

technology...realized



# Rocket Report

Accelerating Opportunities.

April 2010

## May/June Happenings

May 4

**Ohio Primary Election**  
*Voting Polls State-wide*

May 17

**LEXAMED Presents:  
Meet the Experts**  
*9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Cost: \$195*

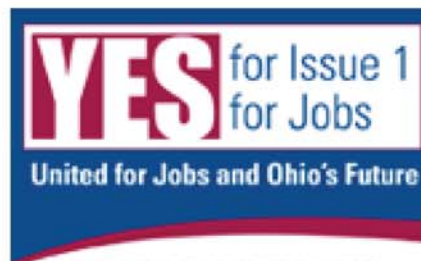
May 27

**Technology Innovation  
Luncheon**  
*11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Cost: \$25*

June 16 (tentative)

**Tech Connect**  
*5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
TBD  
Cost: Free*

## Vote YES for Issue One



Issue 1 renews and continues Ohio's highly successful Third Frontier economic development and jobs program. Through this program Ohio's investment in technology, innovation and entrepreneurs has resulted in the formation of more than 500 new companies, the expansion of existing companies, and more than 48,000 new jobs for Ohioans.

To-date Rocket Ventures, a Third Frontier Program, has commercialized 63 new startup companies predominantly in three major clusters: bioscience, advanced manufacturing and materials and alternative energy.

The pre-seed fund has made nine investments in technology-based businesses worth \$3.7 million. In addition, Rocket Ventures has awarded 32 early-stage investment grants to companies worth nearly \$1.5 million.

In 2009, Rocket Ventures clients generated \$41 million in economic impact for northwest Ohio through co-investments, licensing, sales revenues and federal grants.

### Show Your Support

Support the Third Frontier and Programs like Rocket Ventures by Voting Yes on Issue 1, Yes for Jobs. The "Yes on Issue 1, Yes for Jobs" campaign has its own website, [www.unitedforjobsohio.com](http://www.unitedforjobsohio.com). Share the website with your network, family and friends. You can also follow the "Yes on Issue 1" campaign on Facebook and Twitter.

Finally, the most important way to show your support of "Yes on Issue 1" campaign is to vote for it on **Tuesday, May 4**. If you can't make it to the polls, please vote absentee. Every vote counts!

# Third Frontier helps students acquire scholarships, co-ops



Ohio Third Frontier is not only strengthening Ohio's economic state but helping fund scholarships and generate co-ops for undergraduate students.

The Ohio Third Frontier is a \$1.6 billion program created to expand Ohio's technological strengths and has brought economic prosperity to the state of Ohio for the past 10 years. The program's main focus is building research programs and promoting technology development to make existing companies more productive, interim vice provost Deanne Snavelly said.

"The purpose is to help Ohio be an innovation leader in the United States," Snavelly said.

Inside Ohio Third Frontier's massive program is a portion for grant funding for scholarships and co-ops for math-science and technology students.

"There is a program in the Ohio Third Frontier program that's specifically for co-ops," dean of technology Joseph Frizado said. "It has the greatest potential to make the quickest change to undergrads here at BGSU."

Frizado said companies apply for assistance from the state to provide the co-op to the student and the state provides one third of the cost. Now it's easier for companies to say they want more co-ops.

"Anything that makes co-ops easier to get and make companies more interested in co-ops is a plus for us," Frizado said. "Though it's a small portion of the Third Frontier program, that small section still consists of millions of dollars ... the program is really big but a small component to Ohio Third Frontier."

He said funding from the Ohio Third Frontier, given in the form of grants, is only received through a competitive process involving a lot of proposal. Proposals are then evaluated by a panel of experts for approval.

One program that Ohio Third Frontier program helps fund here at the University is the Science and Math Education in Action Program. The Action program is an innovative scholarship given to incoming freshmen who are math and science education majors.

"This year is the first cohort ... I'm just so excited about what students can really do if they are helped along. I mean they're doing just great," Science and Math Education Action Director Barbara Moses said.

The program's purpose is to increase the number of science and math education graduates at the university and increase their value as science and math teachers. Students are required to do research projects and participate in practicums that will show them how math and science are used in the workforce, according to the Science and Math Education Action Program website. (continued on page 3)

A large, light-brown rectangular box containing a quote. The text is arranged in two columns. The first column has the words 'Think about it' in a large, red, sans-serif font. The second column has the rest of the quote in a dark blue, sans-serif font. At the top right and bottom left of the box are three small white squares.

**Think about it** **“Innovation is the specific instrument of entrepreneurship. The act that endows resources with a new capacity to create wealth.”**

Peter Drucker

# Rocket Ventures Hosts

## Technology Innovation Luncheon - May 27

Our panel of distinguished state and community leaders from business, academic, and the public sector will explore alternative energy trends and opportunities.

Topics of discussion include:

1. Technology trends for Alternative Energy (short-term and longer-term)
2. The role of government (state and federal)
3. Business start-up challenges and opportunities
4. The impact and availability of capital
5. Competition and an international perspective

Please join us on May 27, 2010 as the Regional Growth Partnership moderates this panel of state and community thought leaders.

The distinguished panelists include:

**Dr. Mark R. Shanahan**, Special Technology Advisor to Governor Strickland and Executive Director, Ohio Air Quality Development Authority ([www.ohioairquality.org](http://www.ohioairquality.org))

**Dr. Xunming Deng**, CEO, Xunlight Corporation ([www.xunlight.com](http://www.xunlight.com))

**Alex Johnson**, CEO, Red Lion Bio-Energy ([www.redlionbio-energy.com](http://www.redlionbio-energy.com))

Details of the Event

**When:** Thursday, May 27, 2010

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Program and Lunch

**Where:** Hilton Garden Inn

6165 Levis Commons Blvd. Perrysburg, OH 43551

**Register at [www.rocketventures.org](http://www.rocketventures.org)**

### Third Frontier helps students acquire scholarships, co-ops (continued from page 2)

We're trying to do the best for the state of Ohio and our job is preparing teachers ... I see nothing better the state could have funded," Moses said.

Kimberly Verhoff and Matthew Jones are two of the first members, and they agree that the innovative scholarship program is very valuable to their teaching experience.

"The practicum should be a really good experience seeing what math and science actually does in the work force," Jones said. "So when teaching it you can have real life examples of what you can use it for."

The Ohio Third Frontier has reached the end of its 10 year life and in order for the program to continue in its efforts it will have to be voted in by Ohio residents on this May's ballot.

Verhoff said that even though she didn't exactly know what the Ohio Third Frontier program was she still thinks it is very beneficial in funding scholarship programs like ACTION.

"There is a need for math and science majors, and I'm getting all these experiences that will help when I graduate," she said.

"They believe they have created 48,000 high tech high paying jobs so that's pretty good," Snively said. "The Ohio Third Frontier returns on investments average 22 percent which is also a good amount."



# RGP Supports Junior Achievement Business Challenge – May 14

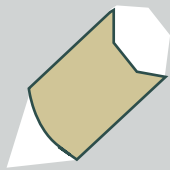
On May 14, 2010, several northwest Ohio area high school students will convene on the campus of The University of Toledo to participate in the Junior Achievement Business Challenge.

The event, sponsored by the RGP's Launch program, will pair student teams with local business volunteer consultants. Using a computer program called JA Titan, the teams will strategize to operate a successful business and perform the duties of a management team. The teams will learn the nuances of running a global business and the success or failure of the companies created will depend on how well the students manage critical business decisions.

The top ranking teams will win Junior Achievement Scholarships.

According to RGP President and CEO Steve Weathers, "The students in this business challenge event are the entrepreneurs of tomorrow and we are thrilled to sponsor these innovative thinkers and look forward to seeing great success come from this competition."

Find out how you can get involved by contacting Junior Achievement's Kelly Melchior at 419-865-5511, ext. 208.



## We Want to Hear from YOU!

Please send us your comments on this issue, ideas for future stories, and news about how your company is changing the entrepreneurial and technology landscapes. Direct comments to:

Julie Myers  
Editor  
*Rocket Report*  
myers@rgp.org



### *Rocket Ventures Increases*

## Social Media Presence

In 2009 Rocket Ventures increased its visibility by creating a new and improved website ([www.rocketventures.org](http://www.rocketventures.org)).

Now, we're upping the ante with our new and improved twitter, linkedin and facebook pages. By following us on our social media sites, you can find out the latest client information, Rocket Ventures events and how you can get involved in the latest entrepreneurial activities in and around northwest Ohio.

Check us out on Twitter: @RocketVentures;

Linkedin:RocketVentures; Facebook: Rocket Ventures.