

PRESS RELEASE

From: Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ashland Economic Development

Date: February 4, 2004

RE: Partners Pursuing Quality Excellence

In January of this year, several community leaders met to discuss a partnership among schools, industry, health care and the local business community by creating an organization of Partners Pursuing Quality Excellence. Our hope for this initiative is to help each other raise the level of quality through collaboration within our community.

The Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ashland Economic Development are lead partners in promoting this effort. Martin Irvine states "We are very encouraged by this community effort. This movement will provide a great forum to share information and ideas to improve quality throughout the community in various types of organizations."

Marla Akridge, President of the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce agrees and further states "The drive toward quality excellence has been gaining momentum nation wide. We are pleased to have Ashland on the cutting edge of this initiative and opportunity for dialog."

A quality dinner meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, 2004, at Ashland University Convocation Center at 6:00 p.m. The dinner committee has invited Ms. Casey Mackert, Executive Director of the Ohio Award for Excellence, as the featured speaker.

To RSVP for the dinner, please call Raelee Bennett-Crunkilton at 419-289-1117, extension 308 before February 12, 2004. The cost for the dinner is \$15.00. For additional questions, please call Larry Caffro at 419-289-1117.

The next dinner meeting is planned for April and will be hosted by Samaritan Hospital. Additional meetings are planned for June, September and November.