



WORKING TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OHIOANS LIVING IN THE 32-COUNTY REGION

Appalachian Regional Commission holds Summer meeting in Athens



On July 28 and 29, Director Jason Wilson and Deputy Director Joy Padgett welcomed the Appalachian Regional Commission to Athens for its 2014 summer meeting.

Representatives from the 13 member states, along with Earl Grohl, federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, met to discuss how to build businesses in the region and to review the 2015 Strategic Plan.

The summer meeting started Monday night with a reception, where the group was welcomed to Ohio by Director Wilson and Ohio University President Roderick J. McDavis.

Tuesday the group toured the Ohio University Innovation Center. They heard from Neill Lane, CEO of Global Cooling, Michael Archer,

president of Pioneer Pipe and Michelle Gorman, co-owner of Integration Acres about how they are growing businesses in Appalachian Ohio. The group also heard from Tom Johnson, mayor of Somerset (Perry County).



Director Wilson and Deputy Director Padgett meet with Co-Chair Earl Grohl between sessions.

He explained how his county is identifying ways to help residents get access to health care and educating them on the importance of preventative care.

“The visit to the Innovation Center and discussion with our community business leaders allowed us to share Ohio success with the ARC members,” said Director Wilson.

The group also discussed how to encourage entrepreneurship and business growth in the region, focusing on target areas: healthcare, energy, agribusiness, tourism and advanced manufacturing. Input from the meeting starts the 2015 Strategic Plan process for the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Appalachian Regional Commission members meet again in Alabama in October.

Governor's Office of Appalachia Internship Available

The Governor's Office of Appalachia is accepting applications for fall and winter interns. Students must be from one of the 32-Appalachian counties, a junior or senior in college, and available to work in Columbus. Interested students should send their resume and cover letter to appalachia@development.ohio.gov or call (614) 644-9228.

Bon Appetit Appalachia holds kick-off event in The Plains



On July 16, the *Bon Appetit! Bon Appalachia!* campaign launched. More than 283 of Appalachia's culinary gems, including food festivals, farm-to-fork restaurants, farm tours, vineyards, wineries, brewpubs, and Distilleries are showcased in a traveler's guide and at <http://visitappalachia.com/bonappetitappalachia/>

"Culinary promotion is very effective right now, especially when you have the resources that Appalachia does," said Tammy Brown of TourismOhio. "Visitors want to know where their food is coming from. It offers an authentic atmosphere and sense of place that truly represents the region."

The Ohio launch event included a workshop at the Eclipse Company Town Store in Athens. Ohio businesses learned how the campaign can grow the local-food and tourism economy in Appalachia.

To learn more, visit: [Bon Appetit Appalachia Map](#)



Grants Will Spur Innovation in Job Training



Five regional economic and workforce development organizations have won two-year grants from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the

Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT). The grants will help unemployed and underemployed Ohioans find work and build careers in growing industries. One of the grantees is in the Appalachian region – the Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition.

"Aligning state education and training programs with the needs of business is one of our primary, ongoing goals," said ODJFS Director Cynthia C. Dungy. "These regional training programs will combine classroom instruction, on-the-job training, and internships and co-ops to bridge the gap between Ohioans looking for work and businesses looking to hire."

The Industry Workforce Alliance Pilot Initiative is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Governor's Office of Health Transformation Innovation Fund. Ohio was one of only 15 states to receive the federal incentive dollars, which are awarded to states based on the performance of their adult education and job training programs.

"Each of these applicants demonstrated a commitment to innovative and targeted strategies to improve Ohio's workforce system," said OWT Director Dawn Larzelere. "The programs will encourage regional economic development strategies and effectively address the needs of key industries by fostering partnerships among local employers, educators and government entities."

The Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition will receive up to \$243,000 and will focus on local manufacturing.

The state plans to award a sixth and final grant in southeastern Ohio. More information on that opportunity is currently available at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/rfp>.

Summer Safety Tips from the Ohio Fire Marshal



After what seemed like a never ending winter, we are out enjoying summer! But before you start the grill or camp fire, the State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers has a few tips to keep your family safe.

Grilling Safety:

- All propane and charcoal barbecue grills must be used **outdoors** to avoid fire hazards and toxic gases such as carbon monoxide.
- Keep grills clear from overhanging branches, house siding and deck edges and railings. Also, position the grill far from foot traffic.
- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line.
- Wear well-fitted clothing when barbecuing. Loose clothing and flammable material, such as nylon, should be avoided.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire - the flame can flashback into the container and explode.
- Supervise children around outdoor grills. Announcing a three-foot 'safety zone' around the grill is an effective way to keep both children and pets at a distance.

Campfire Safety:

- Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves and never under overhanging trees.
- Keep campfires small, and don't let them get out of hand.
- Keep plenty of water and a shovel around to douse the fire when you're done. Stir it and douse it again with water.
- Never leave campfires unattended.
- It is important to follow the park's rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires.

Two Companies to Invest in Appalachian Region

Governor John R. Kasich announced the approval of assistance for three projects set to create and retain jobs in the Appalachian region. During its monthly meeting, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) reviewed economic development proposals brought to the board by JobsOhio and its regional partners. Collectively, there are 11 projects expected to result in \$73,434,938 in new payroll, and spur more than \$470,785,241 million in investment across Ohio.

Projects approved by the TCA in the Appalachian Region are:

iHealth Solutions LLC, Village of South Point (Lawrence Co.)

expects to create 75 full-time positions, generating \$3 million in additional annual payroll as a result of the company's new location project in the Village of South Point (Lawrence Co.). iHealth Solutions supports healthcare management including billing and records. The TCA approved a 50 percent, seven-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

SGP South Point, LLC, Village of South Point (Lawrence Co.)

expects to create 100 full-time positions, generating \$5.5 million in additional annual payroll as a result of the company's new location project in the Village of South Point (Lawrence Co.). SGP South Point is a producer of renewable bio-diesel fuels using waste oils, fats and other waste-related extracts. The TCA approved a 55 percent, eight-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.



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DIRECTOR'S SCRAPBOOK



Governor John Kasich joined officials of Miba Sinter to celebrate the opening of the company's new facility. The company announced it will create more than 100 jobs at its site in McConnellsville.



Director Wilson and Congressman David Joyce presented a grant to the City of Geneva. The project will construct 4,800 linear feet of sanitary sewer line to allow for additional commercial development in the area.



Director Wilson met with Community Improvement Corporation Chairman Terry Lee in Belmont County to discuss a potential project.



Mary Cusick, Chief of TourismOhio (center) and Deputy Director Padgett discussed the impact of tourism at the Ohio Appalachian Country meeting on August 6.



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To Reach the Governor's Office of Appalachia call (614) 644-9228

If you have a story idea for the newsletter, please send it to Penny Martin at Penny.Martin@development.ohio.gov