## Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs
### Center for Economic Development

**Center Activities**
- Applied research
- Technical assistance
- Industry cluster development
- Entrepreneurship & innovation support

**Clients**
- State/regional economic development/industry partnerships and organizations
- Public agencies
- Entrepreneurs
- Start-up companies

**Assessment Techniques**
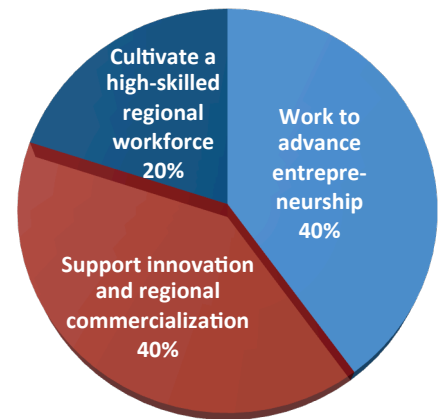- Client interviews
- Informal feedback

### Center for Economic Development

Cleveland State University's (CSU) Center for Economic Development provides applied research, technical assistance services, and dissemination to regional, statewide, and national economic development organizations that drive innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional collaboration. The Center's contributions are strongly linked to its network of partners – influential organizations that seek to create innovation clusters and to develop regional talent, entrepreneurship, and business expansion.

### Goals & Activities

The Center's activities are heavily focused on providing applied research services that support other organizations whose focus is on advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and target cluster development in northeast Ohio and statewide. For example, the Center has conducted a statewide target industry study in partnership with JobsOhio, to support the state's job creation/retention efforts in strategic industries. The Center also conducted trend and impact analysis on the state's bioscience industry, and prepared a database of bioscience companies, working with BioOhio. Other applied research activities have focused on specific high-tech sectors that are important in northeast Ohio, such as advanced energy (working with the Ohio Shale Coalition), and manufacturing (working with the region's Manufacturing Advocacy &



Growth Network). In addition to these types of partner-driven research studies, the Center produces an annual dashboard of economic indicators that tracks and disseminates information about the region's competitiveness.

In addition to its research activities, the Center provides technical assistance to

start-ups and entrepreneurs, primarily working through a partner organization Shaker LauchHouse (a business incubator), by placing graduate assistants on-site to work directly with start-up companies to provide complimentary market research and other business services.

## Leveraging

CSU's Center for Economic Development is fully integrated into the Levin College of Urban Affairs, accessing its technology and website capacity, data and GIS capabilities, faculty expertise, and administrative functions including budget and human resources. The Center also collaborates with the College of Business Administration on joint research and technical assistance projects. Most Center activities leverage a wide network of regional and state organizations, including other universities, local/state government, industry associations, non-profit organizations, and others. The Center's strategic research, analysis, and guidance help advance the industry and innovation-focused activities of these partner organizations.

# Success

### Data Mining to Advance Partner Programs

JobsOhio, a private, nonprofit organization that promotes job creation and economic development for Ohio, needed reliable data and information to underpin its statewide efforts to attract and retain jobs in strategic industry sectors. To support this endeavor, JobsOhio sought assistance from Cleveland State University's Center for Economic Development to define and analyze target industries for the state. The Center produced 13 detailed reports on target industries and business functions, and it supported JobsOhio in presenting the target industry data to its Board and to the Governor. The Center also developed a list of international companies in each target industry, as well as a general list of Ohio companies with estimated employment and sales data. The Center's work was instrumental in preparing JobsOhio to lead in Ohio's job creation efforts.

**By applying its specialized expertise in data mining and working with large federal datasets, CSU's Center for Economic Development is able provide partner organizations with the information they need to implement well-grounded, effective programs that advance innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development in Ohio.**

*"The Center has been very responsive to the project needs and has been flexible as the parameters of the project have evolved. I have every confidence that we will be getting a good product."*

*--Center client*