

# Recognitions and Awards

- American Association of Community Colleges Central Region Chief Executive Officer of the Year
- Florida-Atlantic University awarded Dr. Church with an Honorary Doctorate degree in recognition of his commitment and accomplishments in higher education (2014)
- Honorary Doctorate Degree, University of Akron
- Oberlin College Award of Distinguished Service (2000)
- In 2012, Dr. Church was inducted into the Northeast Ohio Inside Business Hall of Fame, the first college President in the region to receive this honor.
- President Church is recognized as one of the top 25 most influential leaders in Northeast Ohio. Inside Business Magazine annually identifies the “Top 100 Most Powerful People in the Region” and Dr. Church has consistently ranked in the top 25 for over a decade.
- Recipient of the prestigious H. Peter Burg Regional Vision Award from Team Northeast Ohio (2010).
- Northeast Ohio Regional Vision Award (2006)
- Eric Nord Leadership Award, Leadership Lorain County (1998)
- Numerous other awards locally.

*In Dr. Church’s office, in plain view,  
you’ll find a sculpture  
engraved with this  
sage advice that seems to capture his  
impact as President of  
Lorain County Community College.*



## BACKGROUNDER

# Dr. Roy A. Church

President, Lorain County Community College

29 years serving our college, our communities  
as a visionary leader, innovator and entrepreneur



**Dr. Roy A. Church** has dedicated his life’s work to advancing higher education - serving as a leader within this sector for over 45 years - nearly 30 of those right here as the President of Lorain County Community College by the time he retires in June, 2016.

### The Early Years

Church is just the third permanent, fifth overall, president in the 52 year history of the College. He was selected through a national search process to follow founding President Dr. Max Lerner (1963-1970), Acting President Thomas Bowen (1970-71), Dr. Omar Olson (1971-1986) and Interim President Dr. Richard Mellott who held the position for one year until Church arrived for his first day on the job March 15, 1987.

Prior to coming to Lorain County, Church held progressively expanding leadership roles at Broward Community College in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and St. Petersburg Community College in the Tampa Bay area. While in Florida, he earned a Master’s Degree in Education and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Florida Atlantic University. He earned a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in his home state of New York from SUNY, Cortland in 1968.

### A Persistent Commitment to Vision and Community

*“Dynamic Church...  
Envisions expanded role for College”*

This headline graced the pages of the College’s student newspaper, *The Collegian*, a month after Church’s arrival to the position, April, 1987. The values he presented in that interview — his passion for students, education and the mission of the community college; his entrepreneurial mindset and visionary focus on future possibilities; his

optimism for this institution and this community — have been realized in the form of significant impact and are still present today.

Upon his arrival and throughout his tenure, Church vowed to meet the needs of the community by first engaging and understanding. In that same interview of April, 1987, Church is quoted as saying, *“Community is our middle name very intentionally. It was intended to be an institution that had its roots in the community, and because it grew out of the community, it should have a better sense of what the needs are in the community.”*

Early in his tenure at Lorain County Community College, he launched a strategic planning process that included broad stakeholder engagement. He introduced the idea of “listening and learning” sessions that would capture the voice of the community, its needs, challenges and aspirations and then identify ways in which its college could help address them. This first process launched in 1989 led the creation of the college’s first strategic vision with Church as President, entitled Vision 2000.

From that point forward, this college, under Church’s leadership, embraced engagement, collaboration and partnership as values for how it would fulfill its mission. This stakeholder-based approach to setting direction and priorities would be consistently applied and expanded in the development of future plans for the institution, including Vision 21 (1997), Vision 2015 (2005), Vision 2.0 (2012) and the newest updated strategic plan for the college, Vision 2020 adopted in September, 2015.

*“Community is our middle name very intentionally. It was intended to be an institution that had its roots in the community, and because it grew out of the community, it should have a better sense of what the needs are in the community.”*

The Collegian, April 7, 1987



## Impact: Education Cornerstone

### Vision + Action = Impact....

Church is recognized not only as a leader with an optimistic vision for the future, but is well-known and respected for taking action, along with a few risks, tapping into his entrepreneurial side and rallying others behind the idea. He is highly-regarded for his leadership in creating innovative models to fulfill the four cornerstones of the comprehensive community college mission: **education, economic, community and cultural development.**

His impact described in each of these four areas is a testament to the entire community — campus and citizens — banding together to turn vision into reality. He is often heard saying, “no one person or organization has all the resources needed to advance a community. It takes collaboration, partnership and trust; each of us contributing what we can to the effort and sharing equally in its success.”



Under Dr. Church’s leadership, Lorain County Community College’s academic programs are dynamic, ever-changing and based on market research related to business needs and job forecasts. The curriculum today maintains a balance between Arts and Science offerings to prepare students to transfer successfully into bachelor degree programs at colleges and universities as well as a robust offering of Applied Degree Programs/ Certificates to prepare students for direct career entry.

### Education Cornerstone Impact

#### Strategy: Raising Educational Attainment

Dr. Church championed the need to raise educational attainment in order for residents to succeed in the knowledge and innovation economy.

- Enrollment at Lorain County Community College has grown 165% between 1987 and 2015, from 9,000 to over 15,000 today (headcount)
- 26,288 associate degrees were conferred to 22,274 individuals since 1987; In 2014 and 2015, LCCC led the state in three-year success rates (degree, transfer and persistence combined success rate.)
- He had a vision to use the community college as a host to make bachelor and master’s degree affordable and accessible to residents in Lorain County and rallied the community to create the University Partnership Program (1995). Today the University Partnership Program is recognized as the best value of higher education in Ohio, delivering more than 40 bachelor and 12 master degrees from 12 colleges and universities to over 3,000 student each year. Since its inception, over 5,000 bachelor and graduate degrees have been awarded through the University Partnership Program.
- Since 2000, educational attainment in Lorain County has increased 21% in associate degrees, 29% increase in bachelor degrees and 49% increase in master degrees – outpacing other counties in our region.



#### Region and Local

- Vice Chair , Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education
- Business Volunteers Unlimited
- Regional Competitiveness Council
- MAGNET (Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network)
- NorTech (Northeast Ohio Technology Council)
- Team NEO
- Great Lakes Biomimicry (GLBio)
- Fund for our Economic Future Funders Committee
- Entrepreneur’s EDGE
- Ideastream
- President, Lorain County Community College Foundation
- Lorain County Chamber of Commerce
- Team Lorain County
- Lorain County Workforce Institute and Workforce Investment Board
- Lorain County Port Authority
- Regional Prosperity Initiative
- United Way
- El Centro

#### Ensuring Transfer of Community College Credits in Ohio

As co-chair of the Ohio Department of Higher Education Articulation and transfer Advisory Council since 1989, Dr. Church’s leadership on this effort has been steadfast. He, working collaboratively with a university counterpart, provided senior leadership to improve transferability in Ohio. This Council developed policies, procedures and systems so students can begin at any state institution of higher education and transfer coursework and degrees to any other state institution of higher education without unnecessary duplication or institutional barriers. His service in this area spans over two decades. His impact in this area alone has impacted hundreds of thousands of students across the state to ensure transferability. His work in this area has been recognized widely by state agencies, Governors, the Ohio Department of Higher Education,

#### Advocating for Our Students, Our College, Our Community

During his entire career as President of Lorain County Community College, Dr. Church has been an engaged and influential member of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges. A major component of his impact has been to help drive legislation that is important to the community college mission. He has testified before House and Senate Committees routinely to ensure the best interests of community colleges and the stakeholders they serve are considered. For example, Dr. Church has been instrumental in the legislative policy and advocacy to create a performance-funding model that has led to Ohio becoming the second state in the country to move toward state subsidy totally distributed based on performance. In addition, Dr. Church designed and advocated for a program-sharing model to allow institutions of higher education to share approved curriculum to meet immediate or short-term educational needs in other geographies. The legislation, entitled Course and Program Share, led to authority for institutions to delivery programs in areas of demand and developed a revenue sharing model that considers the contributions of all partners.

Dr. Church was a leader in designing a statewide system for ensuring dual enrollment is an option for more students, using the model developed and piloted in Lorain County. He advocated strongly to ensure the financial model took into consideration the needs and abilities of all partners from students and parents, to school districts to institutions of higher education.



## Strong College; Strong Campus

While leading the college toward a vision for the future, Dr. Church applied his strong business sense as CEO of the institution to ensure the college and campus remained fiscally and operationally strong and good stewards of community's resources and trust.

### Fiscal Responsibility

- Consistently **balanced LCCC's budget** every year, despite challenging financial conditions and secured the second lowest tuition in Ohio
- **Foundation's Growth** - \$120 million raised to support programs, scholarships and nearly a \$50 million endowment. Fiscally managed by a 55-member Board Directors representing the community's most influential leaders from all business and industry sectors; the LCCC Foundation ranks within the top 10 community college foundations in the country in total assets.
- **Levy Support** - 1987-2016: Grassroots campaigns led to the passing of local levies during 1992, 1995, 2001, 2004, 2010, 2013

### Campus Master Plan

- Expanded 285,705 square feet or 90% from 1987-2015 through 16 new buildings or additions
- Adopted LEED sustainability standards for all projects
- Developed comprehensive Master Plans for Facilities, Landscape, Technology, Energy
- Renovated College Center, iLoft (Library), Nord Advanced Technology Center, Health Physical Education and Recreation, Health Sciences, Physical Sciences
- New construction: Barbara and Mike Bass Library/Community Resource Center, University Center, Patsie C. Campana, Sr. Engineering and Development Center, John A. Spitzer Conference Center, Ben and Jane Norton Culinary Arts Center, Lab Sciences, Center for Leadership and Education, Desich Smart Center and Desich Entrepreneurship Center, University Partnership Ridge Campus, Early Childhood Lab School.

## Community and Professional Service

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Church has served as a champion of the community college mission and worked aggressively to drive policy and programs to aid their advancement. He is often solicited to serve as speaker, panelist, content expert or convener to drive significant education, economy and community initiatives. A sample of his many involvements includes:

### Nationally:

- Advisory Board, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce
- National Education Council for Manufacturing Institute
- Strategic Horizon Network, Center for Community College Development, University of Michigan
- Chair, Innovation Fund America

### State

- Co-Chair of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (formerly Ohio Board of Regents) Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council
- Ohio Third Frontier Advisory Board
- Governor Kasich's Executive Workforce Board
- Governor Strickland's Workforce Policy Board
- Director of Higher Education Advisory Council for Dual Enrollment
- Department of Higher Education Commercialization Task force
- Former Chair, Legislative Committee and Executive Committee, Ohio Association of Community College

## Impact: Education Cornerstone

**Strategy: Helping High School Students Get a Head Start on a College Degree** by partnering with K-12 districts to pioneer blended college pathways for high school students.

- Established the **Lorain County Early College High School**, with support from the Gates Foundation. Developed in 2004, the program provides first-generation college students the opportunity to take all four-years of high school on the campus of Lorain County Community College, simultaneously earning a high school diploma and associate degree. To date, the LCECHS has enrolled 680 students, 418 completed the full program with 92% earning an Associate of Arts Degree and high school diploma.
- Created one of the most robust models for dual enrollment opportunities in the state, exceeding national and state averages for high school students graduating with college credit. (Nationally: 7.8%, Ohio: 5%; Lorain County 20%)
- In just the last five years, awarded 95,707 college credit hours to 9,489 high school students, saving families over \$14,000,000 in tuition at LCCC rates, nearly \$43 million at public university rates.
- Launched **MyUniversity Guarantee** (2014) to blend dual enrollment with University Partnership Programs to create a model for high school students to earn a bachelor's degree in 10 degree pathways by age 20 at 20% of the cost. Currently have 63 partnership agreements with 32 high schools delivering college courses at the high school site.

**Strategy: Keeping College Affordable and High Value**

Dr. Church maintained a firm commitment to ensuring quality education at an affordable cost for students and their families.

- Lorain County Community College tuition ranks second lowest in the state of Ohio. Furthermore, in July, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education listed Lorain County Community College as having the lowest net price of any Ohio College and 38th lowest in the nation.
- Affordability is provided with high value. In May 2015, the Brookings Institute ranked Lorain County Community among the highest among all Ohio community colleges in value-added based on earnings for graduates.
- Awarded over **15,000 scholarships** to students by developing a Trustee and Presidential scholarship guarantee for highest achieving high school graduates for full or partial tuition awards, a scholarship program for students of diversity, scholarships to help non-traditional students with total cost of education and scholarships to support students through the University Partnership Program.



2014...Lorain High School Students earning 4,120 college credits saving families \$650,000 which equates to over \$2 million at an Ohio public university.



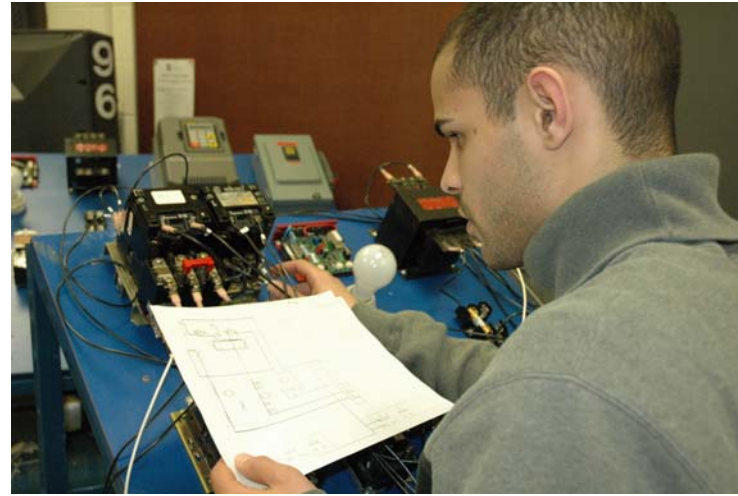


## Impact: Education Cornerstone

### Strategy: Delivering Market-Relevant Education for Good Careers.

Dr. Church clearly saw the connection between a higher education and good jobs. He ensured quality programs were developed, based on market research and job forecasts, to prepare students to succeed, whether their goal was to transfer on to a four-year institution for a bachelor's degree or complete an applied degree or certificate for direct entry into a career.

- Over 350,000 have been served in credit and non-credit job training programs leading to jobs and careers.
- Developed accelerated training programs in healthcare, business, manufacturing, information technology and more to help transitioning adults and dislocated workers retrain quickly for new jobs.



#### Highlight....

#### Employment Network / Workforce Institute (1999)

*Faced with growing needs of employers to connect quickly and effectively with qualified talent, Dr. Church working with local government, education, industry and economic development leaders initiated the development of the Workforce Institute, a separate 501©3 whose purpose was to create one front door for workers to connect with employers. Now, partnering with OhioMeansJobs-Lorain County, this resource is a highly-regarded source for connecting qualified candidates prepared to meet the needs of employers. Through this model, the partnership delivers seamless, integrated education, employment and community services. The system recognizes each partner's unique contribution, shares and leverages resources, and unselfishly considers the impact of every decision on each partner. Because of the collaborative nature of this entity, it has responded successfully to numerous requests for proposals from state and national agencies and it often contacted by other communities to share its model of cooperation.*

### A Student-Centered President

With robust educational offerings, LCCC, during Dr. Church's tenure, paid equal attention to ensure students and the community have wrap-around services to support their academic success, including:

**Early Education Lab School (1994)**, which provides pre-school and daycare services to the college's youngest students as early as 18-months. The program also provides students in the College's early childhood education program with experiential, onsite opportunities. The Lab School developed out of the Children's Center (1982) and College for Kids Program (1986). This center and its programs serve over 500 children each year. Additionally, the Center has been recognized as Best of Lorain County—Learning Center by Pulse Magazine since 2011.



## Impact: Community and Cultural Cornerstone

In an interview just two weeks after his arrival to job, Church cites one of reasons he was attracted to Lorain County Community College is the college's commitment "to enhance cultural development with the Stocker Center....The College has already put together a physical location that sends clear signals of the importance of education and arts."

Church has certainly continued that commitment to the arts, both arts education, cultural enhancement and the college's presenting function.

### Cultural Cornerstone Impact

- Stocker Arts Center, with the Hoke Theatre, Beth K. Stocker Art Gallery and Cirigliano Studio Theatre have served over 1.8 million patrons.
- Annually nearly 80,000 people of all ages visit Stocker Center enjoying more than 300 events.
- Stocker Arts Center is the largest children's performing venue in the State of Ohio
- In 2012, opened the Ben and Jane Norton Culinary Arts Center which houses both the college's culinary degree program and digital convergent arts degree programs along with state of the art broadcast studios.
- Launched International Initiatives program which has grown to hosting over 200 international students on the LCCC campus and sister college relationships in 11 countries.

The newly adopted Vision 2020 strategic plan for Lorain County Community College is a refreshed values statement to clearly define who the college is to this community. It reads...

*"We are the community's college. We are trusted by the community to educate, lead and inspire. We create a better, more sustainable future for our community."*

Church, throughout his role as President, has embodied this idea in his leadership and his actions. That is clearly evident in the example Dr. Church set for reaching out to the community to partner with others to address challenges and opportunities; he opened the resources of the college as the community's asset to utilize.

### Community Cornerstone Impact

- The John A. Spitzer Conference Center on the campus of Lorain County Community College, 68,000 square foot facility, serves over 100,000 people annually, making the fourth largest conference center in the Cleveland area.
- Joint Center for Policy Research/Public Services Institute, facilitated the community conversations, data planning and convening that led to major initiatives such as: University Partnership, Reach-Higher P-16 Council, Workforce Institute, Rite Board, Fund for Our Economic Future, Lorain County Community Alliance, among others.
- LCCC's Center for Lifelong Learning provides amenities and programming to our senior community.
- LCCC Fitness Center serves over 25,000 each year in credit and non-credit health, wellness and exercise programs.
- In 2012, LCCC partnered with One Community to complete a Fiber Loop of high-speed broadband access throughout Lorain County.
- Church led the creation of a four community outreach centers to provide higher education access close to where people live and work, especially adults learners.



## Impact: Economic Cornerstone

family and friends and angel or other equity-based investment funds. The Innovation Fund is open to any start-up in the 21-county northeast Ohio region with a technology-based innovation. Recipients may apply and compete to receive a \$25,000 proof-of-concept grant or \$100,000 proof-of-market award, which attaches a fund replenishment right to help sustain the fund if the company is successful. Committed to ensuring an educational outcome in all its initiatives, recipients of Innovation Fund funding are required to support an internship for student(s) in entrepreneurship as part of their award. The fund launched in 2007 with three partners (LCCC, the LCCC Foundation and GLIDE) and \$750,000 in assets. Once again in the spirit of collaboration and partnership, Dr. Church turned his counterparts of regional universities and colleges to join as partners in the Innovation Fund to expand its footprint and impact.

Today, five colleges and universities are vested partners in the fund providing financial support and involved in the due diligence and enhanced services process. The fund has received over 1,200 applications from entrepreneurs, made 186 awards to 153 companies totaling nearly \$10.5 million. In turn, this portfolio of 153 companies have leveraged over \$200 million in follow-on investments, grown sales revenue to over \$100 million annually, created over 520 new jobs and sponsored nearly 200 internships. The fund has attracted nearly \$20 million in philanthropic donations, partner contributions and state awards.

Because of its success, the Kauffman Foundation (Kansas City, KS) provided a grant to expand the concept through a new 501c3 organization entitled: Innovation Fund America. This effort has now launched Innovation Funds in Long Beach, California, Hickory, North Carolina and Detroit, Michigan.

### ***Fab Lab Rapid Prototyping Center***

Under Dr. Church's committed to entrepreneurship and innovation, LCCC developed the first FAB LAB outside of MIT, modeled after the concepts of Dr. Neil Gershenfeld, director of the Center for Bits and Atoms at MIT. This asset is open to the community and to students to inspire creativity, product development



and entrepreneurship. LCCC's Fab Lab is a leader in the Maker Movement and has guided the development of several more Fab Labs across the state and country.

### ***Desich SMART Commercialization Center***

The Desich SMART Commercialization Center for Microsystems is a transformational opportunity that is driving significant economic growth in the area of sensors for biomedical, energy, advanced manufacturing and other sectors. The SMART Center, a \$20 million initiative funded through state, federal and philanthropic resources, is a unique asset that positions LCCC in a segment of the commercialization process that is missing in the Midwest and in the country. The SMART Center bridges the gap between university research and industry to accelerate sensor-based products to get to market. The SMART Center is carving out a niche area for community colleges to be a key component of the nation's manufacturing reshoring. The facility also serves as a training ground for technicians with clean-room certification and processing.

Other key economic development initiatives developed to help inspire entrepreneurship and grow jobs in our community under Dr. Church's vision and leadership include serving as home to the Lorain County Small Business Development Center, development of the Blackstone Launchpad (a student-centered business incubator and only one on a community college campus in the country and an Office of Technology Transfer, to provide community inventor tech transfer services much like available to research professors.

## Impact: Education Cornerstone

***Women/Men's Link (1988)***. Women's Link, serves both men and women, connecting clients with campus and community resources to address any personal problems that might prevent them from being successful in education programs., such as: financial troubles, transportation, legal issues, housing, mental health, employment, healthcare, domestic violence, child care and more. Women's Link has served over 75,000 clients since its inception in 1988.

### ***Bass Library/Community Resource Center in Partnership with Elyria Public Library (2008)***

Again the spirit of collaboration, Dr. Church led the redevelopment of the college's original library facility, transforming it from the interior of the campus to the front of the campus to serve the entire community. To ensure a broad array of services and resources for all ages and interests, Dr. Church worked collaboratively to build a partnership whereby the Elyria Public Library System opened a branch within the facility.



## Highlight: Supporting Students through Scholarships and Awards

Early in Dr. Church's tenure as President of LCCC, the community was facing a dual challenge: 1) the county had the lowest percentage of high school graduates going to college than any other county in the region and 2) those electing to go to college were increasingly choosing to go away, creating a brain drain of talent in our community. Meanwhile, area employers were requiring candidates to hold credentials beyond high school. To address this challenge, Dr. Church led an initiative to establish a blanket scholarship program for any Lorain County high school graduate who achieved a 3.4 GPA or above either full or partial tuition scholarship at LCCC. Working collaboratively with the college's



Foundation, a community fundraising effort was launched to establish an endowment fund to help support this program in perpetuity. Today, over 65% of Lorain County high school graduates go to college and of that group 50% choose to start at LCCC. Lorain County's college-going population now mirrors the national average. Simultaneously, a similar scholarship initiative was developed focused on increasing participation in college of minority populations entitled: Diversity Incentive Award. The program provides full last-dollar tuition support to any Lorain County high school graduate of a minority population with a 2.5 or above grade point average. This program has helped to ensure the college's student population reflects the community's diversity composition.



When Dr. Church arrived in Lorain County in 1987, the community was still recovering from the 1980-83 recession, when 80 companies closed their doors or left the county — staple companies in this community such as *The Automatic Shovel*, *George Steinbrenner's American Ship Building Company* and many others. In 1980, over 40% of the workforce was tied directly to assembly-line manufacturing. Today, in Lorain County only 13% of our employment base is in manufacturing, yet manufacturing is still the economic engine of this community and will continue to be so as new technologies and innovations create a re-shoring effect of manufacturing.

In that 1987 Collegian article, Church's ideas about the role the college in economic growth are prominent. The article states, "Church would like to strengthen college-community ties and show the county all that LCCC has to offer. He is intrigued by the fact that LCCC can be connected with the economic rebuilding of Lorain County. 'It should be right smack in the middle of that effort,' he said."

And so it began. At that early point in his tenure, Church connected the college's education and community resource mission with enhancing economic growth potential of this community. Over the course of his tenure, Lorain County Community College would become nationally known for its cutting-edge programs in workforce and talent development, entrepreneurship, innovation and manufacturing/commercialization.

He embraced Dr. Michael Porter's, Harvard Business Professor and Economist, research around regional cluster economies. In his efforts and community involvement, Church connected Lorain County to the larger regional, state and national economic agendas and initiatives.

## Economic Cornerstone Impact

### Strategy: Stimulate Economic Growth.

Recognizing the need in our community to not only prepare talent with strong skills, but to also help grow companies that create good-paying jobs, Church led the development of the most robust portfolio for supporting innovation and entrepreneurship of any community college in the country.

This persistent commitment led to:

- the development and expansion of the Great Lakes Technology Park (1984)
- Nord Advanced Technology Center (1979) with National Science Foundation Weld-Ed Center (2000)
- GLIDE - a technology Incubator on campus (2001)
- FabLab—open makerspace factory with rapid digital prototyping capability (2005)
- Innovation Fund—earliest pre-seed investment fund for technology-based start-ups (2007)
- Blackstone LaunchPad—student-centered start-up incubator (2012),
- Desich SMART Commercialization Center—development and manufacturing resources for sensor-based products. (2013)
- Home of the Lorain County Small Business Development Center (2012).
- Office of Community Technology Transfer (2013)
- Workforce Innovation Network (2014)
- As a statewide education and workforce development initiative, developed InnovatEd (2008), the only statewide initiative that can broker and deploy education and training programs between educational entities for rapid response to talent needs. The initiative was based on an equitable revenue sharing model to ensure sustainability. InnovatEd was first used in the development of Eastern Gateway Community College.

# growing jobs

## Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise (2001)

As the region was experiencing an economic transformation ignited by the development of digital technologies, Dr. Church turned to the Lorain County Chamber of Commerce to co-lead a community engagement and strategy session entitled the Digital Economy Taskforce (1999). Following an intensive engagement, exploration and design process, this diverse group of leaders of over 100 committed leaders identified LCCC as the ideal entity to lead a strategy to spur economic growth through entrepreneurship and innovation. The lack of access to coaching, teaching, mentoring for entrepreneurs was identified as the primary gap in our local and regional ecosystem to take new technologies to market. Charged by the community with a dual mission of growing talent and building jobs, Dr. Church turned to county partners to develop the first technology incubator on a college campus in the state of Ohio, known as GLIDE. GLIDE formed in 2001 through a partnership between Lorain County Chamber of Commerce and the Lorain County

Commissioners. In fact, the Lorain County Commissioners stepped forward with a commitment of \$2.5 million in operational support to hire serial entrepreneurs to launch GLIDE; more than a decade later, their collaboration continues.

Initially, GLIDE was housed in 4,000 square feet of incubating space in the Patsie C. Campana, Sr. Engineering and Development Center. By 2006,

GLIDE's performance metrics outpaced more established incubators. These outcomes prompted the State of Ohio to designate GLIDE for funding as an Edison Technology Incubator, the

only one on a college campus in the state. Today, GLIDE manages as 20,000 plus square foot incubator in the Desich Business and Entrepreneurship Center, which houses 22 start-up companies. Since inception, GLIDE has served over 3,200 entrepreneurs, incubated over 220 companies of which 150 are still growing and created over 800 new jobs.

### Innovation Fund (2007)

With GLIDE established to provide coaching, teaching and mentoring to entrepreneurs, access to capital became the next gap in the portfolio of services to

accelerate growth of new technology businesses. Dr. Church, serving also as President of the LCCC Foundation, engaged this 55-member board to create Ohio's first and earliest philanthropically-supported pre-seed fund entitled the Innovation Fund. The Innovation Fund was designed to fill the gap between funding from



3,260+ Entrepreneurs Assisted  
220 Client Companies  
150 Clients Still Succeeding  
48 Physically Incubated on campus  
22 Incubating on Campus  
800+ Jobs Created



**Activity:**  
5,700 Inquires  
1,125 Applications  
186 Awards  
153 Companies  
\$10.5 mil in Awards

**Impact:**  
\$200+ mil Follow-On Funding  
\$102 million annual sales  
195+ Internships  
520 Jobs

Desich SMART Commercialization Center for Microsystems  
2013

Blackstone LaunchPad Opens  
2012

Desich Business and Entrepreneurship Center  
2007

Innovation Fund  
2007

First FabLab outside of MIT in country opens at LCCC  
2005

Patsie C. Campana, Sr. Engineering and Development Center  
2003

Great Lakes Innovation and Development Enterprise  
2001

Digital Economy Taskforce  
1999

Great Lakes Technology Park  
1984

Nord Advanced Technology Center  
1979