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# Ashland Area Council for Economic Development Newsletter

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in this issue

[TeamIP](#)

[Bookmasters Inc.](#)

[Chellee's Printing and Design](#)

[Next Level Diving](#)

[Ashland County Community Academy](#)

Dear Nikki,

I am proud to present you with this edition of our newsletter, which includes several stories of economic growth and new business formation.

Our County has been going through many changes. Some of the changes are welcome and some are very difficult. We have been offering support to local agencies to help Archway employees with their immediate concerns while dealing with the sudden closure. We are also working to solicit proposals for the Archway building and business. As our community deals with the devastating closure of Archway, we can also be encouraged by companies such as WIL Research, BookMasters, and American Augers, who continue to add production capacity and employees.

I'm sure you will also enjoy the story of Pat and Rochelle - a mother and daughter passionate about their respective businesses and entrepreneurship in Ashland County.

AACED continues to do our part to promote new advanced energy markets. Our office is experiencing more and more interaction with entrepreneurs interested in advanced energy products. Wind energy, for example, holds great potential. Please note the enclosed meeting notice regarding an initiative to build up Ohio's windmill supply chain network.

AACED continues to monitor the trend of Ashland County leaders growing new, small businesses. It is our job to facilitate even more spin-offs and start-ups. For that reason, an important goal as we head toward 2009 is the creation a dynamic "New Business Development Committee" to establish the partnerships and financing plans for many new ventures. Please contact us regarding this goal and others under consideration.

Something we must all work toward in the coming months is aligning our economic development strategies with the recently released Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) strategic plan (please click here to learn more: <http://development.ohio.gov/strategicplan/>), as well as position ourselves to benefit from the State's economic stimulus package.

Strengthening the State's bioscience and alternative energy sectors are important ODOG goals, and Ashland County can and should become a leader in those fields.

Finally, you will notice that the State is focused on the importance of workforce development. You have heard AACED also talk often about this subject. It is the talent of our people that will move us forward. Along with our Annual Report to be released later this year, we will be sharing an overview of the region's 2008 grant for training the current employees in our manufacturing plants. AACED has aggressively marketed this program, and we hope you will agree that it is beginning to bear fruit for several firms. Additional workforce development strategies will be an important 2009 activity. If you are interested in any of these projects, strategies, or success stories, we would enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Evan Scurti

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**Alternative Energy Development Update**  
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Great Lakes Wind Network Continues Push to Develop Ohio's Wind Component Supply Chain

The Great Lakes WIND Network is a project of Cleveland-based WIRE-Net, manufacturer-led coalition. The WIND Network is striving to show the world that Ohio has the ideal collection of suppliers to support large-scale wind original equipment manufacturers (OEM's).

The next meeting is November 18, 2008 at The Ohio State University in Columbus. Please visit WIRE-Net's website to register and learn more: <http://www.wire-net.org/ShowEventsCalendar.aspx?ID=1120>

We are confident that our county's contract manufacturers and producers of hydraulics, brakes, fasteners, hoists, and many other products will find this network very valuable.

New Businesses Occupying Available Space in Ashland

Ashland County Community Academy

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The county-wide academy has found a home in the renovated retail space. As described in the October 4th Times-Gazette article, Adult Education students from the Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center deserve great praise for the reconstruction, which involved significant heating ventilating and cooling reconfigurations. More than 60 students are enrolled in this unique program that provides students the opportunity to complete high school while preparing for a career.

### **Next Level Diving**



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Mindy McPherran has recently opened her business at the corner of Broad and Main Streets, where she will teach diving skills to students ranging from elementary age to members of the Ashland University diving team. With the creative renovation of a former church, Mindy has the space needed to create an environment enabling her to teach the fundamentals of diving without needing water.

Contact Information: <http://nextleveldiving.com>

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# Updates On Local Businesses

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Contact Information

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phone: 419-289-3200  
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Ashland Area Council for Economic Development | 206 Claremont Avenue | Suite 100 | Ashland | OH | 44805