



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Annetta Shirk
419-673-4131
ashirk@hccba.com

HARDIN COUNTY CHAMBER & BUSINESS ALLIANCE RECEIVES GRANT FROM AEP OHIO ***\$10,000 Grant will help assist with their Economic Development Strategies***

Kenton, OH – The Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance is pleased to announce that its Economic Development Division has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP).

The Alliance economic development staff, Jon Cross and John Hohn, recently returned from the Ohio Economic Development Association Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio where they were recognized and presented with the grant.

Over the past year, the Alliance staff participated in AEP Ohio's 2015 Community Economic Development Academy (CEDA), which was a multi-phase program that included attending site selection workshops, preparing new marketing strategies and hosting national site selectors for tours of the county's top industrial sites. In addition, officials from Ada, Forest and Kenton participated with the tours and workshops to help strengthen the teams approach to a countywide economic development platform. The final step of the program was to develop an action plan to implement key economic development priorities identified throughout the process.

"The purpose of CEDA was to help local economic development professionals and key community leaders understand the types of information required and how to respond quickly to site consultants' requests for information, said Jon Cross, President & CEO and Business Development for the Alliance. "We are always trying to gain knowledge and insights that gives us advantages to win new business and create new jobs for Hardin County."

In addition, the Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance is also in the running for an additional grant by AEP Ohio for assisting with their technology upgrades to enhance their marketing and presentations efforts.

#

More About the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance

The Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, and its four divisions (Chamber, Tourism, Economic Development and Community Development) is a member-driven organization that serves the community to promote, cultivate and advocate for a prosperous business, educational and agricultural climate, strengthen the local economy and improve the quality of life, making Hardin County a great place to live, work and prosper. For more information, please visit www.hccba.com