

# Summary Report

## Our Place in the Urban Age

The Levin College of Urban Affairs 30th Anniversary Forum Series



### Ingenuity: Embracing the Creativity in Technology and the Technology in Creativity

On Wednesday, July 11, 2007, 30 people gathered at the Levin College Forum to hear several speakers discuss the upcoming Ingenuity Festival as well as other regional examples of the synergies between creativity and technology.

Speakers included James Levin, Executive Director, Ingenuity; Steve Dietz, director, ZeroOne; John West, Ph.D., Kent State University and NorTech fellow; Alexis Abramson, Ph.D., Vice President, Technology Innovation, Nanotechnology and Commercialization, NorTech and Professor, Case Western Reserve University; Charles Alexander, Ph.D., Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Wright Center for Sensor Systems Engineering, Cleveland State University; Valdis Krebs, Orgnet.com, management consultant, researcher, trainer, author, and the developer of InFlow software for social and organizational network analysis [SNA/ONA]; and, Rich Weiss of Ingenuity, who served as the moderator.

Forum participants were able to preview the upcoming Ingenuity Festival, which highlights the intersection of technology and the arts, and experience the synergy that's created when artists and innovators come together with area researchers who are behind the technological advances fueling Northeast Ohio's new economy.

#### What Do the Arts, Technology, and Cleveland Have in Common?

According to Rich Weiss, Cleveland has three elements that make it an ideal location for the type of innovation showcased at Ingenuity: both venerable and cutting edge arts organizations, technological centers such as NASA Glenn and the Cleveland Clinic, and diversity.

These elements led to creativity even in the short discussion after the forum. Participants brainstormed a variety of new technologies that could be generated by drawing on Cleveland's strengths in art, technology, and biomedical: artistic bone-setting, a diagnosing shirt, a visual representation of pain, MRI art.

#### Technology and Northeast Ohio's New Economy

As Cleveland and all of Northeast Ohio tries to find its place in this post-industrial economy, some area researchers have found ways for the region to stay true to its manufacturing roots while remaining on the cutting edge of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology.

##### Alexis Abramson, Ph.D.

###### *Nanotechnology*

Explores the use of materials and creation of devices at the "nano" level – matter that is generally less than 100 nanometers. This area of research has many implications for the biomedical industry, which already has a large presence in Northeast Ohio.

##### John West, Ph.D.

###### *Liquid Crystals and Polymers*

These industries already have roots in the region, especially in Akron. Ohio has become a leader in the global polymer industry.

##### Charles Alexander, Ph.D.

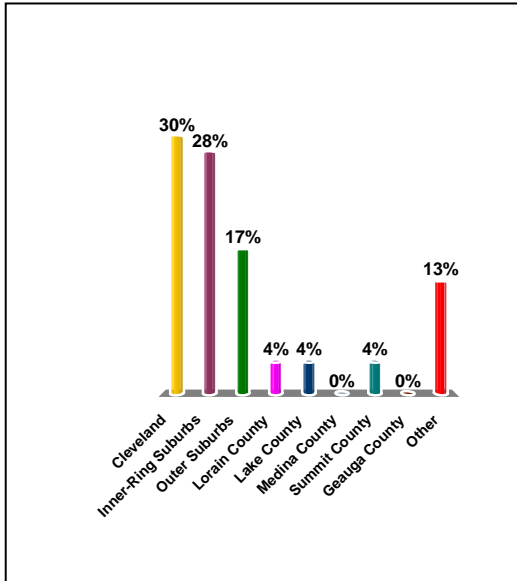
###### *Sensors*

Cleveland has a wealth of academic and industry expertise in instruments, controls, electronics & sensors. The goal is to engage in industry driven projects and research that will give local companies a competitive advantage.

## Who Attended?

The Forum Program seeks to strengthen the capacity of the community to tackle difficult issues across government, business and civic sectors to strengthen the region's future. Since 2000, over 11,000 people have attended over 100 forum events. So where did forum participants on July 11<sup>th</sup> come from in the region?

### Where do you live?



### Please indicate the sector you represent.

Private Sector	33%
Non-Profit	6%
Government	6%
Academia	17%
Entrepreneur	17%
Student	6%
Retired/not Working	11%
Other	6%

Data was analyzed from 29 forum participants. Survey was conducted on July 11, 2007. Respondents were asked to answer a series of questions at two points in time during the forum program.

The results of audience surveys will be incorporated into an end of the series report.

All forums are archived at [www.urban.csuohio.edu/forum](http://www.urban.csuohio.edu/forum)

### **Special Thanks to our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsors:**

- **The Cleveland Foundation**
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