



Membership Creed

As a regional economic development organization, the Mid-Ohio Development Exchange (MODE) represents various public and private sector organizations charged with enhancing and growing local and regional economies. This Creed is not intended to read as a set of rules, rather the standards of conduct and ethics committed by each member.

As members, we strive to uphold MODE's high standards of credibility, integrity and achievements. **As such, I pledge:**

I am committed to the economic growth and prosperity of my community and the Columbus Ohio region; performing my duties fairly, honestly and with utmost integrity to promote and maintain a high ethical standard of conduct while committing to continuous learning, the exercise of diligence and professionalism thereby best serving my constituents, my community and the Region; and

I will serve as a steward of my community and our region, acting responsibly for the community assets. I will perform my duties honestly, ethically, and in a way that will achieve the greatest, long-term benefit for the community and region as a whole, realizing that a strong region will result in stronger communities; and

I know that competition is inevitable. Healthy competition involves valuing every individual regardless of his or her stance on a specific issue and an unwavering commitment to working through the conflict in a positive manner with respect and dignity despite its severity; and

I will contribute to creating a climate that will facilitate the accomplishment of our respective goals and objectives; bridge political, social, ethnic and economic boundaries and partner with others to achieve community outcomes by sharing valuable information, experience, resources and strategic alliances while respecting confidential information as such – in order to maintain and build trust and confidence in one another; and

I recognize that the region has much to offer new and existing businesses and that these businesses will consider various locations within the region to support their growth. As such, businesses may request incentive offers from multiple communities to support their investment, thereby putting the communities in competition with one another; and

I realize economic incentives are necessary tools in the current environment and such incentives should be offered at the appropriate level to retain and attract investment and job creation while considering and protecting the taxpayers in the community, the region and the State. I may utilize economic incentives to attract investment into my community and will do so in a manner that protects and upholds the values stated in this Creed; and

I further recognize that at times, in order to increase the financial incentive being offered, one community may be placed in a position of competition with another, which may result in less income for the entire region and my community. However I recognize that if a courtesy notice is required to be served upon a peer jurisdiction that a business is considering multiple locations, our communities may be in a more advantageous negotiating position; and

I commit when a business within the region requests a proposal for financial incentives in order to relocate from another community within the region into my community, I will strongly encourage the business to serve notice to its home community while honoring the confidentiality of the information shared by a peer jurisdiction and or prospect; and

I commit that I will not actively initiate the solicitation of companies from other communities in Central Ohio and that I will continually work for the good of the Central Ohio region; and

I am committed to facilitating economic development in the region. If a business location cannot be satisfied in my community, I will inform the business of other location options within the region that may satisfy its needs for together, we will achieve the greatest overall success.

Signed _____

Date _____

Board passage: November 2006