



leading business growth in Geauga County

geauga growth partnership, inc.

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GGP Announces 2016 Frank Samuel Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Geauga Growth Partnership (GGP) is pleased to announce **Mr. Jay P. Giles** as the 2016 recipient of the **Frank Samuel Geauga Growth Partnership Distinguished Service Award**, which will be presented at the **GGP Annual Partnership Meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 AM** at the Notre Dame Education Center.

Inaugurated in 2013, this award recognizes prolonged service and outstanding achievement by a GGP member or company, who through relentless determination, diligence and dedication, has made significant contributions to enhance the value, quality, effectiveness and stature of the Geauga Growth Partnership and embodies the following:

1. Demonstrated community service and support both personally and organizationally.
2. Evident investment in economic development in Geauga County
3. Recognized advocate for the County
4. Commitment to leadership excellence and development of human capital
5. Major impactful accomplishments and results
6. Reputation for the generosity, transparency and a critical thinker
7. A strong business acumen with a collaborative leadership style

Jay Giles is a founding member of Geauga Growth Partnership and continues to serve with distinction, acting for the first five years as GGP Treasurer. He has served on the Executive, Finance, Board Development and Membership committees, and the Shale Energy Task Force. Additionally he has made significant contributions to the growth and development of Geauga County through his service to numerous non-profit organizations in Geauga County.

“There is no one more deserving of this honor,” says GGP Board Chair John Epprecht. “Jay’s passion for Geauga County preservation and economic development is consistently demonstrated in his service to Geauga Growth Partnership and the community at large.”

Mr. Giles has served as a founding member and treasurer of the Berkshire Community Planning Association (BCPA) (1999 to present), who played a critical role in the formation of Geauga Growth Partnership. Along with Frank Samuel and other founders, the BCPA broke new ground by developing a land use plan that included multiple political jurisdictions. After successfully completing a Regional Voter Opinion Survey in 2001 and the comprehensive Berkshire Community Master Plan (released in 2006), Jay Giles, Frank Samuel, Tracy

Jemison and Mia Moore were encouraged and motivated to create a county-wide organization to support economic development in Geauga County – Geauga Growth Partnership.

Jay Giles was Senior Vice President/Senior Loan Officer for The Middlefield Banking Company from September 1998 until his retirement in 2015. Prior to Middlefield Bank, he served as Vice President and Senior Commercial Lender at Huntington National Bank in Burton, Ohio.

Jay Giles has served on the Board of Trustees and is among the adjunct faculty of Kent State University Geauga, where he teaches economics. He was a founding board member of Leadership Geauga. He has served as a trustee and treasurer for Geauga Park District Foundation and still volunteers on the Geauga Park District Bike Patrol. He has formerly served on the YMCA Board, on the Workforce Employment Board, the Ohio Humanities Council, and on the Watershed Committee of the Headwaters Land Trust, which merged into the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

GGP would like to thank the following sponsors, for supporting the Annual Partnership Meeting: University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center, Middlefield Banking Company, Polychem Dispersions, Inc., Sheoga Hardwood Flooring & Paneling, Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan, Burton Station Fixture Company, The Frenchie Group, Geauga Credit Union, Troy Chemical and the Wealthcare Group of Raymond James.

Geauga Growth Partnership is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization created in 2010, which works to retain and grow jobs, contribute to business growth and strengthen the local economy. Geauga Growth Partnership's mission is to enhance the business climate, encourage job creation, to strengthen economic prosperity and to improve the quality of life for all Geauga County residents.

For more information visit www.geaugagrowthpartnership.com, contact info@geaugagrowth.com or call 440-564-1060.