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**Akron selected as host city for the 2025 OEDA Annual Summit**

*Ohio's premier Economic Development Conference coming to Northeast Ohio October 15-17, 2025*

**COLUMBUS, OH – Wednesday, March 19, 2025** – The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) is pleased to announce that the 2025 OEDA Annual Summit will take place in Akron, Ohio, at the John S. Knight Center from October 15-17, 2025. The selection follows a highly competitive process, with ten communities from across the state submitting proposals to host the conference.

The Summit, which annually draws approximately 500 economic development professionals, industry leaders, and policymakers, will feature 30+ breakout sessions, five experiential tours/learning labs, and numerous networking opportunities. The event serves as the state's premier platform for education, best practices, and collaboration in economic development.

**A Strategic Move to Northeast Ohio**

OEDA's decision to rotate the Annual Summit throughout Ohio was informed by direct feedback from its record-breaking 2024 Summit participants, who overwhelmingly wanted the Summit to move regularly to different regions of the state.

"Akron's selection as the host city is a tremendous opportunity to highlight the economic momentum and innovation happening in Northeast Ohio," said David Zak, President & CEO of OEDA. "By moving the Summit each year, we showcase the strength of different regions, create new connections, and make the event more accessible to our members statewide. With its strong proposal, engaged leadership, and location in Northeast Ohio, Akron is the perfect choice for 2025."

**Akron: A Competitive Selection**

Akron emerged as a top contender due to its vibrant economic ecosystem, central location in Northeast Ohio, and strong support from local and regional partners, including the City of Akron, the Greater Akron Chamber, and Team NEO—the JobsOhio regional network partner.

"We are excited to welcome the OEDA Annual Summit to Akron in 2025," said Akron Mayor Shammass Malik. "Our city has a rich history of innovation and a bright future ahead, driven by collaboration and investment in economic growth. Hosting this conference will not only showcase Akron's assets but also connect economic developers from across the state with the opportunities that exist here in Akron."

“Summit County's selection reflects our strong commitment to fostering economic growth and collaboration. Hosting this event provides a special opportunity to showcase our vibrant economic landscape and engage with professionals dedicated to advancing Ohio's economic development,” said Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro.

“Akron, like many other mid-sized cities, has faced shifts in industry, population and other headwinds against our goals of investment and job creation,” stated Steve Millard, President and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber. “In Greater Akron, we've created new ways to leverage regional resources to drive resilience and reinvention. From our Elevate Greater Akron collaborative to recent wins designed to re-establish global leadership in advanced materials through our Polymer Industry Cluster, we are finding new ways to work and win together.”

### **Northeast Ohio's Role in Statewide Growth**

As the JobsOhio regional network partner for Northeast Ohio, Team NEO plays a critical role in driving economic development, business expansion, and job creation in the region.

“Northeast Ohio is a hub of business growth, innovation, and collaboration, making it an ideal host for the 2025 OEDA Annual Summit,” said Matt Dolan, President & CEO of Team NEO. “This event will provide an opportunity to showcase the economic assets of our region while bringing together professionals dedicated to strengthening Ohio's business climate. We look forward to working with OEDA and our local partners to make this Summit a success.”

“With diverse industries, a talented workforce, and a spirit of innovation, Northeast Ohio plays a vital role in our state's economic strength and future growth,” said JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef. “The OEDA Annual Summit hosted this year in Akron will bring together Ohio's top economic development professionals to collaborate, share ideas, and drive strategies to strengthen communities across the state.”

### **Akron: A Premier Destination**

"Akron is not only a hub for business and innovation, but it's also a fantastic destination for visitors," said Gregg Mervis, President & CEO of the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau. "From our world-class cultural attractions and vibrant downtown to our scenic parks and entertainment venues, attendees will find plenty to explore while they're here for the Summit. We are thrilled to welcome OEDA members and showcase everything our community has to offer."

For more information about the 2025 OEDA Annual Summit, visit [OEDA's website](#) or contact David Zak at [dzak@ohioeda.com](mailto:dzak@ohioeda.com) or 419.912.1150 (cell).

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**About the Ohio Economic Development Association**

Established in 2005, the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) is one of the leading state economic development associations in the country, with almost 700 members from Ohio's local, regional, and state economic development organizations and partners. Its mission is to advance the practice of economic development to foster growth, prosperity, and opportunities for all residents of the State of Ohio. It fulfills this mission by helping to expand the knowledge, network, and influence of its members through premier programs like the Ohio Economic Development Institute and events like the OEDA Summit. Learn more at [ohioeda.com](http://ohioeda.com).