

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



Game Show Extravaganza Brings Energy & Excitement to Downtown Lima

Downtown Lima was buzzing with excitement on April 16, as crowds filled the Civic Center for Downtown Lima Inc.'s Game Show Extravaganza. AEDG and GLR were proud to attend and support the event, which featured classic game show challenges and more than \$10,000 in prizes. The evening not only offered fun and entertainment but also helped raise funds for ongoing downtown revitalization efforts. Events like this highlight the strong community spirit and continued momentum in Downtown Lima!



Ohio Logistics Breaks Ground on a New Spec Building in Gateway Commerce Park

Ohio Logistics broke ground on one of two planned 100,000-square-foot speculative industrial buildings in Gateway Commerce Park on April 21, marking an important milestone for continued economic growth in Allen County. Located just off I-75, the planned spec buildings are designed to attract new manufacturing, support speed-to-market needs, and strengthen the region's competitiveness.

The project is supported in part by the Ohio Site Inventory Program (OSIP) through JobsOhio and the Port Authority of Allen County. AEDG played a key role in facilitating the development, in collaboration with Ohio Logistics, Clouse Construction, the Regional Growth Partnership, Perry Township, the City of Lima, and the Allen County Board of County Commissioners.

This coordinated effort reflects a shared commitment to preparing job-ready sites and advancing long-term investment opportunities in the Lima area.



Walter C. Potts Entrepreneur Center Marks Two Decades of Innovation

The Walter C. Potts Entrepreneur Center marked an exciting milestone as it celebrated its 20th Anniversary at its Annual Meeting on April 23. Community partners, business leaders, and supporters came together to honor two decades of empowering entrepreneurs with the **knowledge, connections, and tools needed to turn ideas into thriving businesses**. Through hands-on support and outreach programs, the Center is a driving force behind economic growth and job creation in Lima and Allen County.

The celebration highlighted pride in past accomplishments and optimism for the future, with regional partners like AEDG and GLR in attendance. As the Walter C. Potts Entrepreneur Center looks ahead, it remains focused on supporting local innovation, strengthening partnerships, and creating opportunities for the next generation of entrepreneurs.

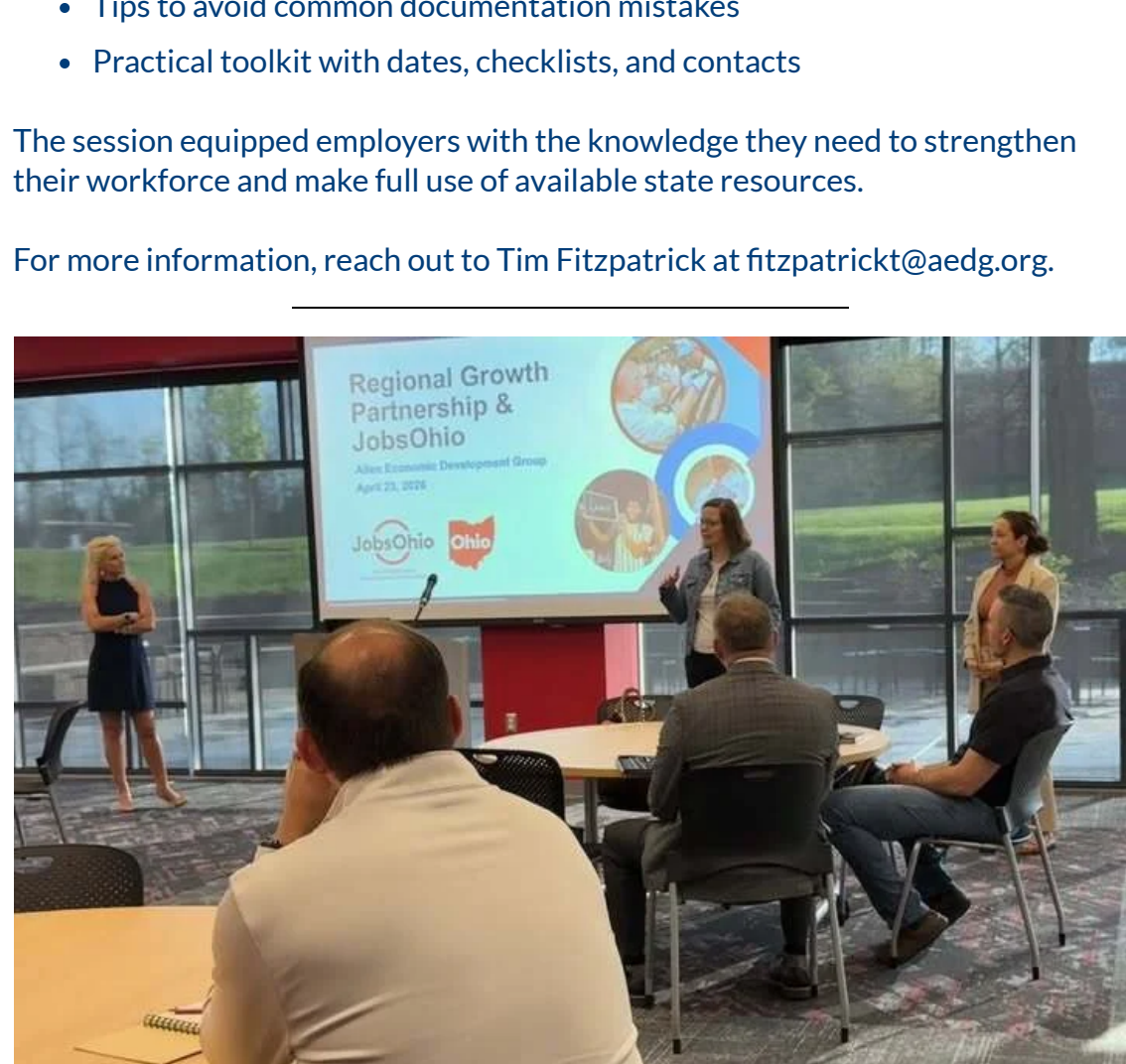


Wake Rattle & Roll Spotlights Regional Opportunity

Wake, Rattle & Roll, held April 24 by the Allen/Lima Chamber of Commerce, brought together regional leaders for a morning of connection and insight. Greater Lima Region, Inc. (GLR) proudly sponsored the event alongside AEDG, Apollo Career Center, and Tuttle Construction, reinforcing its commitment to advancing economic growth in the region.

The program featured networking, community updates, and a keynote from Gary Thompson, Executive Vice President & COO of the Regional Growth Partnership. His presentation, "Lima's Next Chapter: Understanding Data Centers and the Future of Northwest Ohio," clarified the role of modern data centers and dispelled common misconceptions. Thompson also highlighted how AI-driven demand is fueling long-term investment, tax revenue, and new opportunities that align with GLR's vision for the region's future.

WORK-FORCE



TechCred Session Helps Employers Navigate Workforce Funding

The Center of Advanced Manufacturing (CTAM) and AEDG recently hosted *TechCred: The Complete How-To*, a focused session designed to help local employers understand Ohio's TechCred program and confidently pursue reimbursement for industry-recognized credentials.

Presenters **Jeri Steinbrook** (CAM) and **Tim Fitzpatrick, Ed.D.** (AEDG) walked attendees through eligibility, documentation, and the full application process. Fitzpatrick played an especially active role, asking detailed questions that helped clarify key points for everyone in the room.

Key highlights:

- Clear overview of qualifying credentials and training providers
- Step-by-step guidance on applying and submitting for reimbursement
- Tips to avoid common documentation mistakes
- Practical toolkit with dates, checklists, and contacts

The session equipped employers with the knowledge they need to strengthen their workforce and make full use of available state resources.

For more information, reach out to Tim Fitzpatrick at fitzpatrickt@aedg.org.



Advancing Small Business Success in Allen County

AEDG hosted a JobsOhio Small Business Grant session on April 23 to help strengthen that foundation. Partnering with Ohio State Lima, they welcomed local entrepreneurs and employers to learn about resources that support business growth.

Ohio State Lima's team joined us to share how their campus continues to invest in the region:

- **Rachel Richardson (Career Services)** explained how businesses can connect with Ohio State Lima's student talent pipeline for internships and future hiring.
- **Dean Meggie Young** highlighted the university's Regional Campus Commitment and flexible online degree options designed to meet the needs of busy small business owners and lifelong learners.

We appreciate everyone who participated in this event. AEDG remains committed to fostering a thriving business environment, and we value partners like Ohio State Lima who share our dedication to community and economic success.

For more information, reach out to Tim Fitzpatrick at fitzpatrickt@aedg.org.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

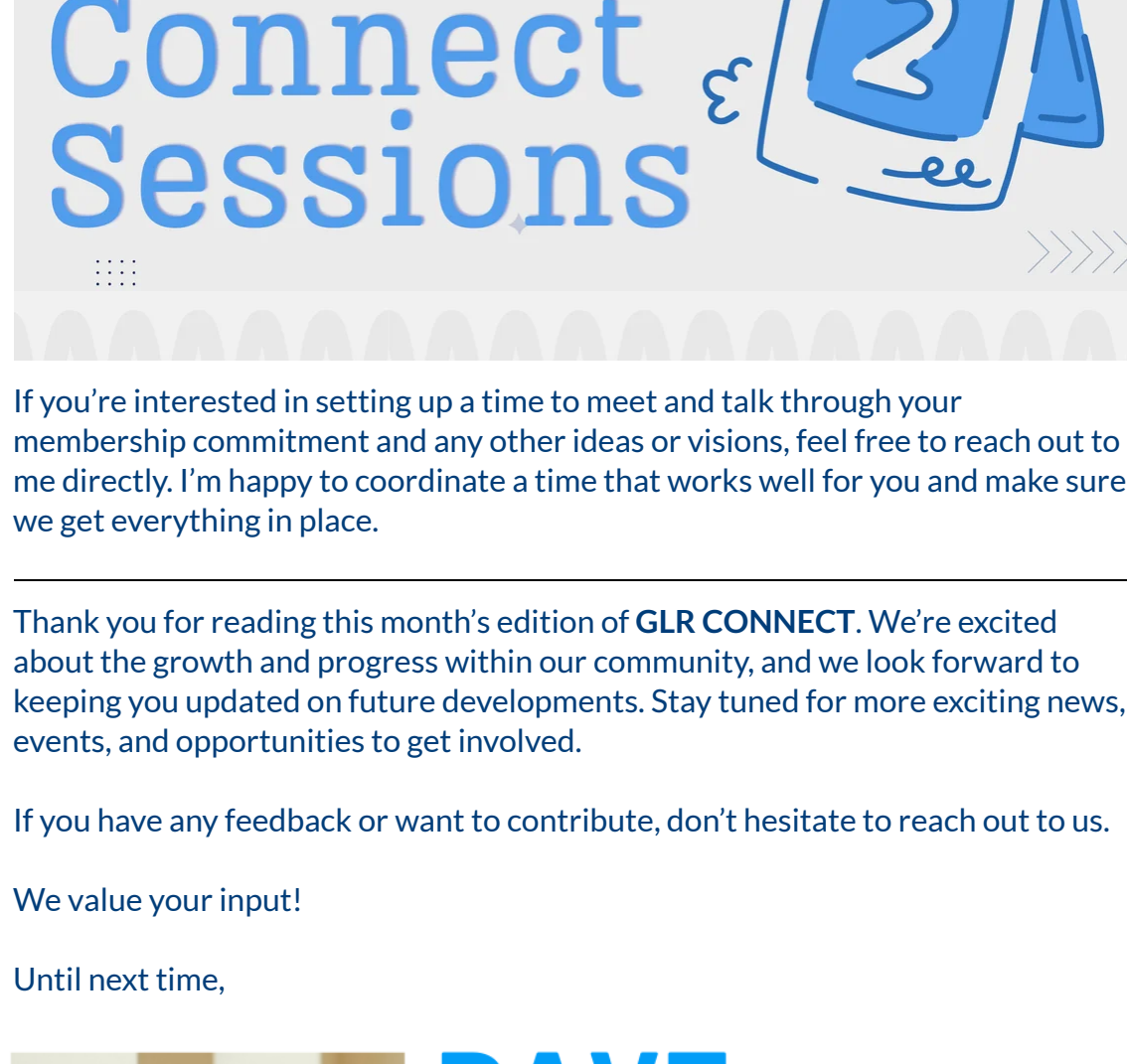


AEDG & Cenovus: Partnering for a Stronger Allen County

AEDG recently joined Cenovus Energy on *Noon Edition* for an interview with Holly Geaman, highlighting the strength of their ongoing partnership. During the segment, both organizations discussed how their collaboration supports workforce development, expands opportunities for local residents, and drives long-term economic investment in Allen County. The conversation emphasized their shared commitment to building a stronger, more resilient region. AEDG values partners like Cenovus who are dedicated to advancing growth and innovation within the community.

To watch the full interview, click on the link below.

[Link to Full Interview](#)



Smokin' Q Barbecue to Open at Spring & Main

Smokin' Q Barbecue is set to open in downtown Lima this May at Spring & Main, taking over the former Vista Taco location. The new restaurant, created by local restaurateur John, brings a fresh, standalone concept designed to energize the city's dining scene.

GLR celebrates and supports this upcoming addition, recognizing how ventures like Smokin' Q contribute to downtown revitalization and strengthen the local economy. Residents and visitors are encouraged to stop in once doors open, enjoy the food, and welcome this new chapter in Lima's culinary landscape.

EVENTS

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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