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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Greater Akron Chamber Presents
The Morning Buzz: The Business Case for Diversity
The Morning Buzz is a quarterly economic development breakfast that plugs you into hot topics on regional issues and provides networking opportunities.

Lee A. Gill, J.D., Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Equity/Chief Diversity Officer for The University of Akron, presents "The Business Case for Diversity" on Wednesday, September 24, 2008. Please join us for an engaging conversation on the importance of diversity and inclusive excellence. Gill's passionate belief is that no organization can afford not to harness the rainbow of demographic change for a competitive advantage. As he views it, The Business Case for Diversity is akin to the educational process, "Learn it well, and be rewarded. Fail to learn it, and be left behind."

As CEO of The Stratus Group Consultants, Inc., Gill brings more than 25 years of private and public sector experience in working with major corporate executives, hospital administrators, college presidents and law firm executive committees to address the importance of valuing and embracing diversity as a business imperative. For the past ten years, he has been the Dean of The Institute for Diversity and Leadership, Professional Development at Lake Michigan College and the college's Affirmative Action Officer. Gill received his B.A. degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and his Juris Doctorate degree from Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois. While at Lake Michigan College, his responsibilities included enhancing and improving the College's climate for diversity by providing services to students, faculty and staff through designing and implementing programs, workshops, recruitment initiatives and other innovative strategies that promote inclusiveness. As The University of Akron's new Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Equity/Chief Diversity Officer, Gill will direct outreach efforts to diverse populations of students, faculty, staff and a network of community stakeholders to move the conversation of diversity and inclusive excellence forward.

The Morning Buzz will be held at Fairlawn Country Club, 200 N. Wheaton Rd., Akron. Registration and networking begin at 7:30 a.m., and the program will be held from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$16 for members and \$20 for non-members and includes a Continental breakfast. To make a reservation, call the Greater Akron Chamber at (330) 376-5550 or register on-line at www.greaterakronchamber.org. RSVP by noon on Monday, September 22, 2008.

The Chamber extends our thanks to **SmartBusiness**, print media sponsor for The Morning Buzz.

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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.

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