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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Registration is Now Open for Ohio's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Entrepreneurship Expo** *Enhancing Ohio's Economy through Entrepreneurial Thinking*

**Columbus** – In recognition of Small Business Week in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Development announces the 2011 Entrepreneurship Expo to be held Friday, May 20th. The Department's Entrepreneurship and Small Business Division and the Ohio Small Business Development Centers are hosting the day-long Entrepreneurship Expo, which begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Ohio Dominican University LEAD Program building, located at 2600 Airport Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

"Entrepreneurs are the backbone of Ohio's economy and we need to provide the proper resources that will empower small business owners to expand and create jobs for Ohioans," said Karen Shauri, State Director of the Small Business Development Centers "The Entrepreneurship Expo is an excellent opportunity for small business owners and entrepreneurs to learn and network."

The Entrepreneurship Expo will provide Ohio entrepreneurs and small business owners the opportunity to meet with government, education, and nonprofit service providers to learn about the many programs and access cost savings tools to help them succeed in today's economy.

The event will include speed training sessions throughout the day on topics such as starting a business, future incentive opportunities, business marketing and development, government contracts, financial business success planning, protecting your business information, and the importance of social media. Attendees also will be offered the opportunity to get free, one-on-one counseling from an Ohio Small Business Development Certified Business Advisor® on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sponsors of the 2011 Entrepreneurship Expo include CheckOhio First, Ohio Dominican University, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

This event is open to Ohio entrepreneurs and small business owners with a registration fee of \$25 per person. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. For more information or to RSVP, visit [development.ohio.gov/Entrepreneurship](http://development.ohio.gov/Entrepreneurship) or call (614) 466-2711.

*The **Small Business Development Center of Ohio Network** was created in 1985 through a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Ohio Department of Development. The program fosters a strong climate for small business growth with many local community partners including colleges and universities, economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, and other community organizations.*

*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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