



Press Release

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NEW PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF BUSINESSES IN LORAIN COUNTY

A new program to assess the needs of existing companies and provide a proactive, systematic approach to countywide retention and expansion of business in Lorain County was announced today by the Lorain County Commissioners.

“We know that 80 percent of new jobs and capital investment comes from existing businesses,” said Lori Kokoski, Lorain County Commissioner. “We need to proactively be able to address problems as well as growth opportunities and cultivate relationships with our county’s businesses to make it easy for them to continue to do business here.”

The new economic development program, called Business Connection, will track and assist Lorain County businesses. The program, sponsored by the Lorain County Growth Partnership, will bring together teams from partner organizations to collect information from Lorain County companies by conducting 100 face-to-face interviews in the coming year. Information collected by the team will be used to identify the needs of Lorain County businesses and enhance the County’s ability to retain, expand and attract businesses and jobs.

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“Through the Business Connection program, we will all gain a more thorough understanding of each company’s role in the community’s economic future,” said Commissioner Betty Blair.

In addition to the outreach initiative of the Program, Business Connection will also develop a comprehensive contact list of Lorain County businesses as well as a complete inventory of business assets and commercial real estate. Data collected will provide a valuable and innovative business retention and expansion tool that addresses the needs of existing businesses and the cities and towns in which they live.

“With this new program, we’ll have the information we need to look at our county businesses as an investment portfolio,” said Commissioner Ted Kalo.

Partner organizations in the Lorain County Growth Partnership include the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce, Team Lorain County, Lorain County Community College and the Lorain County Joint Vocational School. For more information about the program contact Phil Mikita at (440) 328-2364 or visit the Lorain County Growth Partnership website at www.lcgp.net.