's second best month ever; just a few thousand passengers shy of the airport's all-time busiest month (July 2008) when more than 149,700 passengers used CAK. The June passenger figure was up 11 percent compared to 2009, by more than 14,000, and crushed the airport's previous best June (2006) by more than 13,000. This is the airport's fourth monthly record in 2010. For the first six months of the year 756,775 passengers have traveled to and from CAK, a 9 percent increase compared to 2009.

CAK not only makes a big impact on travelers, they make a big impact in the community. In 2008, the airport's total economic impact in the region exceeded \$398 million. That figure was determined by a recently completed economic impact report commissioned and conducted by the airport authority. In addition to the economic impact figure, the airport contributes to and helps sustain 2,244 jobs in the region, making it one of the top 25 employers in Summit County.

In addition to jobs, the economic impact study also measured sales and excise tax contributions and income generation. Total tax revenues added up to \$12 million and payroll exceeded \$87 million. Ohio counties included in this study were Stark, Summit, Cuyahoga, Carroll, Portage, Medina, Trumbull, and Mahoning. Airlines, rental car agencies, restaurants, retail shops, airport tenants (inside the building and on the airfield campus), hotels and other businesses around the airport were surveyed. The airport used the generally accepted IMPLAN economic impact model to determine the various impacts. The data is based on capital expenditures and employment levels that are dependent upon or related to the airport. To see a full report of our economic impact, please go to [www.akroncantonairport.com/EconomicImpact](http://www.akroncantonairport.com/EconomicImpact).

## GREATER AKRON supplier diversity CONFERENCE

Quaker Station in Akron provided the venue for a crowd of more than 150 as minority-owned businesses from throughout the region participated in the inaugural Greater Akron Supplier Diversity Conference. The event was designed to connect local entrepreneurs with leading local companies to discuss procurement opportunities, participate in educational workshops and take advantage of a unique networking opportunity.

Committed to supporting supplier diversity in Northeast Ohio, the conference is a collaborative effort between the Akron Urban League, AlphaGraphics, Black Pages Ohio, City of Akron, Greater Akron Chamber, Northern Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council, Kent State University, Summa Health System and

The University of Akron. The title sponsors for the event were both Bridgestone Americas and Kent State University.

Highlights from the conference included a keynote address from Mayor Don Plusquellic, interactive workshops and a Procurement Café where entrepreneurs met one on one with purchasing representatives from various entities in both the public and private sectors.

"There are so many outstanding local entrepreneurs in the Greater Akron area contributing to our economic development," said Duane Jordan, event co-chair from Summa Health System. "This event is intended to support these local businesses by connecting them with corporate leaders, giving them the opportunity to build their business and tap into expert resources."

# young PROFESSIONALS

## HARD AT WORK

Greater Akron's Young Professional's organizations are hard at work improving our community and the lives of those who live in it! These organizations also provide young, working professionals with opportunities to develop their skills and connect with a social network of people who share their interests.



## THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK'S MISSION

The Greater Akron Chamber is committed to making an impact on the retention and attraction of talent in the Greater Akron area to meet the future workforce and leadership needs of the community. As part of this talent retention and attraction initiative, the Young Professionals Network (YPN) will strive to make the region the preferred destination for emerging leaders to live, work and play.

YPN is creating personal, professional and community development opportunities while encouraging individual and organizational relationships within the Greater Akron region. YPN members are given opportunities to enhance their potential while feeling connected to the area. The idea is to make YPN a valuable resource for the next generation of leaders by empowering them to reach their life goals in this community. YPN operates under the belief that the more informed, involved and connected young professionals and other emerging leaders are, the more likely they will migrate to or stay in Akron. This will, in turn, positively affect the region.

Under the direction of director Angela Presutti and the Leadership Crew (a cooler name rather than steering committee), the new YPN will be redesigned into a more formal structure that reflects the needs of young talent in the region. YPN leaders will create work crews that focus on specific areas that young professionals can take advantage of such as professional/leadership development opportunities, regional marketing and educational opportunities and policy issues opportunities and more.

### For more information,

on getting involved in the YPN, contact YPN Director, Angela Presutti at (330) 237-1263 or by e-mail at [presutti@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:presutti@greaterakronchamber.org)

## CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 30 FOR THE FUTURE AWARD RECIPIENTS



The Greater Akron Chamber celebrated the accomplishments of thirty-one Greater Akron Region young professionals at the 4th Annual 30 for the Future Awards Gala on Monday, September 13, 2010, at the Akron Civic Theatre, sponsored by Huntington Bank. The 30 for the Future award honors young professionals (ages 25-39) whose stellar contributions impact their industries and the Greater Akron Region. The recipients were nominated by members of the Chamber and regional profit and non-profit organizations, including many of the region's Young Professional organizations. An independent Advisory Council selected the recipients based on the finalists' Leadership Documents, which showcased professional and community accomplishments, team-building, leadership and creativity in overcoming obstacles. We extend our congratulations to all of this year's recipients, and we look forward to celebrating an equally talented group selected next year! A list of the winners follows:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Andrea Babjack</b><br>PNC                                  | <b>Angela D. Harper Brooks</b><br>Crouse Community Learning Center | <b>Don Padgett III</b><br>World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational |
| <b>Margaret C. Baughman, Ph.D.</b><br>The University of Akron | <b>Da'Ron Henderson</b><br>DHL Enterprises, LLC dba Hotcards Akron | <b>Kimberly A. Palmer</b><br>Cohen & Company, Ltd.                          |
| <b>Christina Beynon</b><br>Citizens Republic Bank             | <b>Ramona Hood</b><br>FedEx Truckload Brokerage                    | <b>Marie Reichart</b><br>Our Lady of the Elms Elementary School             |
| <b>Tobin Buckner</b><br>Akron Urban League                    | <b>Bill Hoover</b><br>Broadleaf Partners                           | <b>Alexis Rizopoulos</b><br>The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company              |
| <b>Kelli Crawford</b><br>City of Akron                        | <b>Carrie Ann Kandes</b><br>Marcus Thomas, LLC                     | <b>Keith Stahl</b><br>Community Support Services, Inc.                      |
| <b>Eren Demiray</b><br>FirstEnergy Corp.                      | <b>Jennifer Kephart</b><br>Info Line, Inc.                         | <b>Mary Swann</b><br>Brouse McDowell, LPA                                   |
| <b>Gregory Dieringer</b><br>The University of Akron           | <b>Dana Lawless-Andric</b><br>Kent State University                | <b>Angie Wells</b><br>GPD Group   |
| <b>Charles Elliott</b><br>Summa Health System                 | <b>Ann Manby</b><br>The House of the Lord                          | <b>Mexie Wilson</b><br>Ohio Tuition Trust Authority                         |
| <b>Matt Ellis</b><br>Grass Master                             | <b>James McNutt</b><br>SummaCare, Inc.                             | <b>David Woodburn</b><br>Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP             |
| <b>Melanie Friedman</b><br>FMD Architects                     | <b>Jay Mellon</b><br>AtNetPlus, Inc.                               | <b>Julie Zhao, Ph.D.</b><br>The University of Akron                         |
| <b>Chris Hallier</b><br>FirstMerit Bank                       |  |   |

## GREATER AKRON CHAMBER NAMES YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

# director



The Greater Akron Chamber is pleased to announce the selection of Angela Presutti as the Young Professionals Network (YPN) Director. Presutti leads the organization's attraction and retention efforts focusing on young professionals in the Greater Akron area.

A graduate of Barberton High School and of The University of Akron, Presutti said the region has helped shape her into who she is today. "I will love nothing more than to give back to the community by helping young professionals realize they don't have to leave home to achieve their dreams," she said.

As her current focus, Presutti is working on restructuring the Young Professionals Network to make it one that creates more personal and professional relationships while also developing more opportunities for young professionals. "YPN members will be given opportunities to enhance their potential while feeling connected to the region," Presutti said. "All YPN goals will remain consistently aligned with the mission of the Chamber which is to drive economic development and prosperity for the people of the Greater Akron Region."

"We are extremely proud of our Young Professionals' Network," said Dan Colantone, President and CEO of the Chamber. "They are growing in numbers; and with the leadership of our new director of YPN, we will be laying the groundwork to increase young professionals' involvement and their influence in strategic initiatives."

# MEMBERCHOICE

A Benefits Plan for Greater Akron Chamber Members



**Group Health Insurance** Through our small employer Health Care Alliance, Chamber members are able to save up to 5% on their health insurance premiums! SummaCare offers a wide variety of fully-insured and self-insured products to fit the needs of employers of all sizes, even the sole proprietor. Their growing network of providers includes over 50 of the area's finest hospitals and thousands of providers, including nationally ranked Summa Health System and Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Statewide and national networks are also available.

**Vision** Advantica EyeCare provides vision care plans to employer groups of 10-plus employees and managed care organizations. With over 11,000 providers nationwide and contracts with most major retail outlets, Advantica EyeCare's offerings include easy-to-administer plan designs, vision exams, eyeglasses, mail order contact lens service and LASIK surgery. They have also just enhanced their vision plans to cover Photochromic (lenses that change in sunlight) and Progressive Lenses. The Advantica advantage offers you and your employees the finest in eye care professionals.

**Group Dental** HumanaDental has partnered with the Greater Akron Chamber to provide members the full range of fully-insured and employee-paid (voluntary) dental insurance products. The products are designed to fit any need; and if you obtain a quote through a Chamber broker, you are eligible for a discount. Humana Dental is passionate about service and provides one of the top three largest PPO dental networks of over 93,000 dentist locations.

**Group Workers' Compensation** The Greater Akron Chamber's Group Rating Program offers savings up to the maximum available discount on your BWC workers' compensation premium. The Chamber partners with CareWorks Consultants (CCI) because they help employers achieve the highest group rating discount possible. They analyze each employer's unique claim and premium history to find the highest level of savings – from the BWC maximum to a 15% savings for companies with claims. Joining a group rating program is the single best way for an Ohio employer to significantly lower their workers' compensation premiums.

**Office Supplies** **Office DEPOT** The Greater Akron Chamber has negotiated incredible pricing on office supplies for our members through Office Depot. This unique program offers members discounts of up to 65% on office supplies, office furniture, computer supplies, and facility/break room supplies.

**Language Translation** Advanced Language Translation Inc. (ALT) an ISO-certified provider of translation and localization services in over 30 languages – offers a 10 percent discount on all services to Greater Akron Chamber members. ALT provides translation of documents, web sites, software interface and user documentation, as well as foreign language desktop publishing, voice-over, terminology management, software internationalization and validation services. ALT develops and manages the entire process from start to finish, eliminating the need for multiple vendors, and allowing companies to concentrate on their core business.

TO FIND OUT IF THE **MemberChoice Benefits Plan** IS THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR BUSINESS, contact your independent insurance agent or Theresa Byers at the Greater Akron Chamber (330) 237-1228.

**Electronic Payments** Electronic Merchant Services (EMS) is a leading provider of merchant processing services and electronic transactions. As a Greater Akron Chamber member, you are given access to special rates and discounts as well as an elevated level of service. EMS lets you offer convenient, electronic payment methods to your customers, while you get the benefits of low rates and additional savings. You can also take advantage of gift and loyalty card products developed to help you increase sales and improve customer relationships, giving you a competitive edge.

**member<sub>TO</sub> member**  
**DISCOUNT PROGRAM**

Save money and help support our local economy!

Choose Greater Akron Chamber member companies for your business and personal purchases! The companies included in our Member-to-Member Discount Directory have agreed to extend special savings to Chamber members and their employees. To take advantage of the savings, simply present your membership card at any participating merchant.

Attract customers and build relationships by becoming a participating merchant! If your business would like to participate in the Member-to-Member Discount program, contact Theresa Byers at (330) 237-1228.

To view the last Member-To-Member Discount Directory, go to [www.greaterakronchamber.org](http://www.greaterakronchamber.org).

# calendar OF EVENTS

**2010 GREATER AKRON CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENTS**  
Reservations for all Greater Akron Chamber events can be made online at [www.greaterakronchamber.org](http://www.greaterakronchamber.org) or by calling (330) 376-5550.

## october

### Coffee, Tea & Contacts

Wednesday, October 13, 2010  
Panera Bread  
2855 West Market Street  
Fairlawn, OH 44333  
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by Panera Bread



### KNOW (Knowledgeable Network of Women): Self Protection for Today's Working Woman

Whether you are walking to your car after work, visiting clients at all hours of the day or taking a walk during your lunch hour, Carlos Crespo with Rose Guardian will share some great safety tips to incorporate into your everyday life and pass on to your friends and family.

Wednesday, October 20, 2010  
Portage Country Club  
240 North Portage Path  
Akron, OH 44303

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by Crooked River Salon



### Get Connected 2010 Airport After Hours

Each year, Akron-Canton Airport partners with the Greater Akron Chamber, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Green Chamber of Commerce to host an exciting night of networking and gourmet hors d'oeuvres and spirits.

Thursday, October 28, 2010  
Akron-Canton Airport  
2nd Floor Atrium  
5400 Lauby Road, N.W.  
North Canton, OH 44720  
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by NEOTEC



## november

### Economic Outlook 2011

Join community business leaders as Jack Kleinhenz, Ph.D., principal and chief economist of Kleinhenz & Associates shares his outlook on Ohio's regional economic forecast for 2011.

Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Hilton Akron/Fairlawn  
3180 West Market Street  
Akron, OH 44333  
7:30 a.m. registration & business connections  
7:45 served breakfast  
8:00 – 9:30 a.m. program

Sponsored by Roetzel & Andress



### YPN Speaker Series

Speaker and topic to be determined  
Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Martin Center at  
The University of Akron  
105 Fir Hill  
Akron, OH 44325  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by FirstMerit Bank



## december

### 7th Annual Local Elected Officials Recognition Luncheon

Join us in honoring local elected officials for their contributions to development and community improvement. Members nominate and select one official from Medina, Summit or Portage Counties to honor.

Friday, December 10, 2010  
Fairlawn Country Club  
200 North Wheaton Road  
Fairlawn, OH 44313  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Dominion and AT&T



SAVE THE DATE  
**03.24.11**

The Greater Akron Chamber's 104th Annual Meeting is set for **Thursday, March 24, 2011**, at the John S. Knight Center. We are proud to have BCG & Co. as our sponsor next year.



## GREATER AKRON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GUIDE TO PUBLISH IN PRINT AND online



Showcasing the best of Greater Akron's people, places and progressive business climate, the *Greater Akron Economic Development Guide* reinforces the area's favorable quality of place while also targeting prospective residents, employees, businesses and visitors. The magazine will be distributed by the Greater Akron Chamber as well as through key local businesses, trade shows, conferences and events throughout the year. The guide's Web site, [imagesakron.com](http://imagesakron.com), will also feature fresh, new extended content, video, photo galleries and more. The annual magazine is a collaborative effort between the Chamber and Journal Communications ([jnlcom.com](http://jnlcom.com)), an award-winning custom publisher of community and specialty magazines with clients in more than 30 states.

"Forward-thinking communities like Akron are what every person considering a move, and businesses seeking to relocate, want to find out about," says Ray Langen, Executive Vice President for Journal Communications. "What better way to get this information to this specific audience, than through a magazine and Web site containing the exact information they need? We are proud to partner with such a progressive area."

Visit the *Greater Akron Economic Development Guide* online and instantly enrich your Web site with engaging community content. Go to [imagesakron.com](http://imagesakron.com) and click on "Link to us." For more information on becoming a part of the third annual guide, contact the Chamber at (330) 376-5550.



## The Greater Akron Chamber

is pleased to announce the addition of Chad Hamman as Vice President, Membership. He is responsible for meeting the Chamber's annual revenue goals for retaining and growing membership and sponsorship.

Hamman spent the previous ten years working for the Greater Cleveland Partnership and COSE. He has extensive experience in market research, sales, marketing and program development. He received a B.A. degree in Sociology from Bowling Green State University. He is a member of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives and Sales and Marketing Executives of Cleveland.

To find out more about investor membership and sponsorship opportunities, contact Chad Hamman at (330) 237-1247 or [hamman@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:hamman@greaterakronchamber.org).

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## connect WITH THE GREATER AKRON 2010-2011 RELOCATION GUIDE



"Experience Greater Akron"- 50 Things We LOVE About the Akron Region Official Relocation Publication of the Greater Akron Chamber

The ultimate guide to living, working and playing in Summit, Portage and Medina counties. It showcases the best of the region – the vitality of its people and the unparalleled quality of life: business climate, education, medical community, arts and parks and neighborhoods.

Our magazine is designed to instill the pride of Greater Akron among current residents and to make a newcomer's move as informed and stress-free as possible with authoritative sources, useful articles and must-have contact information.

Year-round exposure through direct print magazine and an interactive Web site provides maximum return on your advertising investment.

For copies of the guide, call the Chamber at **(330) 376-5550.**

## SHADES OF ireland



The Greater Akron Chamber is pleased to offer a cultural immersion trip - Shades of Ireland - on **March 1-10, 2011!** The trip includes travel out of Cleveland Hopkins, most meals and attractions, and promises to be a fantastic experience (at a most cost-effective rate!) Experience a fun-filled Irish adventure - travel along one of the most beautiful coastal routes in the world, the Ring of Kerry; experience the daily life of a traditional Irish family; and journey to the stunning, 700-foot high cliffs of Moher for an awe-inspiring view of the Atlantic and the Aran Islands AND a stay in the Cabra Castle.

\$2,949 single occupancy  
\$2,499 double occupancy  
\$2,469 triple occupancy

10 days, 13 meals (8 breakfasts, 5 dinners)

Join the Chamber for an informational meeting on **Tuesday, October 12, 2010**, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S. High St., Akron, Ohio 44326.

RSVP to Karen Beltram at (330) 237-1254.

*Erin Go Bragh (Ireland Forever!)*



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economic development and prosperity for  
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