Upcoming Events

June 11th - Basis of a Successful Start (BOSS)
OU Small Business Development Center is holding a FREE 2 hour class about types of ownership, licensing, tax requirements, sources of financing, identifying your customer, and how to market your product or service. The class will be held at the Ridges, building 19 from 10am-12pm and 6pm-8pm. Pre-Registration is required. To RSVP call 740-593-1797 or email twyman@ohio.edu. For more locations and times see the flyer here!

June 13th - Innovation Center Client PICNIC!

Come meet your Innovation Center neighbors and learn more about the great people who make up this entrepreneurial community. We'll have Miller's Chicken and all the standard picnic fare, including a chance for you to compete for corn-hole champion! Clients in attendance will have a change to win a Family 4-pack of tickets to the Southern Ohio Copperheads to be used at any upcoming game this summer. See you on June 13th at 11:30!
YAP hosting Night at the Ballpark!

Members of YAP can join one another for a fun night of baseball as the Southern Ohio Copperheads take the field on June 13th! Gates open at 6pm with first pitch at 7:00. Food will be provided courtesy of Business Remixed and beverages will be available for purchase. Identify yourself as a YAP member to receive an admission and dinner ticket. Go Copperheads!

What to Expect if OSHA Visits!

SAVE the DATE and REGISTER TODAY
Friday, June 14, 2013
8:00 am - 10:30 am
The Ohio University Innovation Center
340 West State Street

As an employer, inquiring minds need to know what to expect when OSHA pays a visit to your workplace. Michael Marr, Safety Consultant Specialist with the OH BWC Division of Safety and Hygiene, will share OSHA’s purpose, the inspection process, citations and penalties, the employer's responsibilities, and other details pertinent to the inspection process. OSHA inspections and compliance mandates apply to every business, not just manufacturing, industrial, and other blue collar related segments of the workforce.

There will be a minimal charge of $10.00 to attend. Dawn will be glad to invoice and she asks that reservations are paid in advance of the seminar. This will sell out so members are asked to RSVP the names of attendees at their earliest convenience. Call Dawn at 740.594.2251 or email her at dawn@athenschamber.com to attend this informational presentation. The Athens Area Chamber of Commerce wants members to be informed and prepared and we hope that you will join!

June 20th - Athens County Economic Development Council Lunch and Learn!

Interested in how your business can reduce costs, increase its marketing advantage and promote stewardship in the community? Kyle O'Keefe, the Zero Waste Initiative Coordinator for Rural Action will be discussing the benefits of reducing waste and greening your business. During this session participants will learn about waste reduction tips, assistance programs, marketing visibility and more. Participants will also have the chance to discuss the recycling challenges they are currently facing and to learn about efforts underway to improve the local recycling system.
**Past Events**

**NBIA Book Release!**
On Tuesday, June 4, at 4 p.m., the National Business Incubation Association discussed the findings of a major study on rural business incubation, which was commissioned by the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Innovation Center is one of nine business incubation programs featured as case studies in the new NBIA publication, *Best Practices in Rural Business Incubation: Successful Programs in Small Communities*. OUIC was the first university-based business incubator in the state of Ohio, the seventh university-based incubator in the country and the fourth oldest continuously operating incubator in the United States. In 2011 alone, OUIC’s 25 client companies directly created 88 jobs and generated $4.5 million in wages and $350,000 in state and local taxes.

Business incubation programs like the OU Innovation Center catalyze the process of starting and growing companies by providing entrepreneurs with the expertise, networks and tools they need to make their ventures successful. NBIA estimates that in 2011 alone, North American incubators assisted about 49,000 start-up companies that provided full-time employment for nearly 200,000 workers and generated annual revenue of almost $15 billion. Approximately 1,250 business incubation programs operate in the United States today.

*Best Practices in Rural Business Incubation* finds that business incubators can play a significant role in the economic development of rural areas. The findings and implications of the study were discussed during the June 4 event by ARC Federal Co-Chair Earl F. Gohl, NBIA President & CEO Jasper Welch, NBIA Senior Advisor Tracy Kitts and others.

The study’s major findings explain some of the practices and policies used by successful business incubators to grow fledgling companies and create jobs. These findings include:

- Many best practice incubation programs have developed or are collaborating within regional innovation networks.
- The most successful incubation programs implement the majority of industry best practices, adapting them to meet the incubator’s market, mission and goals.
- Rural incubator managers that are highly skilled in the business development process and spend
a significant amount of time working directly with their client companies have better outcomes.

- Location in rural or urban areas does not determine the potential for incubator success. Rather, program policies and procedures influence incubation program success the most.

For more information, please call Linda Knopp at (740) 593-4154 or e-mail lkopp@nbia.org. The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA) is the world's leading organization advancing business incubation and entrepreneurship. Based in Athens, Ohio, NBIA serves more than 2,200 members from approximately 60 countries.

Technology and Entrepreneurship Mixer!
Our last T&E Mixer was held on May 29th! There was a great turnout and lots of connections were made! Happy hour was sponsored by TechGROWTH Ohio at Jackie O's Pub and Brewery. Join us for our next mixer being held in August!

Innovation Engine Accelerator Kick-Off!
Six teams in the Accelerator participated in the boot-camp training on May 22-23rd. This in-depth program uses Lean Startup principles to advance the team's company. During summer 2013 (May 28 - August 16), teams will refine business plans and products, receive expert entrepreneurial
coaching and advice, and have the opportunity to pitch their company to investors!

**Entrepreneurship Development Group - Lunch and Learn**

Jonathan Archey, Director of Government Affairs for the Ohio Hospital Association, discussed how the Affordable Health Care Act affects businesses large and small. Jonathan provided information on how the Act may pose both opportunities and responsibilities for businesses. For questions on this topic contact Jonathan Archey: jonathana@ohanet.org.

**News**

**Second Annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference**
The Second Annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference, held June 4 in the Margaret M Walter Hall at Ohio University, opened with 195 in attendance. The event was presented by the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs with support from the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Panels included discussions on reducing the environmental and community impacts of shale oil and gas development, ensuring that workforce training is adequate to put Ohioans to work in this industry, capturing and deploying wealth for more sustainable businesses and industry, and determining where the opportunities are for Ohio to capitalize on the full value chain throughout eastern Ohio. Keynote speakers included IHS-Global Insight Managing Director Brendan O'Neill who discussed the economic and community impacts of shale gas development on the state and nation. Chesapeake Energy's Vice President of Corporate Development and State Government Relations Scott Rotruck, who encouraged communities to discuss and plan for the impacts of unconventional oil and gas development. Chesapeake currently has 600 Ohio residents on its payroll and Mr. Rotruck mentioned that Chesapeake tries to hire locally. Additional speakers included Doug O'Brien, the Acting Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development, and Jeannette Tamayo, the Chicago Regional Director of the US Economic Development Administration.

The regional showcase event brought together area business professionals, local government officials, and economic development professionals to examine the economic, environmental, and community impacts related to the development of shale gas, including the short and long-term impacts on businesses and local governments in our region.
The Army is Using Greenbox!
As noted in a Department of Defense article:

Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) currently lack sustainable wastewater treatment options, resulting in operational inefficiency, personnel vulnerability, and environmental degradation. The approach used in this research utilizes three sustainable technologies in concert—anaerobic membrane bioreactors (AnMBRs), clinoptilolite ion exchange, and GreenBox ammonia electrolysis. The synergistic combination of these technologies will enable the first anaerobic treatment system that is capable of removing ammonia, a critical pollutant in municipal waste streams that is conventionally degraded using energy-intensive aeration processes.

This process is going to turn waste water into fuel, requiring minimal chemical inputs, reducing sludge production. Once completed, this project will be simple to operate and be scalable.

For more information, 
Click here!

New Affiliate Client!
The Innovation Center has recently gained a new affiliate client named Quickloadz!

QuickLoadz owns a patent pending method of moving sea shipping containers, either empty or full from ground level without the use of cranes, winches or cables.

Over 99% of merchandise travels across the oceans in large steel shipping containers. This relatively new way of has completely revolutionized world shipping by improving efficiency to the point where it now costs less than 10% to ship internationally than it did before the shipping container was widely adopted.

In the past, there was no easy way to take a loaded sea shipping container and move it once it came off of the ship or rail car. A very heavy crane was needed to pick up a container and place it on a truck trailer at both the starting and delivery points. Loaded containers were therefore confined to large yards where this equipment could be used. The container contents were then unloaded into a semi tractor trailer and reshipped to the end user, who had to have a loading dock to accept the shipment.

With a QuickLoadz trailer system these containers full of merchandise can be picked up and dropped off by any truck. This system will increase the efficiencies of freight, mobile storage, household moving industries as well as provide benefits to organizations such as FEMA and DOD.

Biotechnology Laboratory Updates!
The Innovation Center’s Biotechnology Research and Development Facility officially opened in 2010 to
provide our tenants, potential corporate partners and OU faculty and students with lab space and equipment to assist in their research. The lab initially was equipped with one work bench, and several high end pieces of equipment such as the Applied Biosystems StepOnePlus Real Time PCR instrument and the Shimadzu HPLC system. Since then, we have added an additional work bench, and over $500,000 of new equipment. Some of the key new pieces of equipment include a PCR work station, the Promega Maxwell 16 DNA/RNA purification instrument, a new inverted microscope and a SpeedVac concentrator with a universal vacuum system. A highlight of this year's additions is a wireless alarm system not only for the shared lab but also for our tenant's equipment. Our researchers often work with temperature sensitive materials and reagents. Years of work could be lost if a freezer stopped working and nobody realized it until it would be too late. This system has monitoring units for each temperature sensitive device and sends the lab director text and email warnings as soon as the temperature falls outside of the normal range. In addition to the high end pieces of equipment, the facility has all the lab basics a researcher would need, such as centrifuges, incubators, pH meters, bio-safety cabinets and pipettors.

While the facility has most of a researcher's biochemical and chemistry needs, the lab director works closely with other facilities on campus which provide more specialized equipment which is available for our tenants and OU researchers. The Genomics Facility in Porter Hall and the Edison Biotechnology Institute on the Ridges are two of the Innovation Center's partners. Our combined goal is to make sure all of our tenants and all of the university's biotechnology researches are made aware that they have access to these resources. A more detailed list of equipment is available on our website http://www.ohio.edu/research/innovation/facility/wet_lab/index.cfm and links to our partners can be found there as well.

Not only has the equipment been a big part of our growth, so has the addition of our talented lab director Joe Jollick. Joe has 17 years of experience in the biotechnology laboratory environment. He provides equipment assistance, health/safety trainings, lab setup assistance and organizational meetings to ensure facility safety.

Before:
10 Eye-Opening Books Every Entrepreneur Should Read!!

Have some downtime? Looking for a great summer reading list? Click here for the complete list! --->
SUMMER READING LIST!

About Us
The Innovation Center provides valuable business incubation resources to fuel the economy in Athens, Ohio and the surrounding region. Created in 1983, the Ohio University Innovation Center was the first university-based business incubator in the State of Ohio and the fourth oldest continuously operating incubator in the U.S. The current 36,000 square foot facility, which opened in 2003, is nearing capacity. For availability, email us or call to set up a tour at 740.593.1818.

Thank you!

Interested in learning more about what the Innovation Center has to offer? Contact us at innovation@ohio.edu.

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Corrine Herris

Join Our Mailing List!

The Innovation Center is a department within the Ohio University Vice President for Research Office. To learn more, visit www.ohio.edu/research.

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