

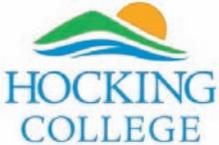
October 2014

# Governor's Office of Appalachia

appalachia.development.ohio.gov



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



## Innovation and Renovation to Advance Regional Economic Development in Southeast Ohio



Tri-County Adult Career Center and Hocking College are more than just neighbors in Athens County; they are partners who will soon be breaking ground on a shared renovation project to serve the business community in southeast Ohio.

According to Kim McKinley, director of Tri-County Adult Career Center, the two institutions have a long history of working together to streamline the education pipeline for adults. Because of this success, McKinley had a vision that the two institutions could do the same thing to better serve area businesses.

"Few people outside of education know that both colleges and career centers have, as part of their mission, the goal of assisting businesses and organizations with their internal staff trainings. In our region, it didn't make sense for the Career Center and the College to be competing for training contracts. Instead of helping businesses, we were confusing them."

McKinley found an enthusiastic partner in former President of Hocking College, Dr. Ron Erickson. Their innovative partnership, formalized in late 2012, creates a collaborative, rather than competitive, relationship to expand staff training and professional development opportunities to area businesses. The College and Career Center share a workforce training office and present themselves as one entity, *The Business Training Center*, to the business community. Having a single point of contact streamlines the process for area businesses that are looking for staff training and development.

The big news? The partners are breaking ground this fall on a new home for *The Business Training Center*. A state-of-the-art training facility will be the major focus of Hocking College's renovation plan for the former *Inn at Hocking College*. It will include a computer lab, Pearson VUE professional testing center, board room, and multi-use, flexible training spaces. Funds for the renovation will come from the recent capital appropriation, a collaborative effort spearheaded by Governor John Kasich.

Tri-County Adult Career Center also has secured an *Appalachian Regional Commission* grant that will be used to equip the center with computers, video conferencing, and other high tech equipment. Co-located with Hocking College's Hospitality program, business clients will have the advantage of on-site catering for trainings and special events. *Story continues on page 3*



BUSINESS TRAINING CENTER INTERIOR RENDERING

A rendering of the new Business Training Center by Feinknopf Macioce Schappa Architects

# HEAP

Home Energy Assistance Program



Need a little help staying warm during this cold season?  
Our Winter Crisis Program starts November 1.

Heating assistance is available to eligible households starting November 1 until March 31, 2015 through the HEAP Winter Crisis Program. The program provides assistance to eligible households that are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected or have less than a 10-day supply of bulk fuel.

## Director Wilson Represents Ohio at the Appalachian Regional Commission Meeting in Alabama

In October, Director Wilson traveled to Florence, Alabama for the fall meeting of the Appalachian Regional Commission. This annual meeting is a time for the representatives of the 13 states to discuss best practices and the upcoming initiatives for the Commission.

A key topic for the conference was how to reduce the amount of youth out-migration. Out-migration is when students or families leave one community for another, many times moving from a small community to larger community. During the meeting, the representatives discussed how to improve communities and job opportunities to retain young people in the region. The Governor's Office of Appalachia made workforce development and infrastructure investments two of its top priorities this year.

"In Ohio, we are working to streamline our workforce training programs, improve access to education and invest in local communities to make them more attractive for our students. We need to ensure that students from the Appalachian region in Ohio see it as a good place to live and a region of opportunity," said

Jason Wilson, director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia.

Another part of the annual meeting is a community service project. This year the project focused on two high schools in the area, Phil Campbell and Hackleburg High Schools. The two schools were devastated by a tornado in 2011. The group toured the renovated buildings before planting trees outside the schools.



Jim Byard State Alternate for Alabama, Director Jason Wilson, and Earl Gohl, ARC Co-Chair

Before leaving Alabama, Director Wilson sat down with Scott Hamilton, the new Executive Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission. He joined the Commission in September. This was his first official meeting with all the representatives of the Commission.

Before joining the ARC, he was president and CEO of AdvantageWest Economic Development Group, a nonprofit regional economic development organization that has served the western region of North Carolina. Scott will work with the 13 member states to help build sustainable communities and economic development in the Appalachia region.

The next meeting for the Appalachian Regional Commission will be held in early 2015.

Next month we'll have more information on out-migration in Ohio

## Interning in the Governor's Office of Appalachia

Most people would not expect a farm girl from Holmes County, Ohio to have an interest in government affairs. But I do. I'm Hayley Kick, an intern in the Governor's Office of Appalachia. Dinner at my house was interrupted by a county commissioner, township trustee, or my school district's superintendent at least once a week because they wanted to speak with my dad, a long-standing member of the local school board. Although I did not always enjoy jumping up from the dining table when the doorbell rang, I was inspired by these leaders and their dedication to our community.



Director Wilson with Hayley Kick

My interest in government affairs and community outreach led me to apply for the college internship in the Governor's Office of Appalachia. My internship started in August and by the end of my first week, I was already helping prepare grant proposals for administrative review. Gaining first-hand experience in the grant

review process was an exciting opportunity, especially knowing that a few of the projects would help make health care more accessible to families in Appalachia.

The Governor's Office of Appalachia is committed to improving the lives of all Ohioans living in Appalachian Ohio, and I am extremely grateful to be a part of it. This internship is teaching me how to navigate a dynamic office environment. I hope to see more Appalachian students applying for this position in the future so they may utilize their unique talents, ideas, and experiences to create successful initiatives in Appalachian Ohio.

*Students interested in applying for the Governor's Office of Appalachia internship should send their resume and cover letter to [appalachia@development.ohio.gov](mailto:appalachia@development.ohio.gov) or call 614) 644-9228.*



## OhioMeansJobs

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skilled workers across Ohio**

## Innovation and Renovation

*...continued from page 1*



*An exterior view of the Inn at Hocking College, the new home of the Business Training Center*

The business-centric facility will be the first of its kind in the area. McKinley and Erickson view *The Business Training Center* as an investment in the business community that will provide the region with increased capacity to retain and expand existing businesses as well as attract new companies to southeast Ohio.

Progress on the *Business Training Center* would not be possible without the unwavering support of Senators Troy Balderson and Lou Gentile, State Representative Debbie Phillips, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Misty Casto and her team at Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District.



### Ohio Veterans Bonus

If you served in Iraq between March 19, 2003 and Dec. 31, 2011, you only have until Dec. 31, 2014 to apply. Don't miss out on this thank-you from Ohio voters.

Find out more at: [https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs\\_web/](https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/), or contact your [County Veterans Service Office](#).

## Author-inspired Road Trip Through Appalachia

Short road trips provide the most interesting and enjoyable ways to explore some of Ohio's hidden gems. While road trips through Amish country and the state's covered bridges are notable, Ohio born and raised author, Robin Yocum, recently opened my eyes to the opportunities that rest in Ohio's Appalachian region.

The gritty blue-collar life of steel mills, mines and railroads in eastern and southeastern Ohio provide the perfect backdrop for Yocum's award-winning suspense/mystery and literary novels *Favorite Sons* and *The Essay*.

As a former crime columnist for *The Columbus Dispatch*, and native of Brilliant, Ohio, near [Steubenville](#), Yocum has a fond appreciation for the attributes of these regions.

"You write what you know. I know these regions and the people who live there," said Yocum. "There's a rich heritage and ethnic diversity. As a kid, I would see the locals, often first-generation immigrants, reading their native newspapers."

Sleepy blue-collar towns may not be big destination stops by most tourist standards, but Yocum points out that these areas make for perfect road trips for history buffs and nature lovers.

"These areas are beautiful, especially in the fall with the river (Ohio river) and the changing leaves. Nature lovers would enjoy it," said Yocum.

### Eastern Ohio - Jefferson, Belmont and Harrison counties:

[Steubenville](#) – the birthplace of Dean Martin with local tributes to him including a [Dean Martin festival](#) each year.

[Cadiz](#) – the birthplace of Clark Gable and a coal museum spotlighting Ohio's role in the mining industry.

[Steel mill factories](#) – these counties provide a last opportunity to see the mills that played such an important role in the Industrial Revolution. Demolition of these defunct factories is underway.

### Southeast Ohio - Vinton, Hocking and Athens counties:

[Moonville Tunnel](#) – The haunted legends of Moonville Tunnel embrace the mystery and stories surrounding the death of a railroad worker in 1859. The tunnel is literally in the back woods of Vinton County. It is a fascinating find where stories about what *really* happened to that railroad worker have evolved over time.

[Hope Furnace](#) – A unique historical marker in Ohio, the Hope Furnace looks like a crumbling piece of rock to casual observers. This piece of history played an important role in the Industrial Revolution. It was used to process iron ore collected from nearby sandstone bedrock to produce nearly 15 tons of cast iron a day.

[Lake Hope State Park](#) – The perfect spot for bird-watching, a picnic or hiking. The park is nestled on State Route 278 in McArthur, Ohio. There are regular naturalist programs and it is one of the state's most beautiful parks.

Yocum's bond to Ohio's Appalachian region resonates with his readers. So much so, that his next set of works, a series of murder mysteries, picks up in eastern Ohio in the "Steel Valley Trilogy."

"There's a mystique about Appalachia and its people. There's an image of steel mills and it's the perfect backdrop for the stories," said Yocum.

In fact, Yocum says it's the backdrop that *makes* the stories. Yocum is passionate about encouraging people to take the time and spend a couple of days or a weekend visiting some of these tourist destinations in Ohio's Appalachian region.

*Written by Anietra Hamper*



Author Robin Yocum - photo: Mine Munden Photography

## Portsmouth Bypass is first ever "Public-Private Partnership" in Ohio

The Portsmouth Gateway Group is likely to build the largest single construction project the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has ever embarked upon. That is, as long as everything in the team's formal proposal checks out after a thorough review by ODOT over the coming weeks.

The Portsmouth Gateway Group says it will cost about \$429 million to construct the entire Portsmouth Bypass, which is a 16-mile, four-lane limited access highway from U.S. 23 north of Lucasville to U.S. 52 near Sciotoville. The new roadway will complete the missing link of the Appalachian Development Highway System in Ohio.

Not only is this the largest project in ODOT history, but it is the first-ever Public-Private Partnership (P3). Since 2012, ODOT engineers and technical experts have been working to develop a P3 to construct the new road. By using a P3, ODOT is able to accelerate the entire project by decades, and the department can avoid rising costs by taking advantage of current competitive economic conditions.

The Portsmouth Gateway Group includes the following team members:

- Dragados, USA, Inc.
- The Beaver Excavating Company
- John R. Jurgensen, Co., Inc.
- ms Consultants, Inc.
- ACS Infrastructure Development, Inc.
- Infrared Capital Partners Limited
- Star America Fund GP

ODOT will take additional steps to evaluate the financial proposal and ensure the bid is complete. Making ODOT history, the Portsmouth Bypass will be the department's largest, modern earthwork project to date. The real estate has been acquired, and clearing and demolition projects are underway. Construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2015.



# DIRECTOR'S SCRAPBOOK



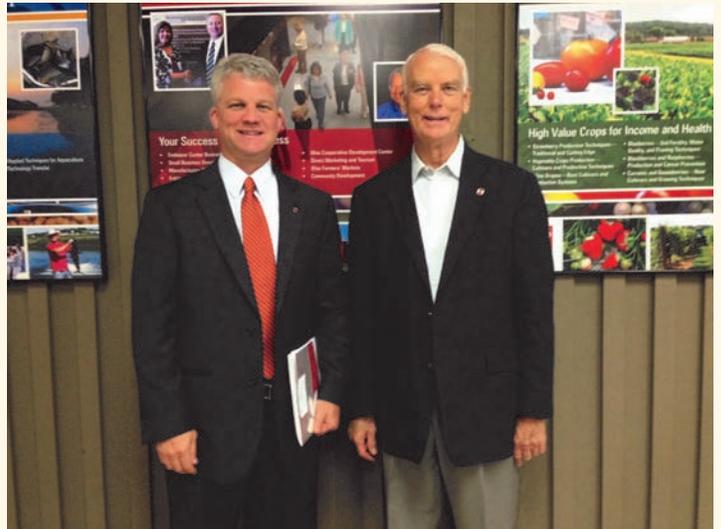
Director Wilson was on hand as the Youngstown Business Incubator was named #1 in the world.



Deputy Director Padgett stopped by Senator Rob Portman's job fair in Belmont County.



Deputy Director Padgett visited oil and gas sites in Noble County.



Director Wilson visited The Ohio State University South Center in Piketon.



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](mailto:Penny.Martin@development.ohio.gov).*