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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Greater Akron Chamber's 2009 Trip of a Lifetime China Tour

"Fabulous first-time experience to see the highlights of China at a very reasonable price..." is what Tim and Jan Enright had to say upon returning from the Greater Akron Chamber's successful nine-day adventure of a lifetime trip to China. This is the first time a chamber of commerce from the state of Ohio has participated in this unique excursion. The April 13-21 trip not only included opportunities to sightsee at some of the world's most famous landmarks including the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Ming Emperor's tombs – but also the country's centers of commerce. "We just couldn't pass up this incredible opportunity to take the Greater Akron community to China," stated Dan Colantone, President and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber.

Seventy-three people participated in the educational and cultural immersion program. The inexpensive and all-inclusive opportunity allowed participants to experience beautiful attractions filled with the richest cultures China has to offer, as a hands-on experience to learn their customs and culture. The 5,000-year-old civilization has always been one of the most exciting and intriguing destination for travelers. "China is a fascinating country which is propelling itself into the 21st Century," said one participant. Jeff Murphy, who went on the trip, added, "Our group learned a tremendous amount of the remarkable history of the country, its people and the nature of its economy and culture."

This trip is an eye-opener to anyone wanting to do business in China. Besides a culture so deeply ingrained in tradition, China has one of the fastest growing economies in the world. In fact, Ohio's exports to China grew 40 percent from 2005 to 2006, another 15 percent in 2007, and an additional 21 percent in 2008 according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Association. "We are inextricably tied to a global economy, and the more we understand it hopefully, the more we can take advantage of future business opportunities that will benefit our region," said Dan Colantone. This is an educational opportunity that will help your business leaders and members of your community understand the economics of this Eastern culture and ultimately feel more comfortable in participating in critical foreign trade.

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The Chamber is planning another trip to China scheduled for October 16-24 of this year, giving others an opportunity to immerse themselves in the study of both culture and business life of this unique country. “If offered again, I would recommend it highly even to those who may not have had China on the top of their ‘must visit’ countries. The sponsored tour was outstanding and well organized...Kudos to the Chamber for sponsoring the trip,” Murphy concluded.

For more information, please contact Tony Rinella at (330) 237-1250, [rinella@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:rinella@greaterakronchamber.org) or Rebecca Guzy Woodford at (330)-237-1227 [guzy@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:guzy@greaterakronchamber.org). For additional information about the China Trip, photos or upcoming trips, visit the Greater Akron 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.***