



IT Directory in Development

ITAAO is working in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Appalachia, the Ohio University Institute for Local Government Administration (ILGARD), and Ohio University Voinovich Center Appalachian Regional Entrepreneurship Initiative (AREI), to develop an information technology business directory for the region. The directory will be online at ITAAO's website, as well as a hard copy publication.

The development of an IT Directory for Appalachian Ohio was recommended in the Access Appalachia Report completed and presented in the fall of 2002. The directory will include IT company names, contact information including email, and website addresses,

and the products and services available through each company and business.

"We have found that companies in our region in need of information technology services or products, do not realize that vendors exist in the same community, in the next county, or several counties away that can meet their product or service needs", said Gary Little, President of ITAAO. "There is sometimes an assumption that high tech services and products are only available in Ohio's major cities, but ITAAO has found otherwise". "There are companies within Appalachian Ohio that are capable, qualified and providing products and services equal to and in some cases superior to competitors

in urban and national markets", continued Little. "The directory and ITAAO's marketing of the directory will help local companies conduct business with other local companies, and with marketing will also help local companies market nationwide, or worldwide."

ITAAO plans to link this online database to Ohio's IT Alliance regional partners in Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, and Toledo.

Any companies, business, or consultants wanting to provide information for the directory should contact ITAAO. Call 877.850.6367 or write itaao@itaao.org. The directory completion is anticipated in the late spring of this year.

Technology Industry Gurus of the Appalachian Region AWARDS

In November 2002, ITAAO initiated the first annual TIGAR Awards. These awards will recognize successful information technology companies and educators making a notable difference in the region. ITAAO will also recognize a non-IT company for its outstanding utilization of information technology.

Nominations for these six categories are open to the public and can be made by interested parties online at www.itaao.org. The nominees will be reviewed by a committee of judges comprised of respected IT professionals and educators in the region.

The 6 TIGAR Awards categories are the following:

- TIGAR IT Company of the Year
- Outstanding Start-up Business
- Best Website
- Best IT Training Program
- Best IT Implementation Award by a non-IT Company
- Outstanding Educator Advancing Information Technology

Nominations for these awards will close on the first week of March, so be sure to make your nominations soon! The winners will be announced at an awards gala to be scheduled in late spring.



Special points of interest:

- Newsletter now online! www.itaao.org
- OITA web site: ohiositalliance.net
- IT industry survey: surveyvault.com/itaao



Regional News

Featured Members

Dakota Systems/Washington State Community College

ITAAO member, Dakota Systems, Inc., located in Athens, OH has recently established a partnership with another ITAAO member, Washington State Community College located in Marietta, OH to offer customized XML training to local businesses. This partnership enables Dakota Systems and WSCC to bring high quality courses on XML, XSLT, and Internet Security to the Southeast Ohio region. The courses being offered include; Introduction to XML, Designing Advanced Websites with XML, Introduction to XSLT.

Dakota Systems, Inc. provides XML-based system integration and development services. Since 1999, Dakota has designed and implemented XML-based e-commerce, enterprise content management, and supply chain management

systems for a wide array of companies spanning the telecommunications, manufacturing and health care industries. In addition, Dakota offers a full suite of training courses consisting of lectures, seminars and hands-off workshops. Focusing on XML technology, Dakota provides both developers and managers the training required to implement large-scale enterprise systems within their organizations. For more information visit, <http://www.dakota-systems.com> or call 740-597-1331.

Washington State Community College, part of Ohio's public college and university system, serves southeastern Ohio by offering a broad selection of technical education programs in business, engineering, health sciences, and public service. Their freshmen and sophomore baccalaureate offerings range from anatomy to zoology and

their students successfully transfer to Ohio's public universities as well as many private institutions. The Center for Business & Technology trains more than 3,600 participants per year in short-term, professional development courses. Washington State's Computer Applications Learning Center (www.calc.wscc.edu) 710 Colegate Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750 Phone: 740.374.8716 Fax: 740.376.0257

Welcome to ITAAO

New Members in 2003

- Intelliwave (*Athens*)
- Innovative Functions (*Chillicothe*)
- Peoples Bank (*Marietta*)
- SEOMUG - Southeastern Ohio Macromedia Users Group (*Athens*)
- Washington State Community College (*Marietta*)

Mexico Mission

Brush up on your Spanish.....here's an opportunity. The Mexico-Ohio Business Mission boards the plane on May 13.....but companies, educational institutions, and economic development groups must register by February 15th! Contact the International Trade Division of the Ohio Department of Development at 614.466.5017. Kirk Merritt, or Randy Hochstetter can answer your questions. Randy can also be contacted at rhochstetter@odod.state.oh.us. Governor Taft will lead the business mission to Mexico.

New Discount for ITAAO Members

Longtime ITAAO member Horizon Technology, located in Chillicothe, Ohio is offering a 15% discount on standard training courses to all ITAAO members. Horizon provides training for both hardware and software. On-site training is custom-

ized to meet your specific needs. Prepackaged training is available in other facilities. Contact Karen Wickline, Training Center Coordinator and mention your ITAAO membership when registering for a class. www.itaao.org/Classes.htm

Save the Date! Ohio's IT Summit

Ohio's Information Technology Alliance is hosting Ohio's IT Summit on April 30, 2003. The event is tailored to three categories of focus, a Technology

Track, a New Business Track, and a CIO/CTO Track. The event will take place in Columbus, Ohio at the Hilton at Easton. More information will follow.



Tech Tuesdays.

Tech Tuesdays include presentations on relevant IT topics, networking and light appetizers.

ITAAO Members - FREE

Non-ITAAO Members - \$5.00

Networking Schedule

Online: www.itaao.org

Portsmouth January 28, 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Details: **TBA**

Marietta January 21, 5:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.
LaFayette Hotel, Green Room
Presentation: **TBA**

Athens January 28, 5:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.
Lui Lui Restaurant—8 Station St.
Presentation: **"b2b or not b2b"**
(the web, the future and your business)
By Dave Hannum

**ITAAO Members: for sponsorship availability contact Cindy Phelps, Program Director for more information 877.850.6367*