



Regional Growth Partnership  
BUILDING A HIGH-TECH, HIGH PERFORMANCE ECONOMY

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Launch Clients Receive Ignite! Grants**

TOLEDO, Ohio – Two technology start-up companies – both clients of the Regional Growth Partnership’s (RGP) Launch program - were recently awarded development grants to enhance their operations and early-stage business activities.

CeutiCare LLC and Esclapeus Biopharmaceuticals were recipients of the Rocket Ventures Ignite! Development Grant, which provides funding to assist companies with specific initiatives, ultimately enhancing their credibility in seeking further investment.

“The Launch team is proud to assist these startups with our business incubation services, and helping in their development to become eligible for this grant,” said Tasha Hussain Black, director of Launch. “Our mission is to ensure the success of technology-based start-up companies, and these Ignite! grants will accelerate their business growth.”

CeutiCare, which received a \$42,000 Ignite! grant, is commercializing a turnkey medication therapy management system which brings seven times as many patients with chronic conditions to favorable health goals than traditional methods.

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With the support and assistance from Launch, CeutiCare has developed a business plan, an electronic medical records system, and a proprietary decision-making algorithm to move the business forward.

“This grant will assist in further developing our software for therapeutic decision support,” said Ken Bachmann, co-founder of CeutiCare. “The software is intended to guide pharmacists’ suggestions for tailored drug therapy regimens to meet individual needs for patients with chronic diseases.”

Esclapeus Biopharmaceuticals, a startup out of the University of Toledo, received a \$50,000 Ignite! grant to assist in developmental studies for an anti-obesity medication. These studies are fundamental in the drug development process, according to Dr. Khew-Voon Chin, founder of Esclapeus. Launch provided initial support in developing a viable business plan to the start-up, as well as providing for legal and financial services.

“This grant is extremely important because it will allow us to conduct pre-toxicology studies for the anti-obesity drug,” said Dr. Chin. “Information from this study will enable us to know whether the drug is certifiable for further development.”

Rocket Ventures, a pre-seed early-stage venture fund and program of the RGP, has awarded eight Ignite! grants to start-up companies in northwest Ohio. Both CeutiCare and Esclapeus are Rocket Ventures clients, a prerequisite for receiving an Ignite! grant. Rocket Ventures has a specialized review process with strict parameters that companies must meet, and every Ignite! grant is reviewed and approved by an independent technology and commercialization board of advisors. Services provided under the Launch program helped prepare these clients to meet the necessary criteria for grant recipients, according to Hussain Black.

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Launch is a technology-based business incubation program of the Regional Growth Partnership. Launch provides comprehensive business assistance for entrepreneurs and start-up companies that are commercializing revolutionary, world-class technologies, to accelerate company growth and time to-market-entry.

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national, and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio. The Regional Growth Partnership acknowledges the contribution of the state of Ohio, Department of Development and Thomas Edison Program, which provide funding in support of the Launch program.

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