



VOICE OF BUSINESS

Innovation hubs in Ohio budget will boost region



Chris Kershner
President and CEO
Dayton Area Chamber
of Commerce

Earlier this month, Gov. Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted rolled out their executive budget proposal for the next two fiscal years and sent it to the Ohio General Assembly for consideration. The budget must be passed by June 30, 2023.

In the budget, there is language that would support the creation of innovation hubs to enable communities like Dayton to pursue new innovative, technology-focused initiatives. The Dayton region was the birthplace of innovation, and through creative economic development programs and public-private partnerships, we will be the future of innovation in Ohio and beyond.

Our region is fortunate to have many advantages

that give us an edge. One of the most important is having Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in our backyard and all that it brings to the table: the brains, the research and development and the logistics and operations of the United States Air Force. This unique asset presents an opportunity for Ohio to leverage our “natural” asset, the Department of Defense.

When you have investment of this magnitude that is literally creating the next generation of technical, intelligence and innovative air defense, it is Ohio’s “natural” asset. To put this in context, the annual economic impact from tourism in Myrtle Beach is approximately \$7.8 billion, and \$1.38 billion in the Great Smoky Mountains.

At \$16.75 billion, the annual economic impact of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base triumphs over the economic impacts of Myrtle Beach and the Smoky Mountains combined. For those who say Ohio doesn’t have mountains and oceans, my answer is simple: We don’t need them.

DAYTON CHAMBER SUPPORTS REGION'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce has provided enhanced leadership and professional development programming for nearly 50 years with the legacy program of Leadership Dayton, then Empower, Executive Women’s Council and, now, debuting Gen D Ignite for early career professionals.

The chamber has supported the career growth and networking of early career professionals with Generation Dayton and, with feedback from our members and the community, decided created a formal program to enhance our suite of professional development offerings. Below are the differences between our two early career professional programs:

GENERATION DAYTON

Open to all early career professionals of member companies with no enrollment fee
Quarterly events including: - Professional networking
- Professional development
- Community volunteering
Low commitment with high return for participants
Exclusive invitations to events throughout the year, including Generation Dayton Day
Participants will be able to work towards the goal of inclusivity and connectedness among their peers

GEN D IGNITE

7-month cohort program within Generation Dayton
Application is open to all interested early career professionals
Tuition costs are \$2,000 per accepted participant for chamber member organizations
A deep dive into: - Leadership development - Action planning and execution - Strengthening professional connections
- Importance of civic and community engagement - Personal branding
Smaller cohort capped around 20 participants
Participants will graduate with tangible skills of action planning, knowledge, and tools to enhance and grow their leadership and careers

WHY IS THIS A NEED FOR THE DAYTON REGION?

Recruiting and retaining top talent here in the region is a major part of the Dayton region’s economic success. With a strong student population at our local top colleges and trade programs, providing opportunities like Gen D Ignite will show students and early career professionals the true investment our local employers make in career development and in their future success as a Daytonian.

From his time leading economic development at the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Husted knows these stats well and is hyper-focused on making sure this region is well-positioned for the innovations of tomorrow. The Dayton region is already seeing growth from strategic economic

development wins like the Honda-LG joint venture in Jeffersonville.

With this new influx of support from the innovation hubs, the Dayton region will be positioned for the next big opportunity, whether that is a joint venture opportunity, advanced technology investment or inno-

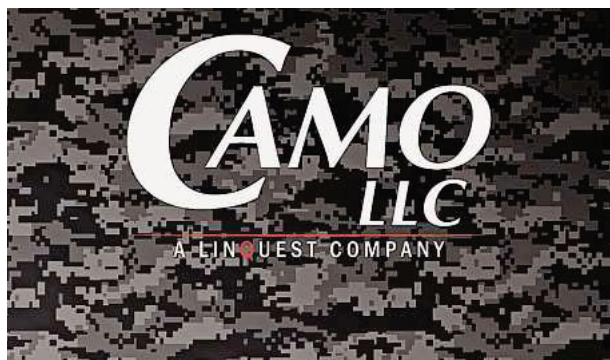
vation that doesn’t even exist today.

Our region will be successful if our government partners, business leaders and economic development teams continue to be aligned. This has been our recipe for success and now is the time to double down on these collaborations to ensure

the Dayton region is ready to lead on the next wave of innovation.

We have the talent, the “natural” asset, and the risk-taking confidence to lead on a global level. Let’s go!

Chris Kershner is CEO and president of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.



LinQuest

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demands of future warfare.” “CAMO’s experience, leaders, and subject matter experts design, integrate, test, and rapidly field technologies that are creating new possibilities for ground, air, and space forces,” said Greg Young, president and chief executive of LinQuest. “Together with the CAMO team we will enable our customers to stay ahead of adversaries’ strategies and support customers’ efforts in bolstering our national security.”

“Our combined team brings full spectrum solutions to mission-critical operations for USSOCOM, USAF, and the entire national security enterprise for mission utility analysis, test, and rapid proto-

typing,” said Kurt Rinke, CAMO’s president and CEO. His brother and business co-founder Ed Rinke, CAMO’s chairman and chief operating officer, added: “Our teams’ combined expertise will deliver new data-driven solutions to support DOD mission success.”

Established in 2011, CAMO said it will continue to operate in Beavercreek with LinQuest’s Integrated Analytics & Support Line-of-Business.

CAMO also has offices in Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia.

LinQuest has been growing its footprint in the Miami Valley for a while. Beavercreek’s Perduco Group was acquired by LinQuest in November 2019.

Contact this reporter at 937-681-5610 or email tom.gnau@coxinc.com.

Joui

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The retail sector is expected to feature bottles that are \$25 and under in addition to more expensive wines. She said there will be a variety of styles including environmentally friendly and organic wines.

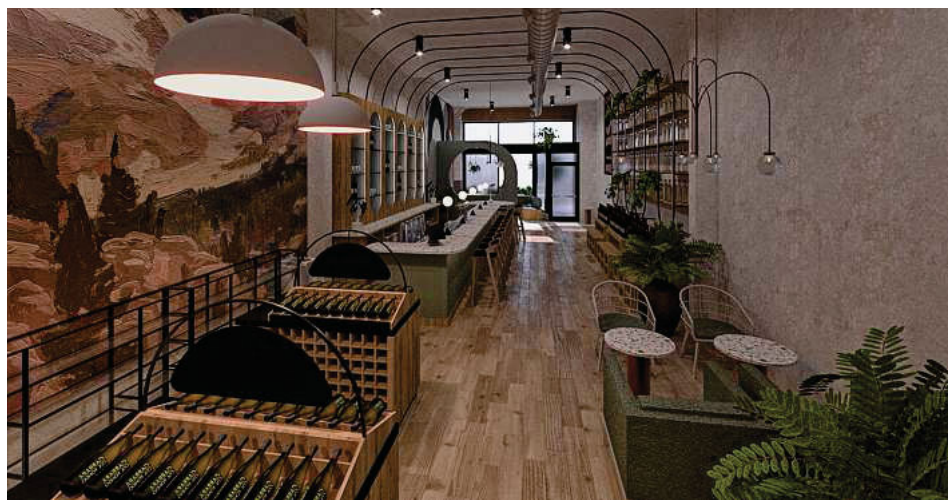
Joui is expected to host wine tastings with different lineups on Saturday afternoons and a rotating list of specials and features. Gay said the small bites will start off with items like pickles, cheese, olives and almonds.

“It’s exciting there is more happening in the wine world and more people becoming interested in it,” Gay said.

She also explained wine is a full sensory experience in which you take a first sip to notice different notes and a second sip to notice more complexities.

Gay is a 2005 graduate of Northmont High School. After graduating from Ohio State University, she served in the Peace Corps in Kenya working on economic development for youth.

With intentions to pursue a career in music management, a move to Los Angeles would instead lead to a fruitful and adventurous career in wine. Gay honed her skills



Joui, a wine retail shop featuring a bar and small bites, is expected to open this summer in Dayton’s Fire Blocks District at 117 E. Third St. THE IDEA COLLECTIVE

in the L.A. wine industry while working under the prestigious Nancy Silverton, co-owner of Pizzeria Mozza in Los Angeles and Newport Beach as well as Osteria Mozza, Mozza2Go and chi SPACCA in Los Angeles.

Since her start in L.A., Gay has worked with and managed award-winning wine programs in Las Vegas, San Francisco and several cities in Ohio.

She directs the wine program at Sueño and Tender Mercy in the Avant-Garde building at 607 E. 3rd St. in downtown Dayton. She is also the general manager at Sueño but is phasing out of

that position.

Gay said the owners of Sueño and Tender Mercy focus on professional development and encourage employees to use their restaurant as a foundation toward their dreams.

“I wouldn’t be doing what I’m doing now if I didn’t have the opportunity with Sueño and Tender Mercy to learn as much as I did,” Gay said.

She is also excited to focus solely on wine in this next adventure.

“Being a native Daytonian I understand the market,” she said. “I understand the people. I have a

lot of friends and connections here. This has been an incredibly intimidating process but doing it in Dayton, where I feel very supported, has made the process so much easier. That’s why I love Dayton so much. I feel like it is a community that lifts each other up.”

Construction on Joui is expected to begin in March.

For more information and updates, visit the establishment’s Instagram page. To contact Gay directly, email lauren@jouiwine.com.

Contact this reporter at 937-409-9623 or email Natalie.Jones@coxinc.com.

CareSource

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ketplace. Health Alliance Plan provides Medicaid coverage to 43,000 members in Michigan, along with Medicare Advantage and commercial plans.

“As we looked for opportunities to strategically grow our business, an alignment with HAP (Health Alliance Plan) emerged as the perfect fit,” said Erhardt Preitauer, CEO of CareSource. “Our organizations share a passion for going beyond traditional health care to improve the lives of those we serve. We look forward to being able to bring our commitment to operational excellence, our nonprofit mission, and our best-in-class community model to Michigan as we partner with HAP.”

Health Alliance Plan and CareSource are currently finalizing their agreement, which will then be subject to reviews by state and federal regulatory agencies. As that is underway, the com-



The CareSource building located at First and Jefferson streets in Dayton. MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

panies will continue to work through operational details. CareSource is anticipating beginning to serve members in Michigan no later than late 2024, a spokesperson said.

CareSource covers over 2 million members in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and West Virginia, including Medicaid, Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicare products. In August, CareSource announced it would also be serving Medicaid members in Mississippi as part of its partnership with TrueCare, which is owned by nearly 60 Mississippi hospitals and health systems.

CareSource also

announced plans in September to make a bid to service Medicaid customers in Texas. A spokesperson for CareSource said they submitted that bid to Texas this month, and they are anticipating a decision next year.

CareSource is one of the largest employers the Dayton area, with about 3,000 employees here and approximately 4,500 total. A CareSource spokesperson said the company is “proud to be headquartered in Dayton,” where its core business operations take place. The company expects that, as it creates new opportunities in additional states, there will also be new opportunities in the Dayton region.

Legrand

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Legrand bought Moraine-based Lastar, Inc., including its Quiktron and C2G (Cables to Go) divisions, in 2014. Seven years before that acquisition, Lastar had moved from a Webster Street location in Dayton to 3555 Kettering Blvd. in Moraine.

If you install audio and visual (A/V) equipment, you know those brand names. Legrand is still known for cables and audio and visual support equipment.

“We have four big divisions,” Sellendorff said. “That’s one of them. Each one is a billion dollars in size, it’s very substantial. Lastar is part of that.”

“If you’re a classroom, a conference room or a house of worship, we need A/V equipment, well, we make all the infrastructure – the cabling, the racks and cabinets that hold that equipment,” the CEO added. “So we’ll be distributing that type of product here from



The interior of the Legrand distribution site in Union. THOMAS GNAU / STAFF

this location.”

The company also makes switches and sockets.

Developer NorthPoint has invested more than \$350 million in raising 11 industrial and distribution buildings near Dayton International Airport, said Matt Gaston, NorthPoint vice president of development.

Legrand is a stone’s throw

away from the Procter & Gamble distribution center that kicked off that wave of development a decade or so ago. Not far away also is Amgen’s newest fulfillment center at 1835 Union Airpark.

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