

REGION 11 WIRED CYBER CENTER
OPERATED BY OHIO UNIVERSITY
[HTTP://WWW.OHIO-IVE.ORG/WIRED](http://www.ohio-ive.org/wired)



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In February 2009, Ohio University was selected to operate the Region 11 Cyber Center for the Appalachian Ohio WIRED¹ region. The WIRED program is designed to provide workforce education and training for high-tech occupations targeted at specific geographic areas. The Region 11 Cyber Center serves the central portion of the Appalachian region, namely Hocking, Perry, Meigs, Athens, Morgan, Noble, Washington, and Monroe counties in Ohio; Kent State University at Tuscarawas operates a Cyber Center covering the North-East portion of the region, and Shawnee State University hosts the Cyber Center for the South-West portion of the region.

Over the course of the next 10 months, the Cyber Center will work with secondary and post-secondary educational institutions to develop methods and procedures aimed at making students aware of job opportunities in Interactive Digital Technologies (IDT), as well as giving students the tools to learn essential IDT skills. For the Region 11 Cyber Center, the subject matter for training materials and activities will be drawn from health care training and health communications applications. (The other Cyber Centers will focus on different subjects).

The Cyber Center leadership is drawn from IDT faculty at Ohio University. This leadership group is assisted by an Advisory Board of subject experts and economic development practitioners. The Advisory Board will help with the selection of training content and activities, and also interact directly with the students being served.

The Cyber Center will carry out the following activities:

- It will establish a number of Cyber Clubs. A Cyber Club is an informal student organization, hosted at a participating institution in the region being served. The Cyber Center and the hosting institution will select a club leader, who will be compensated by the Cyber Center. Club leaders and other faculty from the hosting institutions will form a Leadership Council which will work with the Cyber Center staff on planning of club operations.
- The Cyber Center will provide software licenses and limited hardware upgrades for the hosting institution to facilitate club activities.
- The Cyber Center will organize club activities and provide graduate students who will assist the club leader in carrying out the selected activities. The graduate students will also serve as individual mentors to the club members.
- From time to time, the Cyber Center will provide industry speakers for club meeting.
- The Cyber Center will develop, and deliver to the Cyber Clubs, training materials, tutorials, and on-line guides for IDT tools and techniques.
- The Cyber Center will hold intensive workshops for club members during the school year. These workshops will be held at Ohio University and focus on advanced technologies and techniques. The Cyber Center will also provide a summer workshop for club leaders and area teachers.
- The Cyber Center staff will assist club members to build an electronic portfolio showcasing the students' IDT skills. A Project Fair will take place in November, 2009; at this event student portfolios will be judged, and students will have the opportunity to meet industry leaders.
- The Cyber Center leadership will work with the Advisory Board and the Leadership Council to identify potential funding options which would permit the clubs to continue operation after the expiration of the Cyber Center contract (currently 12/31/2009).

¹ WIRED is the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development initiative of the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (<http://www.doleta.gov/wired/>). The WIRED Appalachian Region is operated by OVITA, the Ohio Valley Interactive Technology Alliance (<http://www.ovita.org/>).