



Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission

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News & Updates

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OVRDC Annual Full Commission Appreciation Banquet

OVRDC'S Annual Full Commission Appreciation Banquet was held on September 23rd at the US Grant Career Center in Bethel, Ohio. Presiding at the head table were Bob Proud, OVRDC Chairman and Clermont County Commissioner, Doug Corcoran, OVRDC Treasurer and Ross County Commissioner, Roger Rhonemus, OVRDC Vice Chairman and Adams County Commissioner, Chris Shaffer, Interim Director-Governor's Office of Appalachia, John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director, State Representative Joe Uecker, State Representative Danny Bubb, Keynote speaker Tom Reid, Reid Consulting Group and special guests Joe Whitt, US Navy Pearl Harbor Survivor and Spc. Donnie Lawrence, Army National Guard, Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Entertainment for the evening event was provided by members of New Richmond High School Troubadours. The Artisan Center at Maple Creek displayed pottery and artwork items and the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau provided water bottles for those attending the meeting. OVRDC would like to thank the US Grant Career Center for hosting the event, its Culinary Department for dinner and its Horticulture Department for the flower arrangements.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Tom Reid of Reid Consulting Group. Mr. Reid discussed the "Connecting Appalachia Broadband Plan."

Chairman Proud and Mr. Hemmings, presented the following awards:



The 2010 OVRDC Outstanding Area Leadership Award was presented to United States Senator George V. Voinovich, for his outstanding service, commitment and advocacy for the OVRDC Region, Southern Ohio and its communities; by taking a lead role in reauthorization and adequate appropriations for ARC, and by supporting the Local Development Districts, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, and other programs serving the region. The award was accepted by Nan Cahall, District Representative for the Senator. (Picture to the left: Nan Cahall reading a personal letter from Senator George V. Voinovich)

The 2010 recipient of the Executive Committee Member Awards were Gary Heaton, Highland County Commissioner and Ken Morrison, Clermont County. The 2010 Recipient of the outstanding Full Commission Member Awards were Katy Farber, Highland County and Mal Payne, Ross County. An Appreciation Certificate was presented to the Clermont County Commissioners for hosting the event.

OVRDC Announcement

John Hemmings, OVRDC Executive Director, announces OVRDC's newest staff member, Melody Thompson, Bookkeeper/Secretary effective October 18, 2010. In her new position Melody will assist the Finance Director in maintaining and updating OVRDC's financial records and payroll. She will also be responsible for performing secretarial and related support activities. Melody resides in Waverly, Ohio with her husband and two boys. We would like to welcome Melody to the OVRDC family.



Early Warning Network Awards

Ohio Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel announced that 11 Ohio organizations will receive funds to help them identify and assist companies at risk of closure or layoffs. The Early Warning Network facilitates partnerships among state and local workforce and economic development partners, identifies possible resources, and implements strategic solutions for companies at risk.

"The Early Warning Network allows us to continue our proactive work with companies that are in need of assistance, rather than getting involved after layoff notices are given," Patt-McDaniel said. "This program will ensure that companies around the state have the resources needed to keep their employees on the job and continue to bolster their communities."

The Early Warning Network funds three types of programs: Retention Programs, Labor-Management Cooperation Programs, and an Employee Ownership Center. All applicants included documentation that showed a strong track record in working with employers, maintaining stable relationships with regional partners, and administering layoff aversion activities.

Awards for the Early Warning Network Include:

Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission – \$242,745 to create the Business Assistance Network, in partnership with Workforce Development Area 1 and The Ohio State University South Center. The Network will lead the regional retention program effort by systematically aligning the regional resources of economic development, the chamber of commerce, educational institutions, and workforce development to provide a platform for a unified delivery assistance model for businesses.

Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District – \$250,000 to operate a Business Retention Network Program in Southeastern Ohio. The program will focus on assisting local economic development professionals as they seek to help companies retain employees and expand their businesses.

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Foundation – \$250,000 to encourage local economic development practitioners to become involved in regional retention efforts, connect with the University System of Ohio, and improve the overall infrastructure of retention efforts. The Foundation partners with the Southwest Ohio Regional Workforce Investment Board, Workforce One Investment Board, Workforce One Investment Board of Southwest Ohio, and local community economic development partners.

Mahoning and Columbiana County Training Association – \$140,000 to expand the Business Resource Network, an economic development model that is significantly enhancing the regional capacity to collaboratively market and deliver demand-driven business services.

The Workforce Initiative Association/The Employment Source – \$250,000 for the Regional Business Network in Stark and Tuscarawas counties to better coordinate of outreach and access to services for area employers and their workforces. Efforts will be focused on layoff aversion and are expected to help maintain the region's workforce.

Columbus Chamber of Commerce – \$249,804 to assist early warning efforts in Central Ohio. The funds will be used to further expand relationships with business executives, to respond to threats of companies at risk of closing or leaving, and to support companies with expansion potential.

Lima Area Chamber Foundation – \$250,000 for the West Central Ohio Network, which is a collaboration between local and regional economic and workforce development professionals. The funds will enable the Network to expand its proactive work with at-risk employers by using available resources to avoid mass layoffs and possible closures.

Northwest Ohio Center for Labor-Management – \$90,000 to assist business needs, set up labor management committees, and act as a neutral chair when needed.

Columbus Area Labor Management Committee – \$90,000 to assist with layoff aversion activities for Central Ohio businesses.

Southwest Ohio Center for Labor-Management Cooperation – \$90,000 to continue supporting businesses and workers in averting layoffs, proactively securing workplace retention, and facilitating organizational transitions.

The Ohio Employee Ownership Center – \$500,000 to continue supporting the development of employee-owned businesses. The Center provides technical assistance, training, and outreach to the business community in four areas: business owners looking to exit their businesses; owners interested in selling their businesses to employees; employee groups, local governments, and community groups seeking to avoid shutdowns and job loss; and existing employee-owned companies seeking to improve.

For more information on the Early Warning Network, please visit <http://development.ohio.gov/workforce>.

Ohio Begins Accepting Applications For Voter-Approved Veterans Bonus Program

A \$200 million voter-approved Ohio Veterans Bonus program opened a website to begin accepting applications for awards of \$500 to \$1,500 from an estimated 200,000 state residents believed eligible to participate.

Gov. Ted Strickland and Director Bill Hartnett of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services marked the start of the program at a Statehouse news conference. Family members of veterans who died as a result of injuries or illness in Persian Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq service may be eligible for a maximum total bonus of \$6,500.

"Of course, no payment is adequate reward for the sacrifices made on our behalf," Gov. Strickland said. "But these checks will help make a mortgage payment, or put food on the table, or start a savings account. And what's more, these payments will say something clearly and directly to our veterans: thank you," the governor said. The state has borrowed the first \$50 million of the \$200 million authorized to begin the payments. Estimated processing time for bonus applications is about eight weeks.

Mr. Hartnett encouraged submission of applications through [the website](#). Those without Internet access may apply through public libraries, or county veterans service offices.

American Community Survey (ACS)

The U.S. Census Bureau is pleased to announce the release of the American Community Survey (ACS) e-Tutorial. This interactive program will assist users by educating them on a wide range of topics, such as how communities benefit from participation and how to access data using American FactFinder (AFF). You can access the e-Tutorial directly [here](#) or go to the main ACS site www.census.gov/acs and view the menu under "Guidance for Data Users."

The release of the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates can be found on American FactFinder. There you will find data with social, demographic, housing, and economic data for areas with populations of 65,000 or more.

You can access the newly-released data on American FactFinder at: [2009 ACS 1-year data](#)

If you would like more information and supporting documentation for this data release please visit the ACS web site at: www.census.gov/acs

Ohio Business Lending Clearinghouse

Small businesses in Ohio have a new connection that enables them to easily apply for loans from several lenders simultaneously through a joint effort between the Ohio Department of Development, the Treasurer of State, the State's Small Business Assistance Centers, and a number of participating financial institutions.

The new program, the Ohio Business Lending Clearinghouse, is being announced at events in Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. "One of the biggest challenges facing small businesses today is finding capital to grow their companies," said Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "Our goal is to help connect business with Ohio lenders who are interested in extending loans to qualified businesses. We also want to help steer small businesses toward resources in Ohio that can assist them with their business development plans. The Clearinghouse is a win for Ohio's small business community and for lenders."

"Knowing a financial institution's business model and service footprint enables us to make connections more readily and can save small businesses valuable time and effort, while potentially bringing additional business to Ohio lenders," said Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce. "Going through the Clearinghouse, a small business can determine quickly whether any of a number of participating lenders may be interested in talking with them about a loan." The process begins with a small business visiting OhioBLC.com and following three simple steps to answer questions about its loan request and its business.

Lenders participating in the program receive the business loan profile and evaluate it within 48 hours. Interested lenders will then contact the small business to further discuss the loan request. However, the program doesn't end there. If a small business is ineligible for loans from the participating lenders, it is referred to one of the state's Small Business Assistance Centers. Those centers are equipped to counsel small businesses on development issues, such as business plans, and can direct small businesses to additional resources to help them succeed.

For more information on the program, visit www.OhioBLC or contact the Ohio Department of Development at (614) 728-6672.

Clean Ohio

Important announcements and updates to the Clean Ohio brownfields program are listed below along with notices for upcoming training opportunities and conferences. Please contact the Urban Development Division at 614.995.2292 or visit the website for additional information: <http://clean.ohio.gov/BrownfieldRevitalization/>

Clean Ohio Assistance Fund updates:

Phase II assessment grant dollars continue to be available and applications may be submitted at anytime <http://clean.ohio.gov/BrownfieldRevitalization/AssistanceFundApplication.htm>

Upcoming Conferences:

Ohio Brownfield Conference January 19-20, 2011 Dublin, OH <http://epa.ohio.gov/derr/OhioBrownfieldConference.aspx>

National Brownfield Conference April 3-5, 2011 Philadelphia, PA <http://www.brownfields2011.org/en/index.aspx>