

Evolution of the Ohio Business Retention and Expansion Program

Purpose

Launched in 1986, the Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) program has worked with economic developers and community leaders in 79 of Ohio's 88 counties, helping them prioritize, plan and implement community development initiatives. After more than 25 years, the program has been credited with creating or retaining thousands of jobs not only in Ohio, but throughout the United States.

Impact

A packaged curriculum has been developed to include three workshops, programmatic templates and turn-key software to support a comprehensive BR&E program on the local or regional level. Marketing materials, including a workbook and brochures, have been professionally developed to promote the program.

- Improve residential quality of life
- Establish integrated approach to economic development
- Develop community economic decision-making capacity
- Develop of a pro-business orientation
- Improve community leaders' response to residents' concerns
- Create factual basis for attraction and community marketing
- Engage community residents in a discussion of their local economy

Extension Educators have conducted "train the trainer" sessions for colleagues in New York, Indiana and Florida. Florida has committed to incorporating BR&E programs for its Agriculture and Natural Resources Educators and Community Development Educators.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
Ohio State University Extension

Recent Community Partners Involved

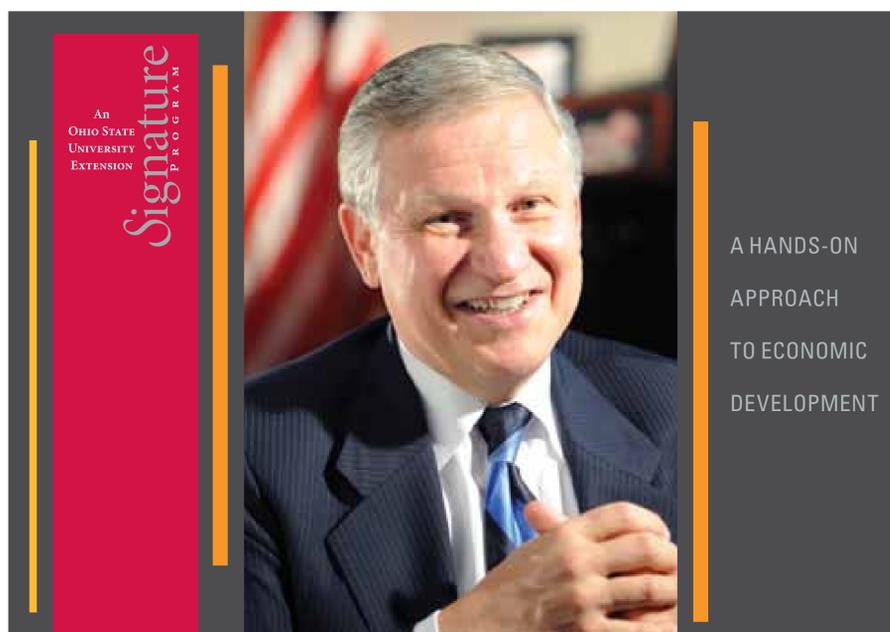
Wyandot County Economic Development
Fayette County Commissioners
Weinland Park/University District
Van Wert Economic Development
Point Place Business Association (Lucas County)

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<http://go.osu.edu/QND>



"The OSU Extension Business Retention & Expansion Program is a wonderful and affordable community development tool. Strongsville's participation has enhanced the city's ability to qualitatively measure the needs of existing businesses and implement strategies to assist these companies in achieving their growth objectives and to improve the overall business environment in the community." — Thomas Perciak, Strongsville Mayor



BR&E IN OHIO

Since 1986, more than 140 communities have improved their business climate through the Ohio Business Retention & Expansion Initiative.



Counties in red indicate current or past participation in BR&E.