



SCIOTO VALLEY FORWARD

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For immediate release:**Scioto Valley Forward: A Historic and Hopeful Partnership**

(CHILLICOTHE, OHIO - JUNE 9, 2025) - Today marks a significant step forward for our community as officials from Chillicothe and Ross County, along with key partners, proudly unveil Scioto Valley Forward. This strategic public-private partnership aims to improve our local economy and support our businesses and workforce.

Our coalition is strong, consisting of the City of Chillicothe, Ross County Government, Greater Chillicothe & Ross County Development, the Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce, the Chillicothe Ross Community Foundation, United Way of Ross County, the Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, Ohio Southeast/JobsOhio, Ohio Means Jobs, and various state and local partners. This collective effort highlights our dedication to the prosperity and resilience of our community.

Originally established in response to the April 15 announcement of the paper mill's closure, Scioto Valley Forward has expanded its mission to tackle the workforce challenges confronting Ross County and southern Ohio. Through our newly launched online hub, sciotovalleyforward.com, we provide everyone in our community with access to essential information and resources during this transformative period.

"In true Ross County spirit, we're transforming uncertainty into opportunity through the power of partnership. Scioto Valley Forward represents an unprecedented collaboration to ensure no business or worker faces these transitions alone," said Mike Throne, president and CEO of the Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce. "This isn't just about weathering change – it's about our entire community rowing in the same direction, pooling our strengths, and proving that when Ross County unites around a common purpose, we not only survive challenges but also emerge stronger and more connected than ever before."

Our microsite is your go-to resource, featuring events, job postings, and business incentives—all easily accessible to the public. Whether you're a business eager to engage with local events or an employee seeking opportunities, our platform—created by the Chamber with support from the Chillicothe-Ross Community Foundation—is here to help you stay connected and informed.

Additionally, a workforce hub has been established in the rear annex of the main branch of the Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library, located at 140 S. Paint St. The center will be staffed from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for the foreseeable future. At the center, interested individuals can receive assistance with job searches, resume building, and other related services. Events about financial literacy, starting a small business, and other topics will soon be added.

As our community navigates the uncertainties of the job market, Scioto Valley Forward remains dedicated to collaborating with state and local officials to tackle these challenges. Together, we are committed to upholding Ohio's stable, vibrant, and thriving economy.

At every step, we emphasize "we" and "our," highlighting our shared journey and mutual support as we build a stronger, more resilient future. Please visit the website to view the resources and information available to the community.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

We're pleased to arrange a time to visit the workforce hub and hold a press availability there. Please contact mthrone@chillicotheohio.com to coordinate.