

Immediate Release
June 6, 2011

Clermont Chamber to Sponsor Community Leadership Program; 2012 Class Now Forming

(Union Twp., Clermont County) The Clermont Chamber of Commerce, through its newly formed Chamber of Commerce Foundation, announced that it has agreed to continue the LEAD Clermont community leadership program in Clermont County beginning Fall 2011. The program will continue to use the community as the laboratory to study emerging issues to prepare individuals for leadership roles in the County.

Matt Van Sant, Chamber President, stated, "LEAD Clermont is an important part of having strong community leadership across all sectors in the County and the region. LEAD Clermont has had a positive impact on the growth and development of Clermont County and there are a number of LEAD alumni leading community organizations serving as volunteers, professionals and managers on community boards, committees, and commissions," Van Sant said.

"The LEAD Clermont legacy is about team building, collaboration and creating community-wide leadership and the Clermont Chamber is happy to become the service provider for the LEAD Clermont program." Van Sant said the essential focus of LEAD Clermont will continue to be as a "neutral platform where leaders from all sectors" can interact with one another to learn more about the economic and community development needs of Clermont County. "The next LEAD Clermont Class for 2012 is being formed now and we're happy to see the response from the business community and individuals from other sectors of Clermont."

Kurt Kiessling, Clermont 20/20 Board Chair, commented, "The 20/20 board is extremely pleased that we have been able to rely on strong community partners and find new solutions for delivering important community development services such as LEAD Clermont." LEAD has become part of Clermont County's history and has helped shape Clermont's quality of life, Kiessling said. LEAD Clermont has made a significant impact on the lives of people, and we're glad to see the support for continuing to develop community leadership."

Space is limited, so individuals are encouraged to call the Chamber as soon as possible to apply for membership in the 2012 Class. Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 2011; tuition is \$1,750 for the nine-month program. For more information about LEAD Clermont or to apply, call 576-5000 or visit the website:

www.clermontchamber.com.

*Founded in 1969, the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is an association of approximately 900 businesses working together to make the Clermont County area the best place to locate, operate and grow your business. The Chamber's key initiatives are advocacy, economic growth and member/investor benefits. Find us at www.clermontchamber.com. The President of the Clermont Chamber of Commerce is Matthew D. Van Sant, and the Chairman of the Board is David McNutt, American Modern Insurance Group. **For***

additional information about this or other Chamber news, contact Clermont Chamber Director of Communications & Development, Julie Graybill at (513) 576-5013 or by e-mail, <mailto:julie.graybill@clermontchamber.com>.