



REGIONAL GROWTH PARTNERSHIP
Building a High-Performance Economy

NEWS

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RGP Launch Program Creates Entrepreneurial Library

TOLEDO, Ohio – The Regional Growth Partnership’s *Launch* program has established the region’s first library collection to serve the knowledge needs of technology-based start-up companies and entrepreneurs.

The “Launch Library” is a custom collection of literature on business practical and conceptual subjects, with everything from capital fund-raising sources and company valuation to human resource handbooks and legal protection for software development.

“The Launch Library represents the Regional Growth Partnership’s commitment to building a knowledge-based economy,” said Steve Weathers, president and CEO of the RGP. “The library fulfills a critical need in the region to build the business proficiency of technology-based entrepreneurs so they may complement their scientific knowledge with the business knowledge so essential for building strong company management teams and market-driven enterprises.”

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The Launch Library was inspired when Launch staff sought a more holistic approach to assisting clients. During the business planning process Launch clients pose many questions ranging from topics such as the necessary qualities in recruiting a CFO, developing a comprehensive business plan and determining the future value of a business. These questions can be answered in the Launch library, which also provides industry-specific information and several reference volumes for more specialized needs.

The Library's collection is the product of a process that involved the University of Toledo and private sector. Launch engaged UT's business librarian, Julia Martin, who developed a small collection of the best business literature, characterized by materials that are highly digestible, concise and authoritative. Along with input from the UT College of Business, the UT Science & Technology Corridor and the private sector, the Launch Library consists of 115 carefully selected "best picks," and is intended to remain a small but high-impact collection. The state of Ohio's Thomas A. Edison Grant provided matching funding to finance this project.

Launch is a technology-based business incubation program of the Regional Growth Partnership. Launch provides comprehensive business assistance for entrepreneurs and start-up companies that are commercializing revolutionary, world-class technologies, to accelerate company growth and time to-market-entry.

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national, and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio.

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