

The logo for the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce features a vertical stack of four colored squares (orange, green, red, blue) to the left of the word "DAYTON" in a large, white, sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the word "DAYTON".

# DAYTON

Dayton Area  
Chamber of Commerce

22 E. Fifth Street  
Chamber Plaza  
Dayton, OH 45402-2400  
[www.daytonchamber.org](http://www.daytonchamber.org)

March 19, 2015

David Goodman, Director  
Ohio Development Services Agency  
77 South High Street, P.O. Box 1001  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001

Dear Director Goodman,

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,700 businesses and organizations in a nine county region in Southwest Ohio. It is on behalf of these businesses and our business internship partners that we are writing you today to urge you to reconsider the agency decision to end funding for the Ohio Third Frontier Internship program.

Since the inception of the Third Frontier Internship program, over 600 interns have been employed in over 200 companies throughout the Dayton region and West Central Ohio, with over 60% of those interns going on to secure full time employment in Ohio realizing an "average" annual salary of \$36,000. Across the state, the numbers speak just as loudly, with over 5,000 interns receiving high quality, diverse work experiences with over 800 employers since 2002. By incentivizing companies in high-demand growth industries to "grow their own talent" the Third Frontier Internship Program has succeed in addressing two problems at once , workforce gaps and "brain drain".

Without a doubt, the Third Frontier Internship Program works, and continues to fulfill the original intent of the program: to develop a pool of talented workers for Ohio's businesses, create enriching student work experiences and assist students in obtaining permanent full-time employment in Ohio after graduation. According to the Census population estimates, the state gained more than 50,000 young adults between 2010 and 2012 -- after losing more than 420,000 the prior two decades. By exposing our young people to unique and inspiring work experiences and by incentivizing employers who may not otherwise be able to hire interns, the Third Frontier Internship Program, which has successfully helped retain much of Ohio's creative talent, has also succeeded in establishing Ohio as a global innovation leader and fueling economic growth and job creation in our state.

For the Dayton region, over \$2 million has been invested in helping local companies provide industry specific mentoring and training ensuring that they have a skilled and talented workforce ready to meet the demands of the jobs of the future. We have witnessed time and time again how the specific skills gained through a Third Frontier Internship program

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experience leads to a job offer, which then leads to a loyal, highly trained and knowledgeable employee who chooses to stay, start and continue their professional lives in Ohio.

Companies of all sizes have benefited from this program, but it is the smaller companies who stand to lose the most if the Third Frontier Internship Program disappears. For the 2014-2015 program year, over 87% of the Dayton Chamber's Third Frontier Internship Program grantees are small businesses. Those small businesses employ over 120 interns collectively. For a small business, the intern salary reimbursement represents a vital workforce development tool. Since the inception of the program, the employer enrollment in the Dayton region has continued to grow, and we see unlimited potential in the future as we continue to leverage our diverse and growing high-tech industry in Dayton, as well as our robust system of Higher Education institutions. The Third Frontier Internship Program has made an indelible impact across the state; it is a win for students, a win for Ohio's universities, a win for Ohio's employers and a win for the State of Ohio.

We strongly urge you to continue the Third Frontier Internship Program. It has been an invaluable asset not only for our community, but for our state as a whole. We would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you further on this matter.

Sincerely,



Phillip L. Parker, CAE, CCE

President & CEO

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

*Linda Linton*

Linda Linton

Defense Research Associates

*Alan Page*

Alan Page

The O'Gara Group

*Lucious Plant*

Lucious Plant

Dayton Development Coalition

*Daniel A. Schock P.E.*

Daniel Schock P.E.

The Nidec-Minster Corporation

*Sarah Gehret*

Sarah Gehret

Emerson Climate Technologies

*Jennifer Nagra*

Jennifer Nagra

JMS Composites

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*Eri Sakurai*

Eri Sakurai  
Cradle North America Inc.

*Yuya Ando*

Yuya Ando  
Cradle North America Inc.

*Julie Buschur*

Julie Buschur  
Hartzell Air Movement

*Debbie Reddington*

Debbie Reddington  
TDC Group Inc.

*Gary Codeluppi*

Gary Codeluppi  
Ross Group Inc.

*Craig E. Dillon, AIA*

Craig E. Dillon, AIA  
Craig E. Dillon, AIA Architect

*Aaron Guggenbiller*

Aaron Guggenbiller  
Midmark Corporation

*Shannon Williams*

Shannon Williams  
Aptalis Pharmatech, Inc.

*Kevin Comer*

Kevin Comer  
Orbital ATK Aerospace Structure –  
Military Systems

*Summer Kovacs, PHR*

Summer Kovacs, PHR  
Tyler Technologies

*Jeff Bennett*

Jeff Bennett  
Cornerstone Research Group

*Scott Reeve*

Scott Reeve  
Composite Advantage

*Laura Schwieterman*

Laura Schwieterman  
JR Manufacturing

*Carol McLaughlin*

Carol McLaughlin  
PQ Systems

*Crystal Phillips*

Crystal Phillips  
Spintech Ventures LLC

*Grant R. McMillan, Ph.D.*

Grant R. McMillan, Ph.D.  
Innovative Scientific Solutions

*Srujal Sheth*

Srujal Sheth  
Vana Solutions

*William H. Steinecker, PhD*

William H. Steinecker, PhD  
VCG Chromatography

*Deanna Nesbitt*

Deanna Nesbitt  
McGregor Metal

*Eric Van Hoose*

Eric Van Hoose  
Van Hoose Associates, Inc.

*Steve A. Zenar*

Steve A. Zenar  
Continental ContiTech – St Marys



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*Brad Churby*

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*Linda Wright- Manuel*

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*Sheryl Kent*

Sheryl Kent  
Wright State -College of Engineering and Computer  
Science

*Erik Collins*

Erik Collins  
Montgomery County – Community & Economic  
Development

cc: Governor John Kasich

Ben Kanzeg, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
John Minor, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
John Carey, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
David Scholl, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
Bruce Langos, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
Gary Lindgren, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
Rick Fearon, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
Bill McCreary, Ohio Third Frontier Commission  
Dayton Regional Delegation, Ohio House of  
Representatives  
Dayton Regional Delegation, Ohio Senate