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**APRIL WORKSHOPS IN CLEVELAND, DAYTON, AND TOLEDO
PLANNED TO ASSIST OHIO AUTO SUPPLIERS**
*Obama Administration Officials to Join State in Working with
Auto Industry Representatives*

COLUMBUS – Ohio Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel today announced a series of workshops for Ohio's auto suppliers on April 19 in Cleveland, April 21 in Dayton, and April 27 in Toledo. The workshop series is an effort to help manufacturers and suppliers increase their productivity and profitability with information, educational seminars, panel discussions, and training targeted to the automotive industry.

Dr. Edward Montgomery, Director of Recovery for the White House Council on Auto Communities and Workers, and Roger Kilmer, Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership, will attend the Toledo workshop on April 27.

Dr. Montgomery, a former deputy labor secretary, was named to the new post in March 2009 by President Barack Obama.

"Ohio's automotive suppliers have been a source of good jobs and economic strength, but they have been hit hard in the current economic downturn," Dr. Montgomery said. "President Obama and this entire administration are committed to a comprehensive, coordinated response that includes investing in and empowering small businesses in the automotive industry and other sectors so they can continue to be the engines that drive our economy. I am pleased to be able to attend the workshop, to work with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the State of Ohio in providing assistance to these companies. I look forward to hearing first hand about the barriers these companies face."

"We are pleased to be part of the work that the Ohio Department of Development, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and many other federal and state partners have undertaken to help the region's auto suppliers and manufacturers pursue new products and new customers," Kilmer said. "It's this type of coordinated approach and support for innovation that is getting our economy moving again."

The series of workshops was developed to address the needs of Ohio's auto suppliers. Representatives from the workshop sponsors as well as the International Trade Assistance Center, Manufacturing and Technology Small Business Development Centers, MAGNET, and TechSolve will give in-depth overviews of programs and services available to assist the state's auto supplier community. The workshops will provide information on financial and credit services; market diversification; innovation and modernization; product, design, and commercialization, and the Defense Logistics Agency Internet Bid Board System.

"The Ohio auto suppliers' community is an integral sector of our economy," Patt-McDaniel said. "We encourage our manufacturers and suppliers to take advantage of these workshops, which will assist them in growing their business."

The workshops are sponsored by the Department's Entrepreneurship and Small Business Division, and Technology and Innovation Division; the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership; Procurement Technical Assistance Centers; Thomas Edison Program; and the Small Business Development Centers of Ohio.

Registration is \$25. Interested manufacturers and suppliers can learn more about the workshop series and register by visiting www.recoveryworkshop.us or calling (800) 848-1300 extension 6-2711.

Editor's Note: The schedule of Ohio Auto Supplier Workshops is below. All seminars are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m.

April 19 – Wolstein Center, 2000 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115

April 21 – Miami Valley Research Park Auditorium, 1900 Founders Drive, Suite 100, Kettering, Ohio 45420

April 27 – Scott Park Auditorium, University of Toledo, 2225 Nebraska Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43607

*The **Entrepreneurship and Small Business Division** provides innovative programs and services to Ohio entrepreneurs and small business owners through effective communication, collaboration, creativity, and technology support to encourage sustainable growth.*

*The **Technology and Innovation Division** manages the Ohio Third Frontier, the Thomas Edison Program, Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and related programs that are designed to build globally competitive clusters of innovation in targeted technology areas, thereby promoting job formation, wealth creation, and company growth in Ohio.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is absolutely necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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