



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

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 21, 2009

## **Record Crowd Gathers for Latest TECHCONNECT At Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion**

TOLEDO, Ohio – More than 300 people committed to accelerating the region's tech-based business growth gathered recently for an opportunity to learn more about recent advancements and successes in the local community.

Tech-minded professionals met April 30 at the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Pavilion for the latest TECHCONNECT, a quarterly networking event hosted by the Regional Growth Partnership's Launch and Rocket Ventures programs. This marked the largest attendance ever for TECHCONNECT, which drew guests from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Connecticut.

"The purpose of TECHCONNECT is to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit in northwest Ohio and to be a catalyst for new connections to fund companies and develop new business and sales," said Tasha Hussain Black, director of Launch.

Attendees heard from three tech-oriented companies who spoke about the power of networking and shared their stories of success, including the strategies and paths they followed.

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Presenting companies at the event included:

- AquaBlok - Developer of a management tool for the containment and treatment of contamination of sediments. AquaBlok is on the leading edge of environmentally safe pollution control.
- Branam Oral Health Technologies – Created a line of all natural health care products addressing childhood tooth decay.
- Ugly Data - Provide outsourced solutions for companies who require control over applications on 100 percent uptime reliability from their hosting environment.

More and more, TECHCONNECT is being recognized as the region’s premier networking event for tech-minded professionals, while also providing opportunities for investors to find new deal flow, according to Hussain Black.

“Whether its investors, entrepreneurs or service providers, attendees are finding business leads in greater frequency ... which is our exact intention for these events,” Hussain Black said.

Other sponsors of TECHCONNECT include the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Gorillas & Gazelles and Ohio’s IT Alliance.

Launch is a tech-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.

Rocket Ventures, a division of the Regional Growth Partnership, is a pre-seed, early stage venture fund for technology-based entities/companies operating within the state of Ohio. It consists of \$15 million in state funding and \$7.5 million in private sector investment and is supported through the Ohio Department of Development Third Frontier program.

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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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