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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Chamber Distributes Nearly \$200,000 to Local Companies

The Greater Akron Chamber recently assisted 38 companies with a portion of college student wages who were interns during spring semester. The students from The University of Akron and Kent State University were science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors. Program funding was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration with support from Congressman Tim Ryan.

As a result of the program, three graduating seniors received full-time job offers and at least a dozen students continued working part-time with their companies through the summer. STEM internships are a vital part of the Chamber's strategy to develop a workforce that meets the needs of growing industries like biotechnology, advanced materials, information technology, energy and manufacturing.

According to Dan Colantone, the Chamber's CEO, "We are building an educated talent pool that supports the area's economic strengths and assists local companies that are vital to creating jobs. By exposing college students to the business environment, students enhance their resumes which employers view as favorable when recruiting entry-level candidates."

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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.***

**Serving Medina, Portage & Summit Counties**