



# Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

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## News & Updates

May 28, 2010

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### Ohio LDD Directors Honor Two Federal Legislators

On April 26, 2010, the Ohio Local Development District Directors presented Senator George Voinovich with an Ohio University themed Longaberger basket for his tireless efforts to improve the lives of the people of Appalachia Ohio. The presentation took place at the Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.



Pictured left to right—Greg DiDonato, Executive Director of OMEGA; Mrs. Voinovich; Senator Voinovich; Misty Casto, Executive Director of Buckeye Hills HVRDD, and John Hemmings, Executive Director of OVRDC.

On April 30, 2010, the Ohio Local Development District Directors presented Congressman Zack Space with the NADO Congressional Leadership Award at the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) meeting in Walnut Creek, Ohio. The four Ohio Local Development Districts nominated Congressman Space for the NADO Congressional Leadership Award because of his advocacy on behalf of the 23 million people of the nation's Appalachian Region and especially for those living in his district.



Pictured are left to right—Misty Casto, Executive Director of Buckeye Hills HVRDD; John Getchey, Executive Director of Eastgate LDD; John Hemmings, Executive Director of OVRDC; Congressman Zach Space and Greg DiDonato, Executive Director of OMEGA.

### Stories from the Home Front

To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, the Appalachian Regional Commission is seeking "Stories from the Home Front" to tell the social history of the Civil War in the region, and to help travelers and residents understand the full impact of the Civil War on our region.

All 32 counties in the Appalachian region of Ohio will have two stories featured on a guide (or storyboard) and then the website that will be developed for this project will contain more additional stories.

Do you, someone from your organization or community, have a story about a person or place in Appalachia affected or impacted by the Civil War? If so, submit your story on-line at <http://www.arc-cw150stories.com>

**Deadline is June 5, 2010.**

Selected stories will be featured in a regional guide for travelers and residents.

Please click the link below, or copy and paste the link into your browser window, to go to the on-line nomination form. <http://www.arc-cw150stories.com/>

### Fundraising in Appalachia

You are invited to the following event hosted by OSU South Centers:  
Fundraising in Appalachia

Date: Thursday, June 17, 2010 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location:  
OSU South Centers  
1864 Shyville Road  
Piketon, OH 45661

For more information [click here](#)

Can you attend this event? [Respond Here](#)

### Commerce Launches New Challenge to Bring Your Ideas to the Market Faster

When President Obama unveiled his [innovation policy](#) last year, he said, "In our increasingly interconnected and globally competitive world economy, unleashing innovation is an essential component of a comprehensive economic strategy... The greatest job and value creators of the future will be activities, jobs, and even industries that don't exist yet today."

To help spur the industries and jobs of tomorrow, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship announced the i6 Challenge – where we will award up to \$1 million each to six winning teams with the most innovative ideas to drive technology commercialization in their regions.

How well America moves ideas out of the research lab and into the marketplace will help determine whether we remain the most competitive and vibrant economy in the world. And we want to hear the best ideas from entrepreneurs, investors, universities, foundations, and non-profits across America.

The i6 Challenge is being administered by the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA). We are also partnering with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF), who have pledged to award up to \$6 million in additional funding to their Small Business Innovation Research grantees that partner with i6 Challenge winners.

That's a total of \$12 million that will be working to help bring innovative ideas to market quicker. I encourage anyone interested in participating in the i6 Challenge to submit their application by the July 15, 2010 deadline. For more information, please go to [www.eda.gov/i6](http://www.eda.gov/i6).

### Ohio Tourism Releases 2009 Industry Performance Data

State Tourism Director Amir Eylon today announced that Ohio grew its number of overnight leisure trips in 2009 by 6 percent over 2008 according to research conducted by Tourism Economics and Longwoods International on behalf of the Ohio Tourism Division.


Longwoods International research also revealed that the Ohio Tourism Division's 2009 paid consumer marketing efforts generated approximately \$360 million in new visitor spending and brought Ohio a return on investment of \$13 in state and local taxes for every \$1 invested in tourism. In 2008, the return on investment was \$12.

"Growth in Ohio's number of overnight leisure trips and an increase in return on investment generated by our marketing programs are affirmations of our state's tourism industry has to offer travelers," said State Tourism Director Amir Eylon. "As expected, we experienced slight decreases in visitor spending, but the research confirms that our state's industry partners and the Ohio Tourism Division had the right message and marketing mix; and consumers responded."

The research study further indicates Ohio's tourism industry sustained nearly 437,000 full-time equivalent jobs with a total income of \$10 billion, contributed \$36 billion in total sales and brought in \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes to Ohio's economy in 2009.

"These results demonstrate the strength of Ohio's tourism industry and reinforce this industry as an economic driver for our state," said Ohio Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel. "We are pleased that travelers continue to take advantage of Ohio's outstanding and diverse tourism experiences."

The Ohio Tourism Division expected declines last year due to the downsizing of traveler spending habits. Overall tourism sales declined 8.8 percent and jobs decreased by 3.3 percent. Ohio recorded roughly 171 million visits in 2009 with 33.4 million of those visits including an overnight stay.

 Community Action Committee of Pike County  
Business Development Department



## Microsoft Office Publisher 2007: Level I Training Workshop

The Business Development Department of the Community Action Committee of Pike County and the OSU Small Business Development Center is offering a one-day Microsoft Publisher 2007: Level I Training Workshop on Wednesday, June 23rd, 2010 at the OSU Endeavor Center in Piketon, Ohio. The Microsoft Publisher 2007: Level I Training Workshop is a hands-on course that teaches participants how to create a one-page publication, modify its layout and structure, edit its content, format a publication and format pictures, and identify the options for distributing a publication.

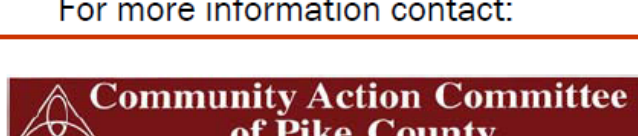
**WHEN/TIME:**  
Wednesday, June 23rd, 2010  
8:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.  
\*Lunch Provided!

**WHERE:**  
Ohio State University  
Endeavor Center  
1864 Shyville Road  
Piketon, Ohio 45661

**FEE:** \$75

For more information on this class and to obtain a registration form, please call 740-289-2371 or toll free at 1-866-820-1185. Seats are limited.

For more information contact:



Business Development Department

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