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Wednesday Edition

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Q&A / Issues & Answers

The Ohio Venture Association fosters in Ohio the formation and development of business enterprises with the potential for substantial growth and contributions to the economy, by providing an atmosphere or the interchange of ideas on entrepreneurship, new ventures and venture capital. Benjamin Calkins is the current president of OVA.

Q: Why is it important to bring public, private, academic and government entities together in helping to nurture the development of new, young and small companies?

A: Reinventing a region's economy is no small task and requires a tremendous investment, which no organization or individual can make acting alone. Northeast Ohio residents will need to cooperate

and leverage fully the region's many human and other resources, in order to reinvent and reinvigorate the region's economy.

Cleveland and Northeast Ohio have failed to keep pace with many other regions of the U.S. in launching and then supporting early stage and growth businesses. Numerous studies placed Ohio and our region at the very bottom in terms of business formation and growth, job creating, wealth creation and entrepreneurialism. Our region today is paying a heavy price for relying too much and for too long on its declining industrial base.

Fortunately, local leaders and organizations are embracing change, and increasingly, supporting business formation and growth. The OVA is a "big tent" of individuals and organizations committed to this cause.