

Great Lakes Regional Economic Revitalization Summit
Thursday April 17th, 2008 Crowne Plaza City Centre Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio
Meeting and Meals to Occur in the East Ballroom, Sixth Floor

Breakfast & Networking – 8:00-8:30am

8:30am Welcoming remarks & Introductions –
Pierrette "Petee" Talley, Ohio AFL-CIO

Morning Panels
Revitalizing the Region's Core Strengths Amidst Major Challenges

It is our vision that the economic revitalization of the Heartland must be rooted in the region's industrial base and its skilled workforce. But realizing this vision requires the Heartland states to find innovative ways to take on major challenges to these historic sources of strength. The morning discussion will identify promising models being developed in the region and spur discussion about how we can foster best practices throughout the heartland.

9:00-10:15

1. Manufacturing Retention & Layoff Response

The panel will describe strategies being developed in the region to effectively respond to problems in manufacturing especially in light of the continuing wave of layoffs in the auto industry. Key elements include effective early warning systems and rapid response activities that work to retain jobs and enable workers and communities to rebuild when plants close. States in the region are already working together to upgrade their rapid response capacity, but there is much more that can be done collaboratively between states and in leveraging better federal support for rapid response.

Moderator: Lynn Minick, National Employment Law Project

Tom Croft & Scott Smith, Steel Valley Authority

John Kruecher, Michigan AFL-CIO

Sharon Burk, State of Pennsylvania Rapid Response

10:30-11:45

2. Community and Industry Partnerships

This panel will cover what we have learned from on-the-ground efforts that are engaged in modernizing and retaining manufacturing jobs in the Great Lakes States, and discuss what we can do to take the next steps in making this sector a vital part of the economy in the next 10 years.

Steve Herzenberg, Keystone Research Center

Dan Swinney, Center for Labor and Community Research

Bruce Herman, New York State Department of Labor

11:45-12:45

Large Group Discussion and lunch
John Ryan, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown
Regional cooperation on federal legislation and policies affecting the heartland

The 2008 election is once again sure to bring attention to some of the large states in this region, and political leaders appear to be finally realizing the importance of the everyday concerns of working people. Our challenge is to turn the changing political winds into a set of federal policies that can foster, rather than hinder, economic revitalization. These include policies that can address economic dislocation, aid the region's manufacturers, and spur the development of good jobs. We've asked **John Ryan**, a long time Cleveland labor leader and now State Director for

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown to offer his view of opportunities and challenges and spur a discussion of how we can work together on the federal level.

Moderator: Naomi Walker, AFL-CIO.

Afternoon Discussions 12:45

There is much that should change in federal, state and local policy and many of those in this room have spent their careers understanding and fighting for those changes. However, federal change is slow in coming and has generally not favored our part of the country over the past decade. And for states, it can be nearly impossible to promote certain changes on their own, without a shared regional strategy. For these afternoon discussions, we have asked experts to identify the most promising trends in economic development in the region and consider how we can build on them towards shared regional strategies that Great Lakes states could jointly pursue. The discussions are intended to lead to a vision for revitalization and shared prosperity for this part of the country.

A) Inspiring a Manufacturing Rebirth in the Heartland 12:45 – 2:00pm

As the morning panel illustrated there are concrete models being developed to revitalize manufacturing in areas of our region. But encouraging a manufacturing rebirth across the states will require a different approach to regional collaboration, a new focus on the economics of manufacturing and region-wide collaboration towards creating a more energy efficient economy. Speakers will give opening thoughts and spur a broader discussion of what the states need to do to inspire this rebirth.

Moderator: Amy Hanauer, Policy Matters Ohio

Sue Helper, Case Western Reserve University

Bob Baugh, AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council

Kate Gordon, Apollo Alliance

15 minute break

2:15-3:30 Creating Economic Development with Shared Prosperity

Beyond manufacturing, there are important conversations going on about the kinds of public policies needed to spur economic revitalization and shared prosperity in the region. Panelists will give their perspectives on shared approaches that the heartland states should take to pursue good jobs, foster economic development, promote vital urban centers, address economic inequality and build and maintain quality transportation infrastructure in the region.

Moderator: Mike Ettlinger, Economic Policy Institute

Joel Rogers, Center for State Innovation

John Austin, Brookings Institution

Discussion section will emerge with several strategies for a shared regional agenda

3:30-4:30 Group discussion –

Incorporating strategies from the morning sessions on best practices for states, the lunch discussion of federal strategies to pursue on a shared basis, and the two earlier discussions, the group will discuss ways that the states can work together towards a shared regional agenda and discuss concrete action steps and continued networking between the states.

Facilitated by **Andy Levin**, Michigan Department of Labor of Economic Growth with **Andrew Stettner**, National Employment Law Project.