

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Speakers to discuss city centers

Talk on how to attract talented work force opens series hosted by University Park group

By Betty Lin-Fisher
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A speaker who has written extensively about the migration of talented young workers from metropolitan areas is the first headliner for the new University Park Alliance Urban Innovators Speaker Series.



Cortright

Joe Cortright, president of Impresa Economics in Portland, Ore., will speak from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 12 at the Andrew Jackson House, 277 E. Mill St., Akron.

No tickets are currently available to the public for Cortright's speech. Officials said they are keeping a waiting list if space becomes available.

Cortright will discuss *Attracting Talent Through the Development of Vibrant Urban Centers*.

The speaker series will feature "world-class experts in economics, real-estate development and transportation who will discuss key issues in progressive urban design that are central to attracting talent and spurring economic development," the University Park Alliance said in a news release.



Bohl



Schrieber

The program focuses on ideas for developing city centers and close-in neighborhoods.

Ken Stapleton, executive director of the nine-year-old University Park Alliance, said the goal is to show how the 50-block area around the University of Akron can help Northeast Ohio's economic growth.

"Talent, innovation, urban places and prosperity are integrally linked in the knowledge economy," Stapleton, said. "This series will help Akron and Northeast Ohio better understand and take advantage of these connections."

The other speakers are:

- Chuck Bohl, director of the graduate program in Real Estate Development and Urbanism at the University of Miami's School of Architecture. He will present *Place Making: Developing Town*

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Speakers

Consultant to discuss travel by foot, bike

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Centers, Main Streets and Urban Villages on Feb. 9.

- Jason Schrieber, principal with Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates in Boston. He will present *Mode Shift: Moving From Driving to Biking and Walking* on March 9.

The presentations are free and open to the public. Seating is limited to 100 and reservations are required. Call 330-972-8859 or e-mail julie2@uakron.edu for reservations.

The series is organized with support from the Greater Akron Chamber and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and in conjunction with promotional partners Western Reserve Public Media through its new show *Neotropolis*, Green City Blue Lake Institute, Torchbearers and the GAR Foundation.

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