

# THE DAILY REPORTER

COLUMBUS' ONLY DAILY BUSINESS AND LEGAL NEWSPAPER - ESTABLISHED 1896

## Today's conference focuses on community development, innovation, technology

By JASON LICHTENBERGER  
Daily Reporter Staff Writer

According to Mary Rogers, director of programming for the Ohio Community Development Corporation Association, today's technology conference should be the first of many.

The OCDCA's first Community Development, Innovation and Technology Conference is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. inside the Columbus Hotel (formerly Adams Mark), located at 50 N. Third St.

The event is open to the public and registration begins at 8 a.m.; admission is \$85, or \$30 for students.

Rogers said about 170 people are expected to attend the conference which is designed to inspire Ohioans, businesses and local communities to start "thinking outside the box," where technology's concerned.

Although this is the first year for the conference, the OCDCA has been in existence for 20 years and has about 200 members. Among the members are representatives of the Columbus Housing Partnership, and about 60 to 70 percent of the corporations and organization that belong to OCDCA work with housing developments and initiatives in some way, said Rogers.

Several speakers are expected to deliver presentations at workshops taking place throughout the day. Mayor Michael B. Coleman originally was scheduled to deliver a welcome address at 9 a.m., but due to a visit from presidential hopeful John Kerry, that responsibility has been handed to Michael Schwarzwald, the mayor's chief of staff.

"We always have a strong interest in technology and economic development, especially when there's a chance to talk with people out in the field. We always make an effort to stop in and see what's going on," said Mike Brown, communications officer for Coleman.

Eight workshops are scheduled for the conference, all of which cover different categories but are

the Cleveland Housing Network.

The remaining workshops will feature other local, state and national experts in technology, housing and job-related fields, noted the OCDCA. Events are scheduled to conclude at 5 p.m.

Some of the workshops will highlight ways to make homes accessible and marketable for young, older and functionally-challenged residents.

According to information provided by the association, attendees will learn about new technologies available to housing developers in terms of energy efficiency and building techniques.

Some of the organizations appearing today, including the Cleveland Housing Network, specialize in helping low-income individuals become homeowners and purchase computers.

Bill Hecht, president of One Economy Corp. is expected to focus his attention on such issues, said Rogers. One Economy is a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., that attempts to bring technology and Internet access to underserved communities.

"People need a way of entering the job market and to be prepared for the world ahead and the Internet allows them to do that," said Rogers. She noted that one challenge of organizing the day's events was due to differences between rural and urban housing and communities.

Another aspect the OCDCA is trying to hit hard with today's conference is job creation and technology incubators, she added.

"We want to link people with technology. There will be a smorgasbord (of ideas and workshops), and we want people to think of technology as a whole rather than separate entities."

She said a lot of the ideas in the workshops will cross over, but it will "be interesting to hear what other groups and businesses are thinking...so we can think of new ways for developers to bring technology to whole communities."

---

***"We always have a strong interest in technology and economic development, especially when there's a chance to talk with people out in the field. We always make an effort to stop in and see what's going on."***

**— Brown**

---

interwoven with one another, explained Rogers.

One of the workshops taking place this morning is "Understanding the Language of Technology and Funding for Technology Projects."

David Barber, director of information technology programs for the Ohio Board of Regents is a feature panelist for the discussion, as is E. Garrison Walters, vice chancellor for academic affairs and economic advancement, also with the Ohio Board of Regents.

Other seminars include "Innovations in Building Materials and Techniques for Housing;" "Automated Housing: Component Building, Panelized Manufactured and Modular;" "Model Community Technology Centers;" and "Changing Patterns of American Lifestyle: Employment, Education, Entertainment and Housing in 2025."

Speakers for these programs include representatives from Columbus-based Battelle, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Ohio Community Computing Network and