

Contact: Corrine Beller
330-972-6445

Idea Exchange brings new opportunity to entrepreneurs in the Greater Akron area

AKRON, Ohio, March 5, 2010— The prospect of coming up with a new business idea is one thing, but advancing that idea from concept to completion is another story. Fortunately, help is available for those individuals with a great idea but unsure of its viability and/or how to proceed. It's called the Entrepreneur's Idea Exchange.

"The purpose of this organization is to help people with ideas at any stage of development to move forward by providing a venue to not only propose their concepts, but also solicit fair – and honest – feedback from peers and seasoned entrepreneurs," explained Corrine Beller, organizer of the Entrepreneur's Idea Exchange and Director of Outreach for The University of Akron College of Business Administration. "What better platform to test the viability of people's ideas and take them to the next level while helping to create jobs and economic development for our area?"

To promote and facilitate the events, an organizing committee was formed to include organizations that touch people in the area who could be the next entrepreneur. In addition to The University of Akron College of Business Administration, members of the committee include the Austen Bioinnovation Institute, Greater Akron Chamber, Akron Innovation Center, Akron Incubator, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), Akron Urban League, Score, Akron Athena Powerlink®, Summa Foundation, Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board, Leadership Akron, Kent Regional Business Alliance, Medina County Economic Development Corp., Women's Network and The University of Akron's MCUC, Midpoint and Wayne College campuses.

The Idea Exchange is modeled after the Founder's Café, in existence in Cleveland since 2008. From its inception, more than five hundred people have attended the Founder's Café, and many more ideas have been presented, discussed, improved and realized. The Entrepreneur's Idea Exchange is for people from Summit, the surrounding counties and beyond. It will help entrepreneurs develop new business ideas and fill a great need for all.

The inaugural meeting for the Entrepreneur's Idea Exchange will be held on Tuesday, March 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the University of Akron, College of Business Administration concourse – 259 S. Broadway, across from St. Bernard's Church. The \$15 entrance fee will include a parking pass, light food and soft drinks. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.ohioideaexchange.com> or call (330) 972-6445.