

INNOVATION ALLIANCE



*A Partnership Between The University of Akron
and Lorain County Community College*

**CONTACT: Laura Martinez Massie, UA, 330-972-6476
Marcia Ballinger, LCCC, 440-366-7073**

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON AND LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE SEEK NEW PARTNERS IN SHARED SERVICES PLAN

Akron, Ohio, May 20, 2009 — The University of Akron (UA) and Lorain County Community College (LCCC) are looking to strengthen the growing Innovation Alliance — a distinctive partnership enhancing innovation and economic growth in the region — by inviting new partners to join in an agreement to share “back office” technologies and services that will benefit these institutions and serve as a model for the University System of Ohio and nationwide.

Dr. Luis M. Proenza, president of The University of Akron, and Dr. Roy Church, president of Lorain County Community College, signed the shared services agreement in May 2008. The creation of this relationship has allowed both institutions to co-develop a collaborative “back office” operation that’s intended to grow into a shared service model. Shared service is the convergence and streamlining of non-competing business processes for the purpose of reducing costs while improving the breadth and quality of services.

“I’m very excited about the opportunity to work so closely with a forward-thinking institution like Lorain County Community College and to bring a proven business model from industry to Ohio higher education,” said James L. Sage, vice president for information technology services and chief information officer at The University of Akron. “Institutions that leverage this shared services model can better serve their missions by redirecting administrative cost savings to the academic areas of their respective institutions.”

Presidents Proenza and Church agree that the Innovation Alliance’s shared services plan is an ideal way for colleges and universities regionally and statewide to improve business processes while reducing costs.

-MORE-

“In these challenging economic times, our institutions of higher education truly must work together to attain academic and operational successes that align with the goals of excellence, effectiveness and efficiency identified by the University System of Ohio,” Proenza says. “Dr. Church and I invite our colleagues throughout northeast Ohio and beyond to join this collaboration and create savings for our students.”

“This shared service initiative is a wonderful example of what we envisioned the Innovation Alliance could accomplish when we established it in March 2007,” commented LCCC President Roy A. Church. The Innovation Alliance is designed to align strengths and resources, and accelerate educational efficiency, knowledge creation and economic development within an area between the campuses, dubbed the Innovation Corridor.

Earlier this year, the Innovation Alliance launched Midpoint Campus Center in Brunswick, where the University of Akron and Lorain County Community College jointly deliver programs and services to residents in Medina County and Southeastern Lorain County.

-30-

About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College, located 25 miles west of Cleveland in Elyria, Ohio, is one of the top 15 fastest-growing community colleges in the nation serving more 14,000 students annually at the associate-degree level and another 3,000 at the bachelor’s and master’s degree levels. LCCC features 37 associate degrees and through its unique University Partnership program 29 bachelor’s and 11 master’s degrees. LCCC is also home to the Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise, an Edison Technology Incubator, which provides incubation and development services for businesses at the start-up or expansion stage. For more information, visit www.lorainccc.edu.

About The University of Akron

The University of Akron is the public research university for Northern Ohio. The Princeton Review listed UA among the “Best in the Midwest” in its 2008 edition of Best Colleges: Region-by-Region. Serving 26,000 students, the university offers approximately 300 associate, bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and law degree programs and 100 certificate programs at sites in Summit, Wayne, Medina and Holmes counties. For more information, visit www.uakron.edu.