

Case Study: Economic Innovation in Licking County, Ohio

Executive Summary

- (A) **From the invention of fiberglass insulation at the Owens-Corning research works in Newark, Ohio, and the development of the office copying machine at the Columbus Battelle research facility, to the IBM announcement early this year of the location of its international center for advanced data analytics in Columbus, the growth of the Licking County and the central Ohio economy resulted to a significant degree from economic innovation.**
- (B) **“Economic growth in innovation economics is the end-product of knowledge (tacit vs. codified); regimes and policies allowing for entrepreneurship and innovation (i.e., R & D expenditures, permits, licenses); technological spillovers and externalities between collaborative firms; and systems of innovation that create innovative environments (i.e., clusters, agglomerations, metropolitan areas).”**
- (C) **At several industrial parks in Licking County, Ohio, innovative environments or clusters have been developed to spur and support innovation and economic growth. For example, the “79/Seventy” advanced materials manufacturing cluster (including silicon, quartz, polymers, steel, aluminum, ceramics, glass, wood, ag/bio, organics, food, fiberglass, and foam), is concentrated along the State Route 79 and the Interstate 70 corridor in Licking County.**
- (D) **Companies such as Bayer, Acuity, and Boeing opened new product development centers in the 79/Seventy advanced materials manufacturing corridor.**
- (E) **In support of this concentration of advanced materials manufacturing and innovation, the Licking County Career-Technology Education Centers (C-TEC) developed the pre-employment, manufacturing certification training program.**
- (F) **The second, noteworthy example of an industrial park cluster in Licking County supporting economic innovation is the New Albany cluster of manufacturers and packagers related to personal care, health, and beauty products.**
- (G) **Businesses, located close to each other in the Licking County New Albany beauty park, encourage collaboration and quick development and manufacture of beauty industry-related products, thus supporting innovation through close coordination between retailer and related product manufacturer.**
- (H) **A third Licking County cluster of economic innovation in the field of logistics is developing at the Etna Corporate Park, with the recent decisions of Menlo Worldwide Logistics Company, Ascena Retail Group distribution facility, and the**

Speed FC distribution operations to locate and expand in the Licking County Etna industrial park.

- (I) **The linkages between the administration of 1-year, 2-year, and 4-year training programs at the Career-Technology Education Centers (C-TEC) of Licking County, the Central Ohio Technical College (COTC), and the Ohio State University (OSU)/Newark Campus in Licking County represent a similar synergy on the training side, in support of the economic concentrations for innovation and growth on the business side.**
- (J) **In addition to the innovative environments of economic clusters in the aforementioned Licking County business parks, economic innovation for growth is also driven by research and its commercialization. Central Ohio, including Licking County, is home to two of the largest and most important research institutions in the nation – the Battelle Memorial Institute and The Ohio State University (OSU) – both of which have their own technology transfer offices to facilitate the commercialization of their respective inventions**
- (K) **Headquartered in central Ohio, the “Battelle Memorial Institute is the world’s largest nonprofit research and development organization, with over 20,000 employees at more than 100 locations globally.”**
- (L) **Also located in central Ohio, the Ohio State University (OSU) “recognizes the value of strategic partnerships with business and industry in addressing our global challenges.” The OSU “current national ranking of second in industry-sponsored research attests to this,” as does the OSU “active participation in the State of Ohio’s Third Frontier Program, an initiative to grow Ohio’s expertise in targeted high-tech economic sectors.”**
- (M) **The OSU Technology Commercialization Office (TCO) has the operating philosophy that, “Great economies are built around great universities. They attract capital, entrepreneurs, industry and great minds.” Consequently, the Technology Commercialization Office of OSU operates “as a ‘cradle to grave’ manager for OSU inventions,” including developing commercialization opportunities through marketing efforts, licensing, and developing economic partners.**
- (N) **Licking County offers businesses the advantages of “proximity to innovation and proximity to users,” that is, “the gains from co-location.”**