



News Release

Russell M. Pry – Summit County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 2, 2010

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Summit and Medina counties launch Project HIRE

(AKRON, OHIO) - Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry and Medina County Commissioner Sharon A. Ray announced today a joint collaboration of their respective Workforce Initiatives and the Ohio Department of Development to introduce the state's Project HIRE (Hometown Investment in Regional Economies).

Project HIRE matches employers' needs with recently dislocated workers in a number of targeted industries such as advanced energy and environmental technologies, bioscience and bio-products, and polymer and advanced materials. The program uses Federal stimulus dollars to reimburse employers for up to \$6,000 in training or retraining expenses in exchange for a bona fide job offer. Training could consist of classroom training, on-the-job training or a combination of both.

To introduce Project HIRE, County Executive Pry and Commissioner Ray are hosting an informational breakfast for Summit and Medina employers on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Akron General Health and Wellness Center West, 4215 Medina Road, Akron, 44333. The event will feature noted economist and frequent CNBC and CNN guest commentator Jeff Thredgold.

Thredgold, formerly a Senior Vice President and Chief Economist for KeyCorp, is author of several books and publishes a weekly economic and financial newsletter, the *Tealeaf*. He is a monthly contributor to Blue Chip Financial Forecasts and quarterly USA today economic forecast surveys.

Registration and complimentary continental breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 8:00 a.m. Each participant will receive a copy of On the One Hand...The Economist's Joke Book and his most recent book econAmerica, as well as access to his weekly economic and financial newsletter the *Tea Leaf*, now in its 35th year.

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Based in Salt Lake City, Thredgold has served as an adjunct professor of finance at the University of Utah and is a former member of the Economic Advisory Committee of the American Bankers Association and the Economic Policy Committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The event is free, but seating is limited to the first 200 participants. Online registration is available at <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/ProjectHire.htm>. For more information, contact Mary Dougherty, Summit County Department of Job & Family Services, (330) 643-7020.

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