

GLR CONNECT

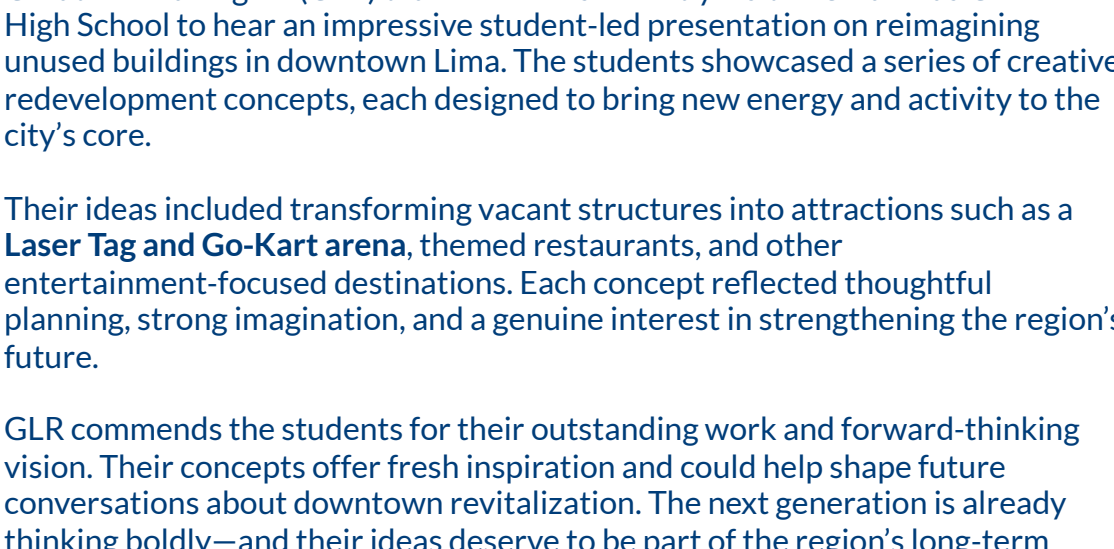
News • Events • Workforce • Membership • & More

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

Before-After Market St.



Columbus Grove Students Present Bold Visions for Downtown Lima Revitalization
Greater Lima Region (GLR) team members recently visited Columbus Grove High School to hear an impressive student-led presentation on reimagining unused buildings in downtown Lima. The students showcased a series of creative redevelopment concepts, each designed to bring new energy and activity to the city's core.

Their ideas included transforming vacant structures into attractions such as a **Laser Tag and Go-Kart arena**, themed restaurants, and other entertainment-focused destinations. Each concept reflected thoughtful planning, strong imagination, and a genuine interest in strengthening the region's future.

GLR commends the students for their outstanding work and forward-thinking vision. Their concepts offer fresh inspiration and could help shape future conversations about downtown revitalization. The next generation is already thinking boldly—and their ideas deserve to be part of the region's long-term vision.

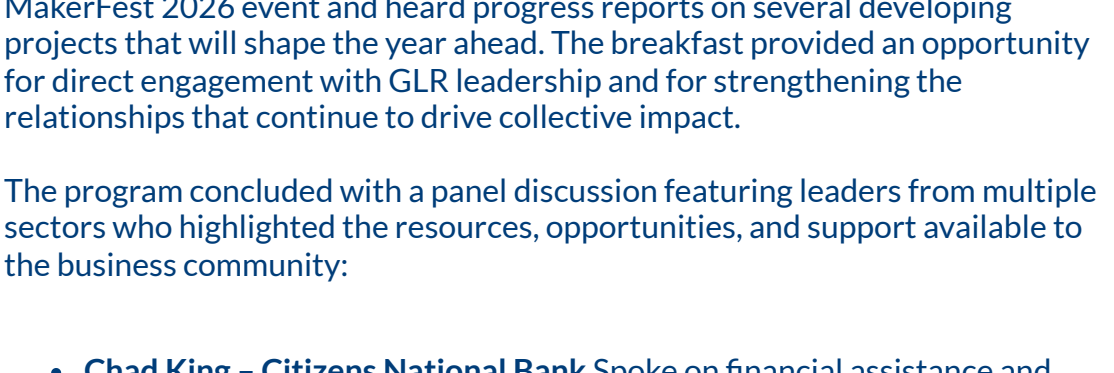
[Click Here to View the Full Presentation](#)



GLR and AEDG Welcome Allen East Students for an Inside Look at Local Economic Development

Twenty-three students from Allen East High School spent the day exploring the world of regional growth and economic development during a joint visit with **Greater Lima Region, Inc. (GLR)** and the **Allen Economic Development Group (AEDG)**. The purpose of the visit was to give students a firsthand look at what these organizations do, how they support the community, and the opportunities they help create for future talent.

The meeting was held inside the **Unicent Building**, where students also received a guided tour. They learned about the building's redevelopment, its role in supporting new businesses, and how spaces like this contribute to innovation and workforce development in the region.



GLR Hosts Quarterly Engagement Breakfast

On May 6, GLR welcomed partners, stakeholders, and community members to its annual Engagement Breakfast—an event dedicated to connection, collaboration, and a shared vision for the region's future.

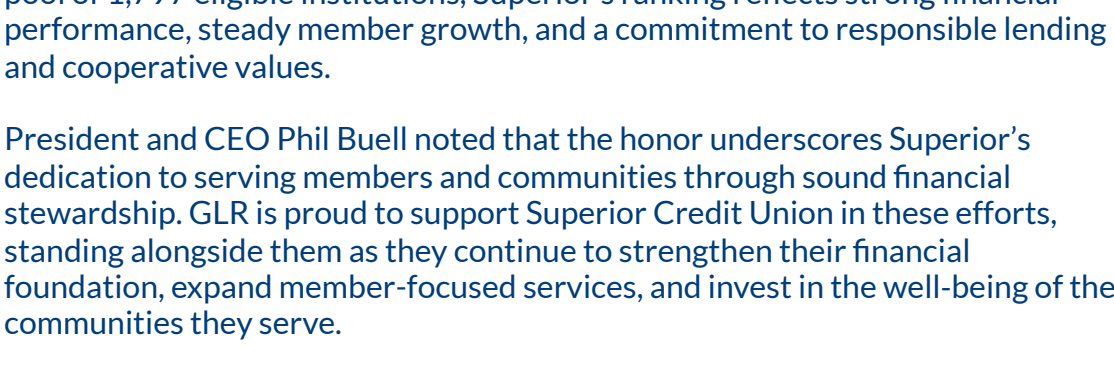
Attendees received updates on GLR's recent achievements and learned about new members joining the organization. They were also briefed on the upcoming **MakerFest 2026** event and heard progress reports on several developing projects that will shape the year ahead. The breakfast provided an opportunity for direct engagement with GLR leadership and for strengthening the relationships that continue to drive collective impact.

The program concluded with a panel discussion featuring leaders from multiple sectors who highlighted the resources, opportunities, and support available to the business community:

- **Chad King – Citizens National Bank** Spoke on financial assistance and CNB's past, present, and future support for local businesses, emphasizing the broader opportunities available within the financial sector.
- **Chase Eikenbary – RGP / JobsOhio** Discussed assistance, incentives, and growth opportunities offered through JobsOhio, outlining what has been accomplished, what is currently underway, and what may be possible for businesses moving forward.
- **Joe Patton – OhioMeansJobs** Highlighted workforce resources and employer-focused services available through OMJ to support talent development and business needs.
- **Dr. Cynthia Spiers – Rhodes State College** Shared the educational and training opportunities Rhodes State provides to strengthen the regional workforce and support employer success.
- **Tara Shepherd & Nick Sammetinger – Apollo Career Center** Presented the programs, training pathways, and collaborative opportunities Apollo offers to help businesses meet current and future workforce demands.

Together, the panel underscored the depth of regional support available to employers and reinforced the shared commitment to advancing economic growth and opportunity.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Superior Credit Union Named One of America's Top-Performing Credit Unions for 2025
Superior Credit Union has been recognized by S&P Global Market Intelligence as the **#63 Best-Performing Credit Union in the nation for 2025**, earning additional distinctions as **#2 in Ohio** and **#1 in western Ohio**. Selected from a pool of 1,797 eligible institutions, Superior's ranking reflects strong financial performance, steady member growth, and a commitment to responsible lending and cooperative values.

President and CEO Phil Buell noted that the honor underscores Superior's dedication to serving members and communities through sound financial stewardship. GLR is proud to support Superior Credit Union in these efforts, standing alongside them as they continue to strengthen their financial foundation, expand member-focused services, and invest in the well-being of the communities they serve.

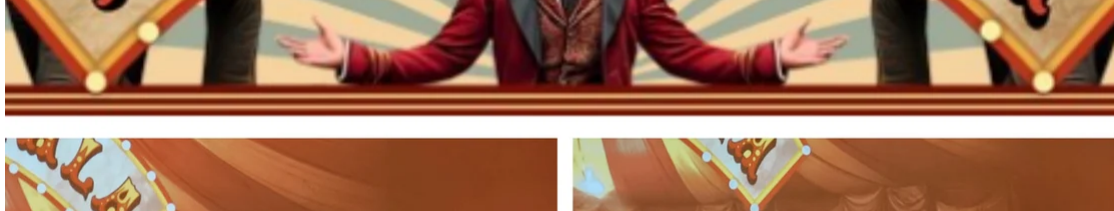
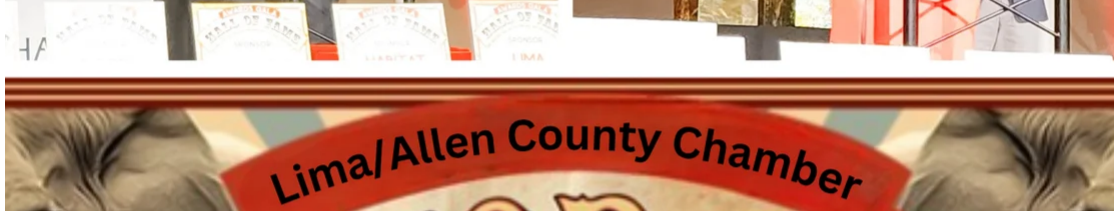
SO FAR, IN MAY, WE'VE ADDED 5 MEMBERS



New GLR Memberships

So far this month, we proudly welcomed 5 new GLR Members: Alexander & Bebout, Inc., Ohio Logistics, Clouse Construction Corp., Benjamin Steel Co., and All Temp Refrigeration. 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.



Celebrating Excellence: GLR Members Honored at the Big Top Gala

The Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce brought circus-themed excitement to the UNOH Event Center on May 7 for its 24th annual Big Top Gala. GLR proudly congratulates member **Trisco Systems Inc.**, honored as **Small Business of the Year**.

Additional GLR members recognized during the event included:

- **Above & Beyond:** Superior Credit Union
- **Agricultural Impact:** OSU Extension 4-H Program
- **Woman-Owned Business of the Year:** All Service Glass Co.

GLR also extends a big thank-you to the GLR members who sponsored and supported this year's Big Top Gala:

- **Major Sponsor:** Superior Credit Union
- **ATHENA Award Sponsor:** Lima Memorial Health Systems
- **Award Sponsors:** Huntington Bank, Mercy Health St. Rita's, Nutrien, State Bank, Cenovus, Citizens National Bank
- **Video Media Sponsor:** Apollo Career Center
- **Media Sponsor:** Your Hometown Stations
- **Theme Sponsor:** MSI Utilities
- **Photo Station Sponsor:** Stolly Insurance Group
- **Gift Sponsor:** OSU – Lima Branch
- **Dessert Sponsor:** Novus Foods

Congratulations to all honorees, and thank you to the sponsors who helped make the celebration a success.

Member Connect Sessions

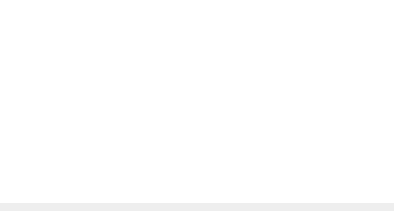
If you're interested in setting up a time to meet and talk through your membership commitment and any other ideas or visions, feel free to reach out to me directly. I'm happy to coordinate a time that works well for you and make sure we get everything in place.

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,



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