

GLR CONNECT

News • Events • Workforce • Membership • & More

Hello there,

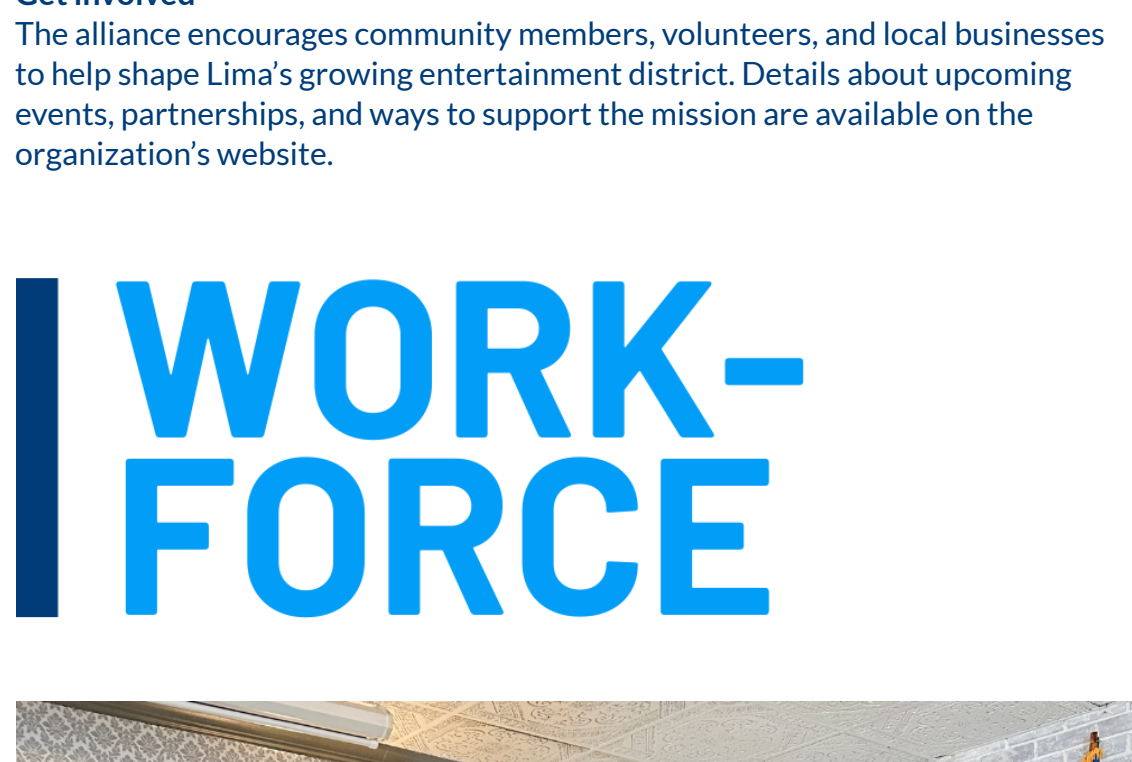
GLR remains committed to delivering timely strategic project updates, spotlighting key upcoming events, and sharing notable developments shaping the Greater Lima region. Explore this issue to stay informed on the latest activity and opportunities across our community.

WHAT'S NEW



Google Highlights Major Investments and Local Commitments at Lima Rotary

Molly Kocour Boyle, Google's Midwest head of public affairs, spoke at the Lima Rotary Club on Monday, April 6, and outlined the project's impact — from economic growth to community partnerships and environmental commitments. She highlighted Google's \$7.2 billion investment in Ohio since 2019 and reaffirmed the company's annual \$250,000 support for Elida Local Schools, along with continued investment in STEM education, workforce training, and local nonprofits. Boyle also addressed environmental concerns, noting Google's pledge to replenish 100% of the water it uses, operate at or below 65 decibels, and expand renewable energy without shifting costs to residents. With underground work underway and vertical construction expected later this year, the facility remains on track for completion in 2028. This project is a major step forward for Allen County's future in jobs, technology, and long-term economic growth — exciting momentum for our community!



Lima's New Festival & Amphitheater Alliance Launches to Energize Downtown

A new nonprofit is stepping forward to energize downtown Lima with a full slate of entertainment and community events. The **Lima Festival and Amphitheater Alliance** has officially launched as the organization responsible for programming and supporting activities at the **Greater Lima Region Amphitheater**.

A new hub for year-round entertainment

Formed as a 501(c)(3) by **John Heaphy**, **Tracie Sanchez**, and **Rich Rudolph**, the alliance will coordinate amphitheater use, develop festivals, and partner with the City of Lima to ensure a steady flow of activity in the entertainment district. While the city will continue managing private rentals, the alliance will focus on building a vibrant, four-season calendar of public events.

What's coming in 2026

The group is already planning a busy season designed to draw residents and visitors downtown:

- **Four-season festivals** celebrating Lima's culture and community
- The return of **"Toast to the City,"** an evening dedicated to recognizing local achievements
- An **eight-show "Party in the Pavilion" series**, offering family-friendly entertainment with free admission for children under 12 and low-cost tickets for adults

Alliance president **John Heaphy** says the goal is to create accessible, affordable entertainment that strengthens community pride and brings more people into the heart of the city.

Get involved

The alliance encourages community members, volunteers, and local businesses to help shape Lima's growing entertainment district. Details about upcoming events, partnerships, and ways to support the mission are available on the organization's website.

WORK-FORCE



Connecting Community and Careers: MakerFest Team Engages with Kiwanis

Tim Fitzpatrick and Jena Shafer had the pleasure of attending the Kiwanis meeting on Tuesday, April 7, to share information about MakerFest and the upcoming 2026 event in October.

MakerFest brings together students, educators, and employers for two days of hands-on exploration, career inspiration, and interactive demonstrations. It's one of our region's most impactful workforce events, and planning is already in full swing.

If you'd like to learn more about the mission and impact of MakerFest, visit: <https://makerfestevent.com/about-makerfest/>

Interested in supporting this year's event as a sponsor? Explore opportunities here: <https://makerfestevent.com/get-involved/become-a-sponsor/>

We're grateful to Kiwanis for the opportunity to share what's coming — and we can't wait for MakerFest 2026!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

IN MARCH, WE'VE ADDED

1

MEMBER

New GLR Membership

In March, we proudly welcomed a new GLR Member: Central Midwest Carpenters. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome. We look forward to supporting their continued growth and success in the Greater Lima Region.

If you know of businesses interested in becoming a GLR Member, feel free to connect them with Dave Stratton at stratond@greaterlimaregion.com.



EVENTS



JOIN US FOR
TECHCRED:
THE COMPLETE HOW-TO

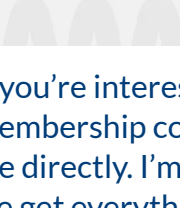
All the details, all your questions, one practical session

Join us for a fast-paced, practical session on Ohio TechCred — a state workforce program designed to help employers receive reimbursement support when employees complete eligible, industry-recognized credentials.

Our Speakers



Jeri Steinbrook, Ed.D.
Workforce Training Coordinator
Center to Advance Manufacturing



Tim Fitzpatrick, Ed.D.
Business and Regional Workforce Development Director
Allen Economic Development Group

What's In It For You

- TechCred simplified: overview of eligibility, qualifying credentials, and training providers.
- Apply with confidence & capture the full benefit: Step-by-step timeline from choosing credentials to submitting for reimbursement.
- Avoid costly pitfalls: The documentation to keep and the common mistakes that cause delays or denials.
- Get answers fast: Live Q&A and quick consults for your specific use case.
- Leave with a toolkit: Checklist, key dates, and contacts so you can apply confidently after the session.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
THE HUB
207 S. CENTRAL AVE., LIMA
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

[REGISTER NOW](#)

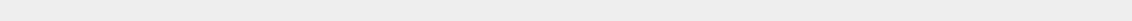


TechCred: The Complete How-To — A Practical Session for Ohio Employers

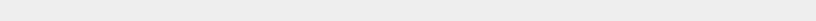
The Center to Advance Manufacturing and the Allen Economic Development Group are hosting a practical workshop on **April 15** in Lima to help employers navigate the Ohio TechCred program. Led by experts **Jeri Steinbrook** and **Tim Fitzpatrick**, Ed.D., the session provides a **step-by-step guide to receiving state reimbursement for employee credentialing**. Attendees will learn how to identify qualifying providers, follow correct application timelines, and avoid common documentation pitfalls that lead to funding denials. The event includes a live Q&A session and a provided toolkit to ensure businesses can apply for benefits immediately. This "how-to" session runs from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at The Hub and requires registration.

If you're interested, you can register by clicking the link below.

[Register Here](#)



Ohio Logistics invites you to their
GROUND BREAKING Ceremony
April 21, 2026
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Located next to Perry ProTech
on Commerce Parkway,
Lima, OH 45804



Ohio Logistics Groundbreaking Event

GLR is proud to celebrate Ohio Logistics as they break ground on two new 100,000-square-foot facilities in Lima. This milestone marks an exciting step forward in regional growth and continued investment in our community. Join us as we recognize this significant moment for Lima's future.

JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
JOBSONHIO SMALL BUSINESS GRANT

IF YOUR BUSINESS IS IN THE TOP 10 JOBSONHIO SECTORS, PLEASE JOIN US!
April 23, 2026
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
OSU - Lima Campus
Galvin Hall (Cloyd Commons)
4240 Canby Drive
Lima, OH 45804

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?
Up to \$50,000 in financial assistance for eligible Ohio small businesses
Supports business growth, expansion, and investment projects
Designed to help move projects forward when additional support is needed

GRANT HIGHLIGHTS
Annual revenues between \$100,000 and \$25 million
Operating in one of JobsOhio's 10 target industries with primarily B2B revenue
At least one year of operating history
Planning on a significant investment that clearly benefits from program support
Payroll or employment must increase by at least 10% as a result of the project
Ability to show the project is financially feasible
Check the website for eligibility information

Not eligible: retail operations and professional services

JobsOhio Small Business Grant Info Session

Join RGP Northwest Ohio and JobsOhio on April 23, 2026, at the OSU-Lima Campus to learn about the JobsOhio Small Business Grant. This program offers up to \$50,000 in financial assistance to B2B companies within target industries with at least 1 year of operating history and annual revenues between \$100,000 and \$25 million. Eligible projects must demonstrate financial feasibility and result in at least a 10% increase in payroll or employment. Retail and professional services are excluded from the opportunity. If you're interested, please attend the 8:30 AM session to verify your sector's eligibility.

Quarterly Engagement Breakfast

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
MAY 6, 2026

St. Rita's Medical Center Graduate Medical Education Bldg., Conference Rooms 113 & 114
751 W Market St.
Lima, OH 45801

[RSVP HERE](#)

Quarterly Engagement Breakfast: Strengthening Collaboration Across the Greater Lima Region

GLR Members are invited to come together for the upcoming **Quarterly Engagement Breakfast**, an event designed to spark collaboration, share regional updates, and continue building momentum for growth and opportunity in our area.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, May 6

Time: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Location: St. Rita's Medical Center Graduate Medical Education Building, Conference Rooms 113 & 114

RSVP Today!

Scan or click the QR code on the flyer to confirm your attendance. The link to the RSVP form is also listed below.

<https://forms.gle/zkEC84MwiGiPAiJe8>

If you're interested in setting up a time to meet and talk through your membership commitment and any other ideas or visions, feel free to reach out to me directly. I'm happy to coordinate a time that works well for you and make sure we get everything in place.

Thank you for reading this month's edition of GLR CONNECT. We're excited about the growth and progress within our community, and we look forward to keeping you updated on future developments. Stay tuned for more exciting news, events, and opportunities to get involved.

If you have any feedback or want to contribute, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

We value your input!

Until next time,

DAVE STRATTON

President/CEO

419-222-7706

strattond@greaterlimaregion.com

Greater Lima Region, Inc.
144 South Main Street, Suite 200
Lima, Ohio, 45801

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