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## **Medina County Economic Development Annual Meeting Reports Strengthening Economy and New Job Creation**

Dr. Jay Gershen, president of Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), served as keynote speaker at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Medina County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC), where 150 guests gathered to hear his presentation in Westfield Center on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014.

As the sixth president of NEOMED, Dr. Gershen is overseeing a \$166 million capital improvement project. These expansion efforts are doubling the university's footprint through the addition of a new research and graduate education building and a residential housing village, both of which opened in fall 2013, and a health, wellness and medical education complex, which will open in fall 2014. Medina County's own Ruhlin Company served as construction manager for the research building and is also construction manager for the health and wellness facility.

In addition to transforming the university into a residential campus, with world class research facilities and community facing preventative health and wellness programs, the expansion has generated economic activity, including new construction jobs, and positions the university for future growth in the areas of education, research and service.

"This year we are celebrating 40 years of growth and success, and our physical transformation is a reflection of our programmatic expansion," said Dr. Gershen. "With the help of our regional partners, we are adding academic resources, investing in our research enterprise, building services that impact the health of our surrounding communities and designing programs that inspire youth to pursue careers in the health sciences, all with the future in mind."

The meeting also served to introduce MCEDC's new Board President, Melissa Lund of Medina's FirstMerit Bank.

Ms. Lund highlighted MCEDC's efforts in helping companies expand and thanked Medina County's community leaders for their support of the organization.

In providing a "Year in Review" presentation, MCEDC Executive Director Bethany Dentler reported on the economic activity enjoyed by Medina County in 2013. She said that 172 companies expanded in Medina County last year, creating 800 new jobs and investing \$94 million in capital spending.

MCEDC also honored one of the community partners who has played an important role in Medina County's economic development efforts over the past two decades by presenting the inaugural Economic Development Champion Award to Debra Lynn-Schmitz, president of the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce.

The Medina County Economic Development Corporation is a non-profit organization with the mission of strengthening Medina County's economy through business attraction, retention and expansion, and increasing the community's quality of life.

*Ms. Dentler's complete "Year in Review" report is available upon request by calling 330-722-9215 or at [www.medinacounty.org](http://www.medinacounty.org).*

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