



## **NEWS RELEASE IMMEDIATE**

July 8, 2011

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### **Photographs available**

### **Concord-Painesville JEDD Recognized for Collaboration**

Concord-Painesville -- TEAM NEO (Northeast Ohio), the business attraction organization representing 16 counties, held its annual awards dinner on June 30, 2011 at Akron's Knight Center. Among the many awards given that evening was the "Regionalism & Cross Border Collaboration." The Concord-Painesville JEDD (Joint

Economic Development District) received this award in recognition of the two communities' establishment of the JEDD district in 2008.

The JEDD between these two communities remains as one of the most unique in the State of Ohio. The JEDD compensates each community in the form of payroll tax upon the employees working at University Hospital's Concord Health Center, Lake Health's Tripoint Hospital and Concord and Painesville operations. The payroll tax is lower than the regional average. It will also provide benefits to businesses in the future in the form of reduced utility rates for water and electricity. "These utilities can be a very important incentive for businesses, and based upon discussions we've had we believe many other businesses will be joining the JEDD once these utility benefits kick-in," said Paul Malchesky, Chairman of the Concord Board of Trustees.

"Due to the recent development in this area, some infrastructure improvements, road and sewer, are much needed," said Caroline Luhta, Vice Chairman of the Concord Board of Trustees. She continued by stating, "the JEDD provides needed funding; without it we could not have afforded these projects. This area, close to State Route 44 and Interstate 90, has great potential for economic development which will affect the entire region of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties. We want to be sure that these improvements can serve well into the future as this area develops."

This view towards the region led Concord Township to seek a partnership with the City of Painesville. "We have been a neighbor for almost 180 years. We recognized our neighbor's plight and loss of revenue with the move of Lake Health's hospital from Painesville but we also recognized them as a strategic partner having the ability to offer utilities to create incentives. We saw the value of improving our neighboring community which will also benefit the entire area," said Chris Galloway, Trustee.

"University Hospitals is pleased to be a founding partner of the Concord/Painesville Joint Economic Development District. Together we are making a difference in fulfilling our ambitious and passionate vision for these communities. The recent Team NEO

award is a clear manifestation of the measured progress of the JEDD in a short period of time. And the best is yet to come” stated Richard J Frenchie, JEDD Trustee and University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center Executive.

“The city of Painesville is excited to be recognized with Concord Township for the Concord/Painesville JEDD. Our collaboration proves that communities can successfully work together when you focus on the bigger picture and the long term benefits to the region,” stated Joseph Hada, Jr., president of Council for Painesville.

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