



## Lake County Board of Commissioners

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# PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Commissioners received promising employment data this week suggesting an inherent strength in the local economic environment for businesses.

According to the Lake County Ohio Port And Economic Development Authority, Lake County has recorded stronger employment numbers than both state and national levels.

Port Executive Director Mark Rantala advised the Board that since August of 2008, a period of 63 consecutive months, Lake County averaged approximately .5% better than the State and 1% better than the U.S. averages.

Lake County Commissioners President Daniel P. Troy celebrated the record as evidence of the hospitable business environment the county has maintained and continues to consider a priority to encourage recovery in the region for business owners and prospective jobseekers alike.

“We are proud of the ability Lake County has developed to enable businesses to locate, expand, finance and identify skilled labor here,” Troy stated. Lake County has dedicated a portion of its Community Development Block Grant funds to offer microloans as a creative mechanism to bridge the gap of traditional financing methods. Loans have allowed companies to expand facilities, services and products, as well as their workforce.

“It also has been the Commissioners’ policy to use a significant portion of our state casino money to support the operational expenses of our Port Authority, the front line of the county’s economic development engine,” Troy said.

Lake County’s Workforce Investment Board, under the county’s Job and Family Services Department, provides job training for unemployed residents, and coordinates job fairs to provide on the spot interviews with numerous local companies, a service to both employers and jobseekers.

Rantala touted the positive pattern registered by Lake County. “It’s a reflection, I believe, of the quality and diversity of Lake County employers and the strength of our workforce. “

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Commissioner Troy said that Lake County is well-positioned with the economic infrastructure, partnerships and leadership to continue its growth. “We recently earned a grant from the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency to investigate connectivity to the lakeshore, and the port is reigniting the coastal plan, both promising ventures that will further capitalize on our wealth of resources and enhance Lake County’s attractiveness to businesses and residents. All of these collaborations among agencies, communities, public and private sectors, forges a formidable alliance on behalf of the whole community and strengthens the cohesive network of services to empower the economy and improve opportunities for workers.”

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