

Appalachian Partnership Board of Directors

APEG welcomes a new member to its Board of Directors.

Kevin King is the director of industry partnerships for Ohio University. The new position is designed



to help the university develop and enhance private sector

relationships that support research, technology commercialization, fundraising and student career opportunities.

On behalf of APEG he will create an advisory group made up of post-secondary Appalachian Partnership education and training providers.

King holds a bachelor's degree in zoology from Ohio University and a doctorate in biology from the University of Missouri. He has 18 years of managing research and development in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries including Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City, Mo., and Quidel Corp. in Athens (formerly Diagnostic Hybrids).

See APEG Board of Directors at: apeg.com/board-members

Monolithic Refractories Manufacturing

International Company Selects APEG Location

The Point Industrial Park in Lawrence County has been chosen by HarbisonWalker International (HWI) as the location for a new \$30 million monolithic refractories manufacturing facility. The plant will build large refractory products that can be molded or shaped for specialty usage.

Refractory materials are non-metallic and retain their strength in high temperature manufacturing like steel and glass making. They are used in environments above 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit as linings for furnaces, kilns, incinerators and reactors.

Pittsburgh-based HWI is the largest supplier of refractory products and services in the nation with 17 manufacturing facilities and 30 global sourcing centers.



HarbisonWalker International produces a wide range of refractory products including bricks, monolithics, high-temperature insulation materials, fiber, insulating firebrick and precast shapes. The South Point plant will manufacture monolithics.

Intermodal Transport

Ohio River access as well as Ohio and interstate highway and strategic rail were part of HWI's location decision.

"The intermodal transportation features at The Point will ensure efficient delivery of raw materials from nearby suppliers and finished products to customers. The site offers efficiencies that are simply not possible elsewhere," said Douglas Hall, senior vice president, Integrated Supply Chain, HarbisonWalker International, about HWI's ability to reach global markets from the southernmost point of Ohio.

Hall also noted the close proximity to suppliers, a supporting infrastructure, incentives, and the potential for long-term partnerships in the area as factors in the location

The project was supported by a JobsOhio Grant and a SOACDF ED Grant. 629 Roadwork funds were received by the industrial park to facilitate construction.

New Technology

HWI expects initial capacity at the new monolithic plant to be approximately 80,000 metric tons per year. The plant will feature state-of-the-art automation and technology, and will utilize lean techniques to maximize material flow efficiency and production. The facility will also introduce advanced packaging technologies that are new to the North American market.

"HarbisonWalker International's progressive attitudes, commitment to its workforce and customers and emphasis on quality and technology are a perfect fit with our overall approach," said Bill Dingus, executive director of the Lawrence Economic Development Corp., developers of The Point.

The company joins 18 companies at the 500-acre industrial park in South Point, Ohio, which features 3,400 feet of Ohio River frontage, an intermodal transport dock facility, seven miles of rail track through the site connecting to Norfolk Southern lines and Interstate 64 only six miles from the park.

A groundbreaking is planned for early summer 2017 with production anticipated to begin in 2018.

Right Site Key to Business Attraction

SiteOhio Authenticated



| Property Details | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Site/Building Name | Leesburg Industrial Park |
| Street Address | 11710 SR 771 |
| City | Leesburg |
| County | Highland County |
| Zip Code | 45135 |
| Type of space | Industrial, Vacant Land |
| Min Size | 2 acres |
| Max Size | 80.35 acres |
| Last Updated | 4/18/2017 |

| Availability | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SiteOhio Authenticated | Yes |
| Featured Property Detail | SiteOhio Authenticated |
| For Sale | Yes |
| Price per acre | \$20,000.00/acre |
| Ownership | Highland County Bd. of Commissioners |
| Number of Owners | 1 |
| Date Property is Available | immediate |

| Darcol ID #(a) | 17-15-000-242.00 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Parcel ID #(s) | 17-15-000-242.00 |
| Industrial Park | Yes |
| Industrial Park Name | Leesburg Industrial Park |
| Former Use | agricultural |
| Lot Size | 80.35 acres |
| Total Acres | 80.35 acres |
| Divisible | Yes |
| Certified | Yes |
| Certification Type | SiteOhio Authenticated Site |
| Zoning | Yes, covenants |
| Topography | flat |
| and Use | agricultural |

View the Leesburg site and all of APEG's 609 available sites and buildings at apea.com/sites-facilities

Attracting a new company to build or locate in the Appalachian Partnership region most often starts with a detailed list of questions about

"Site selectors request dozens of data points we need to have at our fingertips," said Mike Jacoby, vice president for APEG business development. "Information about available utilities is usually a starting point but site-specific engineering details and due diligence studies are

The basic site characteristics are expected to be available online, the starting point for most industry location searches. As one of JobsOhio's six network partners, APEG's available sites can be searched through a powerful new software called Zoom Prospector by GIS Planning that has been implemented statewide.

Site Authentication

SiteOhio Authenticated is a new program developed by JobsOhio to help communities win projects by having the most competitive sites possible. As a site authentication program, it goes beyond the usual sitecertification process, putting properties through a comprehensive review and analysis.

The authentication designation indicates a site is ready for immediate development, day one; guaranteeing that all utilities are on site with adequate capacities and that due diligence studies have been completed.

SiteOhio also ensures the site is free of incompatible uses, with no limitations or liabilities from conflicts with surrounding properties.

Highland County's 80-acre Leesburg site was one of the first properties to receive SiteOhio Authentication. Ohio's authenticated properties will be actively promoted to industries looking for new locations.

News from the Partnership

Adams: Seaman MACA Plastics, a Winchester-based supplier of

automotive components, instrumentation, electronics and



medical devices, purchased a vacant 9,000-square-foot building to use as additional warehouse and storage space to meet demands of their growing business.

Athens: Athens Little Fish Brewing Company installed solar panels at the brewery using a \$50,000 loan from the Athens County Economic Development Council small business micro revolving loan fund. The fund was established with USDA Business Development (RBDG) funds. The company hopes to power a third of the brewery's energy usage with the panels.

Belmont: Barnesville The Joint Economic Development District 2 (JEDD) is a hub of activity as oil and gas activity increases in the area. Belmont County leads the state in permitted wells, and several oil and gas industryrelated businesses are located in the JEDD2. Over the past five years JERU Real Estate has erected five buildings there; all are leased and providing jobs to the area.

Carroll: Dellroy Addiction Campuses is opening a 150-bed alcohol and drug addiction rehabilitation facility at the former Atwood Lake Lodge and Resort. Construction will begin April 1 with a targeted opening date of July 1. The campus will be known as The Bluffs; the 75-acre property will be leased to the company.

Coshocton: Coshocton McWane's growth continues with their cast-iron utility pole division expanding by more than 20 percent last year. A tax abatement agreement called for the creation of 12 jobs; they have created 20. In addition to moving their coatings business from Pennsylvania, they are moving production operations from Utah to Coshocton and projecting another 30 percent growth this year.

Gallia: The Gallia County Economic Development office created an aerial video tour of the community to be used to attract new business development. The bird's eye view shows companies and site consultants why Gallia County is an ideal place for business growth. The project was supported by an AEP Ohio LEAP grant. View @ http://apeg. com/county/gallia-county.

Guernsey: Valley Township A "preapplication" letter has been filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board by Apex Power Group and Caithness Energy LLC needs of the business for construction of a 1,650 megawatt natural gas-fired electric power plant. Sited on a 92-acre parcel, the plant would cost \$1.5 billion and would generate about 500 construction jobs over a 30-month period. The facility would provide power to 1.5 million homes; 35 permanent jobs would be created.

Harrison: Cadiz The ad valorum tax revenues generated by gas and oil production delivered an additional \$6 million to county coffers in 2016; that figure is anticipated to nearly double this year because of increased horizontal well production. Companies report their production to the state which then issues the amounts of tax due. The funds will be spread across the county with about 60 percent going to support public schools. The Ohio tax has been in place for decades.

Highland: Greenfield A group of community advocates is working with Heritage Ohio toward the goal of becoming a Main Street Community. The process, which looks at both assets and challenges of the city, is designed to set priorities and inform a plan for directing basic operations, marketing, design and economic growth for downtown revitalization success.

Hocking: Logan A \$4.8 million grant and \$9.9 million loan from the USDA will be used to address the city's aging water treatment system with meter replacement beginning in the spring. A treatment facility with capacity to produce 2.5 million gallons of water per day is scheduled for a fall construction start.

Holmes: Holmesville First Choice Exteriors is adding a new 16,700-squarefoot facility to expand their metal roofing and siding production. Their products are used in residential and commercial applications. The expansion will create three new full-time positions.

Lawrence: South Point A new 15x25 foot electronic billboard is now in place at the entrance to The Point Industrial Park. The programmable digital sign will rotate with up to five non-commercial messages including Convention and Visitor's Bureau announcements about area events and festivals. About 34,000 vehicles pass the sign daily.

Meigs: Reedsville Farmers Bank held its eighth annual Junior Board of Directors program to teach high school students about business, finance, banking and leadership. Each year the students FB | Farmers Bank form a

company and, during monthly meetings, learn about the different business roles required to operate the company. Additionally, they visited Rocky Brands headquarters in Nelsonville and the distribution center in Logan. The 24-member student group included six students from Meigs County.

Noble: Caldwell Next fall local high school students will have online access to the Ohio Public Library's digital content. Integral to this effort is the school's 1:1 Technology initiative providing each student a laptop computer. Students can "check out" books, audio books, magazines and videos and digital content for research. Noble is the second county to join the program. The Ohio Public Library is the third largest digital library in the Western Hemisphere.

Perry: Thorn Township A collaborative effort between county commissioners and state legislators from a tri-county area along with the Perry County CIC will for the first time offer Perry County residents local access to Buckeye Lake. The Buckeye Lake Task Force will receive \$500,000 from the Ohio Capital Improvements budget to build a park and boat ramps at the east end of the lake. An additional \$150,000 grant from the EDA and support from Heritage Ohio will help with the project.

Pike: Piketon Jeff Humble started Synergy Manufacturing while teaching plastics at Shawnee State University going fulltime in manufacturing in 1997. A Tier 2 supplier to Honda, the plastics and polymer injection molding company recently received more than \$250,000 to help purchase new equipment and move into a larger building to accommodate growth. Support came from a JobsOhio Economic Development Grant, a SOACDF Grant and Fluor BWXT Opportunity Fund; the project will produce 49 new jobs.

Ross: Chillicothe A 100,000-squarefoot spec building is under construction by Nier River Road Development LLC along the US 23 corridor north. Designed as flex space for manufacturing or distribution, it is the first of twin buildings planned to anchor the new business park. August is the target for completion.

Scioto: Lucasville Federal Supply Services International manufactures plastic containers and barrels for federal Departments of Defense and State and the General Services Administration. A planned expansion includes new manufacturing capability creating 31 new jobs. JobsOhio Workforce Grant and Fluor BWXT Opportunity Fund supported the project.

Vinton: McArthur A major expansion of the Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library features a newly constructed community room with a separate entrance, a small stage, food service area and seating for 100. The library operations center has a new circulation desk, offices, children's and quiet areas and a computer center. The expansion was made possible through a sizable gift honoring Harold V. and Ferne R. Felton and is named in their honor.

Washington: Reno Mondo Polymers is introducing a lighter weight polyethylene guardrail offset block and doubling their production capacity. Production of the

blocks, which fit between metal guardrails and



wood posts, now includes robots which trim and stack the finished product. The blocks are made from recycled plastics and are used nationwide. Certification by the U.S. Highway Administration is anticipated.



Kerry Makes Drinks Enjoyed by All Ages

When you punch a straw into a kid's juice box you're breaking the seal on an aseptic product, one that may have been made at the Kerry facility in Byesville, Ohio.

The Guernsey County plant, which has been making juice since 1984, uses cutting edge aseptics technology

to produce juice, fruit smoothie base and non-alcoholic adult bar mixes

"From ingredient blending through pasteurization to the filling lines and packaging, everything in our manufacturing process is sterile," explained John Kasinecz, Kerry plant manager. "The ultra-high temperature pasteurization (UHT) process we use destroys any microbes in the juices which means they can't spoil and don't require refrigeration."

About 20 percent of Kerry's customers are retail grocery shoppers. The other 80 percent is the food service industry including well-known restaurant chains, bars and cruise lines who use the bagged and boxed mixes to create KERRY

Their fruit products come from around the world, said Kasinecz, bananas from Costa Rica and coconut milk from Malaysia. To make the strawberry smoothie base they use more than 1,000 55-gallon barrels of strawberry puree every day.

Irish-based Kerry has 155 facilities in 28 countries and is a world leader in taste and nutrition. About 150 full-time employees work in Byesville.

Jackson: Jackson Rio Grande Community College recently opened their Jackson Center facility. Its mission is to deliver customized training

and flavor beverages.

in response to the community. The center is a partnership between economic development, higher education, area

employers and workforce development with the goal of improving the regional workforce.

Jefferson: Mingo Junction MPW Environmental Services, Inc., provider of industrial cleaning, water purification, facility management, environmental management and container management services, has expanded



operations and is on track to create 25

full-time jobs. The company received approval for a five-year Job Creation Tax Credit.

Monroe: Woodsfield Natural gas development from the Utica shale has generated a more than 340 percent increase in tax revenues to the county. The \$6.8 million tax revenues received in FY2015 were up from \$1.5 million in FY2010. Statoil is scheduled to drill 12 new wells in the county this year.

Morgan: McConnelsville Miba Sinter continues to expand its operations. In 2017 they will install \$5.5 million in new equipment resulting in 30-plus new jobs. Miba Sinter, Miba Bearings, Metal Axis and their service center total nearly 600 full-time jobs.

Muskingum: Zanesville The Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority has completed deep dynamic soil compaction, removed surface mining spoils, replaced top soil and graded a 30-acre site at their Airport Industrial Park; a new sewer line is being extended to the site. Designated "Fiber Ready" by AT&T, high speed broadband and telecommunications infrastructure are in place. The \$1.7 million project was funded by the Port Authority and the JobsOhio Revitalization Pilot Program.



Foreign Direct Investment Option

Soft Landing in Appalachian Ohio

As APEG works to attract new business into the region's counties, international industries are increasing part of the effort.

Although some foreign investment lands with a huge splash like the recently completed \$1 billion purchase of Bellisio Fine Foods (including the Jackson production facility) by Thailand's megagiant Charoen Pokphand Foods, others are looking for a simpler way to enter U.S. markets -- a soft landing.

Soft Landing

For companies who are curious about our markets but not ready for a full commitment, APEG's new soft landing program is ideal.

"The majority of my conversations with those stopping at Ohio's booth at the Hannover Messe last spring were with representatives of small companies who were looking for a way to explore the U.S. as a place to grow their business," said John Molinaro, president and CEO of APEG. "We now have a program in place so I can offer those small companies support and a place to explore and launch in the APEG region."

Hannover Messe, the largest industrial trade show in the world. is held each spring Germany.

Key to the new program are entrepreneurial centers capable of working with foreign companies. Some of the commonly needed services are:

- U.S. Market Research
- Help with Import / Export Laws
- · Translation Services
- Cultural Guidance
- Intellectual Property Protection / Patent Assistance
- Equity investment and financing (for qualifying businesses)

Wet Lab to Blast Chiller

For companies interested in testing the viability of manufacturing an existing or new product in the U.S., specialized equipment is often needed.

"We have several organizations in the region who can help with specific needs and advice ranging from USDA certified food production facilities to wet labs to additive manufacturing and equipment prototyping," said Molinaro.

Among the resources in the APEG Soft Landing program are The Innovation Center, Ohio University's award winning business incubator; the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute in Youngstown; and business incubators ACEnet in Athens, MCBI in Zanesville and the OSU Endeavor Center in Piketon.

In February, the Innovation Center was selected by the International Business Innovation Association (InBIA) to join its 31-member Global Soft Landing Network. The network offers businesses an accelerated introduction to a new country's business practices, regulations and culture.

Expertise to build on the region's existing strengths in metals, energy, bioscience, wood, food, and chemical and polymers is also available to new companies.

Facilitating Partnerships

Advantageous partnerships are also created when U.S. and international companies work together. An additional goal of the Soft Landing program is

introducing APEG companies whose resources fit foreign companies looking to collaborate.

Partnering could be in production, assembly, fulfillment, logistics, sales or a full joint venture.

"A conversation during a February trade mission led to the introduction of a Canadian company to an APEG manufacturer and the discussion is looking like we'll have a partnership formed between the two," said Molinaro.

66 Our culture is familiar and comfortable to global companies who feel a kinship with rural areas. They know the workforce is committed and the communities are deeply rooted.

John Molinaro President and CEO, APEG

Small to mid-sized companies looking for low-cost support for entering U.S. and Canadian markets are most likely to benefit from a soft-landing approach.









APEG's Soft Landing program offers a variety of services and locations for international companies exploring manufacturing in the U.S. Guidance on American laws and culture, access to office space and staff, specialized production equipment and industry expertise can be tailored to meet the needs of foreign companies.

Funds Available to Fill Loan "Gaps"

Getting sufficient capital for a business expansion can be a challenge but for 10 southeastern Ohio counties "gap funds" from the Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) may be the answer.

Using federal and state resources, OMEGA offers private, for-profit companies loan funds that work in conjunction with traditional bank financing to supplement the bank's financing limits. These loans bridge the difference and provide the funds a project needs to succeed.

A recent revolving fund loan helped relocate and expand a Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in St. Clairsville. The \$2.8 million project also received a bank loan and corporate investment. The company was required to create 15 full-time-equivalent jobs to meet the job-to-loan ratio.

"Our funding was a critical piece of the financing puzzle as the bank was at its lending limit for the restaurant industry," said Lolly Ravak, loan fund administrator. "The bank loan was contingent on OMEGA's participation."

The agency's loan program also helped MPR Supply Chain Solutions expand to serve the oil and gas industry. A collaboration between the company, Belmont County CIC, OMEGA and a local bank put together a \$1.25 million loan package in 2010. The storage and multimodal

trans-loading business in Bellaire continues to grow and has created more than 60 jobs.

OMEGA Loan Programs

166 Loan Fund is funded by the Ohio Development Service Agency and can be used for commercial, manufacturing, industrial or distribution entities to acquire buildings, machinery, equipment and other fixed assets or construct, repair and renovate facilities.

Revolving Loan Fund is funded by Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Funds can be used for acquisition of buildings, machinery, equipment and other fixed assets; limited working capital; construction, repair and renovation of facilities.

Both programs have additional requirements including the creation of one full-time equivalent job created or retained for each \$50,000 in financing.

OMEGA serves these counties:

Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum and Tuscarawas.



Contact: lravak@omegadistrict.org

Shark Tank Success!

Rene Wallace and business partner Dale King, both of Portsmouth, pitched their Doc Spartan brand of handmade skin and beard products on ABC Television's Shark Tank in February and walked away with a \$75,000 investment from one of the show's business panelists.

Wallace, married and mother of three young children, met King, a former Army intelligence officer, at his Scioto County PSKC CrossFit fitness center. She was making natural lotions for women but, at King's request, developed an all-natural first aid ointment for use at the gym then expanded the market to heal the "nicks, cuts and scrapes the military encounter on the field and range."

Doc Spartan processed over 4,000 orders in less than a week after the TV show, twice as many orders as they filled in 2016. Vowing to heal America's wounds with an ointment made from 100 percent natural ingredients, the products, for men and women, are available in gyms, barbershops, beauty salons, health stores and online to retail and wholesale customers.

A portion of the company's sales go to Team Some Assembly Required, a non-profit organization supporting adaptive athletes (men and women missing limbs) in sports competitions.

For information: <u>docspartan.com</u>



Doc Spartan business partners Rene Wallace and Dale King successfully pitched their essential oils based products on ABC's Shark Tank.

What's Working

Among the nearly 500 corporate facility projects scattered among the nation's Top 100 micropolitan areas, certain patterns emerge. First, there is a strong correlation with interstate highways, with the jurisdiction often well placed and equidistant between larger markets. There is also a pronounced lean toward incremental growth by satisfied customers: 65 percent of the projects were expansions vs. new greenfield sites. As for industry sector, the trend persists from the world's leading sectors in terms of project activity — transportation equipment, plastics/chemicals, and everyone's favorite industrial niche: food and beverage.

Communities that excel at economic development do so through persistent attention to business retention and recruitment, tax and regulatory strategies, technical assistance and workforce development. In 2016, the efforts and rewards of Ohio micropolitans were not just impressive, they outpaced the rest of the nation by a strikingly wide margin.

Last but not least, the nation's leading small towns are peppered with international flavor, as companies from Japan to Korea to Thailand to Germany to Israel find homes in areas many Americans would agree are not just business-friendly, but friendly in general.

> Gary Daughters, Senior Editor, Site Selection Adam Bruns, Managing Editor, Site Selector

Portsmouth in National Top 10 Ranking

The City of Portsmouth was recently announced as one of the Top 10 Best Micropolitan Communities in the United States per Site Selection Magazine's 2016 rankings. The competition is based on the number of qualified economic development projects in areas with 10,000 to 50,000 population.

Portsmouth's six qualified projects tied them with eight other cities for a 10th place ranking and, with two projects each, Cambridge and Chillicothe were in a multi-city tie for a 78th place rank.

66 We make projects happen by getting out and talking to our local businesses about what they need to do to grow and expand and learn what opportunities they have in allied industries. 99

> Jason Kester Executive Director, SOPA

According to Kester, most of the projects were linked business retention and expansion calls growing existing businesses.

In the past 18 months Scioto County has logged eight significant expansions, created over 100 jobs and had over \$50 million dollars in new investment.

Ohio is #1

Overall, Ohio was the number one ranked state with 18 cities and 111 projects reported. Findlay (Hancock County) was the number one ranked micropolitan for the third year in a row

"The number and diversity of the communities named to this list is proof that Ohio has the formula for success - access to exceptional resources, a competitive business climate and dedicated economic development teams working collaboratively at every level," said John Minor, president and chief investment officer, JobsOhio.

The rankings, which began in 1988, are considered by corporate real estate analysts as the industry scoreboard. Projects are counted which include headquarters, manufacturing plants, R&D operations and logistics sites meeting one of the following minimum criteria: \$1 million in capital investment; 20 jobs created; or the addition of 20,000 square feet of new floor space.

In Other News

Ohio Counties with Best Job Growth

Three APEG counties were among Ohio's top 25 in job growth in 2016. (U.S. Department of Labor)

Muskingum County

1,089 new jobs, 3.4 percent growth

Scioto County

650 new jobs, 2.8 percent growth

Pike County

457 new jobs, 4.9 percent growth

MEP Wants to Hear from Manufacturers

The Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership is surveying manufacturers of all sizes to learn more about the challenges and opportunities anticipated in 2017.

When you receive the survey, please take 10 minutes to fill it out. The feedback will help APEG MEP serve you better. If you did not receive the survey and want to share your opinion contact Bryan Smith, bsmith@apeg.com

Ross County's ED Leader Retires

Active operations of the Economic Development Alliance of Southern Ohio (EDASO) began when founding CEO Christopher Manegold arrived in July 2006. During a 40-year career, Chris previously directed local chambers

and economic development organizations in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Casper, Wyoming.

A Cincinnati native, Chris received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati. He is a graduate of the Institute for Organization Management at the University of Notre Dame and the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma. He earned the designation as a Certified



Christopher Manegold

Economic Developer (CEcD) from the International **Economic Development** Council in 1985 and in 1991.

He announced his retirement earlier this year after building a strong economic base of growth and retention, and before leaving office will be helping with the transition of the

new director of the recently reorganized Greater Chillicothe and Ross County Department of Development (GCRC).

'Chris has shared his depth of knowledge and experience with many in the APEG region, especially with his counterparts in the Joint Economic Development Initiative of Southern Ohio (JEDISO) which he was instrumental in creating," said Katy Farber, APEG project manager. "He will be missed!"

AEP LEAP Grant Support Available

AEP Ohio Economic and Business Development announced its 2017 Local **Economic Advancement Program** (LEAP) grant program. Created in 2005 to help fund

economic development programs and projects that promote the creation and retention of A POHIO manufacturing investment and jobs throughout the AEP Ohio service territory, LEAP grants have provided nearly \$1,000,000 in support.

'The grants are for projects like retention and expansion surveys,

wage and benefit studies, new business attraction, entrepreneurship, special studies and research projects or other creative ideas," said Tim Wells, AEP manager for economic and business development. "We are looking for projects that provide the

maximum local benefit from grant funds."

Project requests can be up to \$10,000 and must leverage funds from other sources and

be a collaborative community effort. Applications are due May 26, 2017. For requirements and information contact: Tim Wells (740) 368-7139

Mark Your Calendar

May 5 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. **ACEnet Women in Business Conference** Lodge at Hocking College Nelsonville, Ohio

May 23 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. 6th Annual Appalachian Ohio State of the Region Conference Ballroom, Baker University Center Ohio University

May 23 2:30 p.m. **APEG LEDO Advisory Board** Baker University Center Ohio University Athens, Ohio

Athens, Ohio

May 25 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. **APEG-MEP Intro to Lean Tools** Quality Inn Jackson, Ohio

May 31 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. **APEG-MEP Intro to Lean Tools** Washington Co. Career Center Marietta, Ohio

APEG will be represented at these shale-related industry forums

Global Petroleum Show June 13-15 Calgary, Canada

PetChem Update June 19-20

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

DUG East June 20-22

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

To learn more about the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth go to APEG.com. To join the mailing list contact: chatfield@apeg.com

Lora Offenberger, Kaslo Design

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