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**SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL RECEIVES REGIONALISM EXCELLENCE AWARD**

The Northeast Ohio Trade & Economic Consortium (NEOTEC) recently recognized Summit County Council with its 2009 Excellence in Regionalism Award for their continued commitment and dedication to the economic growth and vitality of the Northeast Ohio region as members of the Northeast Ohio Joint Office of Economic Development.

In the past year, Summit County was instrumental in working with NEOTEC with its Global Business Development Initiative (GBDI), a comprehensive marketing initiative to bring jobs to northeast Ohio by attracting new foreign direct investment and assisting Northeast Ohio businesses with export sales development.

Councilwoman Ilene Shapiro, Chair of the Summit County Council Planning and Economic Development Committee accepted the award on behalf of the Council, along with Summit County Executive Russ Pry and Connie Krauss, Director of the Summit County Department of Community & Economic Development.

“Development of a global network is necessary to elevate the profile of the region,” said NEOTEC President, Ron DeBarr. “Opportunities for export sales have never been better, with the reduction in trade barriers and the value of the dollar. We’re excited about the GBDI initiative and how it will allow us to respond to the challenges of today’s economic climate with a direct, concentrated effort for regional integration into the global economy. We are thrilled with Summit County’s commitment and continued support in this effort,” he concluded.

NEOTEC is a regional economic development partnership of 10 Northeast Ohio counties established by the Northeast Ohio Joint Office of Economic Development (JOED) in 1996. NEOTEC is dedicated to enhancing the global competitiveness of Northeast Ohio and its businesses, working to attract new business investment and jobs to the region by promoting domestic and international trade and strengthening the region’s distinct advantages as a business location.

In addition to the Global Business Development Initiative and International Trade Assistance Center, NEOTEC programs include the administration of Foreign-Trade Zone 181, which is a unique global supply chain management tool that levels the playing field with foreign competition; and the Northeast Ohio Logistics Network, an organization of logistics and management professionals working together to help improve regional market access.

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