

Ohio Department of Development

NEWS RELEASE

Bob Taft, Governor
Bruce Johnson, Lt. Governor

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JOHNSON ANNOUNCES FIRST **MOUNTAINTOP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

COLUMBUS – Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson today announced that the Ohio Department of Development Division of Minority Business Affairs, the Small Business Development Centers of Ohio and the Governor’s Office of Faith Based Initiatives are sponsors of the first Mountaintop Economic Development Summit to be held this fall in Cincinnati. The Summit is a non-denominational conference aimed at forging partnerships between business, church and civic leaders to create jobs and prosperity through the fostering of economic development projects.

“Successful economic development relies on many factors and recognizing opportunities that can exist as a result of non traditional partnerships like those being forged through the Mountaintop Economic Development Summit,” said Lt. Governor Johnson, who also serves as state development director. “We’re constantly seeking new ways to attract economic development to our state and the Summit will provide a unique forum for business, church and civic leaders to identify how they can work together to develop opportunities that can create jobs and revitalize Ohio neighborhoods.”

The conference seeks to encourage joint ventures between non-traditional partners to create urban renewal and new economic development opportunities; provide a networking venue for business, church, community and government leaders; and present successful development partnerships and projects that participants can imitate in their own communities. The Summit will be hosted by Valley Learning Center, Inc., a nonprofit training and development organization directed by Reverend Jim Vickers, Jr., a senior pastor of the Ebenezer Second Baptist Church in the Cincinnati suburb of Lincoln Heights.

More than 400 participants from throughout the Midwest are expected to participate in the conference, which will feature local, state and national experts, including Robert Woodson, president and founder of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, and Bishop Vaughn McLaughlin of The Potter’s House Christian Fellowship in Jacksonville, Florida. Professional Football Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz will also speak about collaborating with non-traditional partners.

The Mountaintop Economic Development Summit will be held October 12 through 14 at the Valley Learning Center, located at 1341 Chicago Avenue in Cincinnati. Interested participants may contact the center at 1-877-228-9671 or register online at www.VALLEYLEARN.org