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**TechStart Entrepreneur Event to Be Held in City of Dublin**

*Local Entrepreneurs, City & County Officials, Economic Development Professionals and Financial Advisors Encouraged To Attend*

**(Columbus, OH – January 4, 2008)** The City of Dublin and OCLC will co-host a TechStart event on February 6, from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at OCLC 6565 Kilgour Place, in Dublin. The free event is for local entrepreneurs, city and county officials, economic development professionals and financial advisors interested in learning more about the TechStart program.

TechStart, Central Ohio's Entrepreneurial Signature Program, is led by TechColumbus and supported financially by Ohio's Third Frontier Program and nineteen local partners. It provides early stage funding and mentoring assistance to entrepreneurs with promising tech businesses throughout 15 counties of Central Ohio.

"I encourage any stakeholder involved in getting a start-up off the ground to attend this event, as it's a one-stop opportunity to get your questions answered and hear all the exciting opportunities with TechStart," said Will Indest, Director of TechStart. "Individuals will take home valuable knowledge from a number of resources about the types of programs and capital available for tech-related start-ups and entrepreneurs."

Representatives from TechColumbus will speak about programs and capital available to tech-related start-ups and entrepreneurs. Participants will also hear from Dana McDaniel, Deputy City Manager and Director of Economic Development with the City of Dublin, to learn what initiatives are available to assist business start-ups and emerging companies.

"The TechStart Program is a great resource for local entrepreneurs with technology-based business development opportunities," said McDaniel. "This program will help the Dublin area continue to grow and highlight it as a desirable destination for business."

TechColumbus worked with public and private partners throughout the 15-county region to win a \$15 million award from the State of Ohio. Adding the \$7.5 million from local partners, this 3-year \$22.5 million project is the largest of its kind ever in Central Ohio. The City of Dublin is a founding partner of the program and is contributing \$750,000 over the next three years. TechStart will locate a regional office in Dublin to serve five of the 15 counties.

TechStart is designed to advance the development of technology-based companies in the region by providing a systematic method for identifying promising technologies and innovations; providing business management oversight that emerging companies need for sustainable growth; and connecting technology entrepreneurs with access to early-stage capital. The program also provides coaching, mentoring, educational and market access to the most promising new companies, technologies and processes with targeted business development services. The 15-county region served by TechStart includes Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Knox, Licking, Logan, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, Ross and Union counties.

Entrepreneurs interested in applying for funding through TechStart must first prepare and submit an executive summary of the opportunity, typically no longer than two to three pages, as well as an online application. A member of the TechColumbus team will contact applicants within three business days to discuss next steps.

**About TechColumbus ([www.techcolumbus.org](http://www.techcolumbus.org))**

TechColumbus is a nonprofit organization that focuses on technology-based economic development in the 15 counties of central Ohio. TechColumbus accomplishes this by:

- Providing professional development and technology business assistance to both large and small companies that rely on technology for business success
- Managing a 62,000 square foot technology business incubator that has been recognized as one of the best in the country
- Leading the \$22.5 million Central Ohio Entrepreneurial Signature Program, also known as *TechStart*, to create, finance and launch new tech companies in central Ohio
- Assisting in the development of facilities for tech companies
- Working with state and local organizations to attract new tech companies to the region

For more information about TechColumbus visit [www.techcolumbus.org](http://www.techcolumbus.org).

**Reservations for the City of Dublin TechStart event can be made by visiting [www.techcolumbus.org](http://www.techcolumbus.org). For event sponsorship information please contact Stephanie Harper, with TechColumbus, at [sharper@techcolumbus.org](mailto:sharper@techcolumbus.org).**

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