

**John R. Kasich**  
Governor

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Central Ohio Forum Promotes Keeping Older Ohioans in the Workforce**  
*Find Out Why Baby Boomers Make Excellent Entrepreneurs*

**Columbus** – The Ohio Department of Development is partnering with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to raise awareness of the workforce development needs of our population as they reach traditional retirement age. Through a forum in Columbus on April 12, the organizations will examine the importance of programs targeted at experienced workers, realizing that employees who are living longer, may also want or need to stay in the workforce longer.

The panel forum will include discussion topics such as: why baby boomers start the most new businesses, how hiring and retaining older workers can enrich a company, and available resources to connect employers and the senior work force.

“Keeping older workers engaged in the labor force is vital for the continued economic growth of our region,” said Bill LaFayette, forum panelist and Vice President of Economic Analysis at the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. “The demographic shift in the labor force from the Baby Boom generation to the smaller numbers in succeeding generations will cause workforce growth to slow significantly without intervention. Beyond that, the accumulated knowledge of those older workers is of great value to their employers and our economy as a whole.”

The forum will include a welcome by Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown, followed by the panel discussion. In addition to Mr. LaFayette, the panel will feature Carol Ventresca, Executive Director of Employment for Seniors, Deborah Murphy, Human Resources Director at MORPC, and Wendy Boortz, Program Manager for the 50+ Entrepreneurship Program at the Ohio Department of Development.

Co-sponsors of the event include the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging; Columbus Chamber of Commerce; Employment for Seniors; the Franklin County Office on Aging; the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission; the Ohio Department of Aging, the Ohio Department of Development, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Division; OSU Medical Center, Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology; and the Senior Services Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County.

The forum will be held on Tuesday, April 12, from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., at MORPC, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio, and will include a free continental breakfast.

To register and receive a parking pass, contact Shari Saunders at (614) 233-4125 or [ssaunders@morpc.org](mailto:ssaunders@morpc.org).

*The **Entrepreneurship and Small Business Division** provides innovative programs and services to Ohio entrepreneurs and small business owners through effective communication, collaboration, creativity, and technology support to encourage sustainable growth.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by*

*providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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Media contacts: Bethany McCorkle at (614) 466-6619 or  
the Communications and Marketing Office at (614) 466-2609

Office of Communications & Marketing • 77 South High Street • P.O. Box 1001 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • U.S.A. • 614 | 466 2609

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