



For Immediate Release 1-11-10

## **Interest in a Shared-Use Commercial Community Kitchen Facility arises.**

The Muskingum County Business Incubator (MCBI) is excited to announce the launch of the first phase of a Shared-Use Commercial Community Kitchen. The first phase includes conducting a formal survey of the community to gauge the interest and possible applicable uses of the facility. A shared-use commercial community kitchen offers specialty food producers, farmers, and caterers a clean Health Department inspected space to work. The facility will include storage and production space, walk-in freezers and refrigerators, a bakery, food processing line, quick-freeze equipment and loading docks. Successful kitchens also support local job creation and the local economy. Conducting the community survey will help MCBI establish clear goals and create solid plans for long-term profitability.

Carol Humphreys, Executive Director of the Muskingum County Business Incubator states that "The nine county survey is the first step in helping us determine if a shared-use commercial community kitchen will benefit the MCBI region". The counties served are Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum and Noble.

The new kitchen will be located at MCBI and will support the agriculture community by assisting companies that produce value added food products. An informational meeting will be held Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00- 12:00 at 2725 Pinkerton Lane Zanesville, Ohio 43701. The topics to be covered during this meeting are, Information about a Shared-Use Commercial Community Kitchen, Who will benefit from the availability of a Shared-Use Commercial Community Kitchen, and Next Steps in developing the plan for the Shared-Use Commercial Community Kitchen.

### **About MCBI**

The Muskingum County Business Incubator (MCBI) opened in 2005 and serves small businesses in all phases of development. MCBI along with its partners TechGrowth Ohio, the Voinovich School at Ohio University Athens and the Small Business Development Centers offer educational programs and one-on-one counseling. Incubated businesses have an 87 percent survival rate compared to the 20 percent survival rate of businesses that do not receive incubator assistance.

### **Contact**

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