

Ohio Rep. Nan Baker holds business roundtable at Tri-C Westshore Campus to discuss jobs, education and economic development

In an effort to promote job retention and the support of local businesses, Ohio Representative Nan Baker, chairwoman of the House Economic and Small Business Development Committee, sponsored a business roundtable discussion May 4 at Cuyahoga Community College's Westshore Campus.

Nearly 30 business leaders and public officials attended, including Mayor Dennis Clough of Westlake, Mayor Debbie Southerland of Bay Village, Mayor Pamela Bobst of Rocky River, Mayor Eileen Patton of Fairview Park and Cuyahoga County Councilman David Greenspan.

Westshore Campus President Dr. J. Michael Thomson welcomed the group with a brief overview of the Westshore Campus and Cuyahoga Community College's efforts to train students for sustainable, living wage jobs.

"At least 62% of the jobs in the emerging economy require at least a college certificate or associate degree," explained Thomson. "The Westshore Campus is a permanent educational presence and provides an opportunity for new and returning students to live, learn and earn locally."

"Education is the key to the economic health of our state," said Baker. "We are seeking to cultivate a business friendly environment with an educated qualified workforce, and Tri-C is helping us to do that in Northeast Ohio."

Baker was joined by Daryl Revoldt, director of government relations for JobsOhio, who provided an update on the mission and purpose of the agency created by Gov. John Kasich in 2011 to help create and retain jobs in the state. Baker fielded questions from local businesses regarding job growth in the West Shore communities.

The morning round table concluded with tours of the Westshore Campus.



From L: Mayor Pamela Bobst, Rocky River; State Representative Nan Baker; Westshore Campus President J. Michael Thomson; Mayor Dennis Clough, Westlake; Mayor Eileen Patton, Fairview Park.