

### University Park plans speaker series

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POSTED: 10:54 a.m. EST, Dec 24, 2009

A speaker who has written extensively on the migration of talented young workers among metropolitan areas is the first headliner for the new University Park Alliance Urban Innovators Speaker Series.

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

Cortright's speech has no public availability even though tickets are free because seating is limited. However, officials said they are keeping a waiting list if space becomes available.

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 press release.

The program provides an opportunity for new thinking and imaginative action around the development of core city centers and close-in neighborhoods. UPA Executive Director Ken Stapleton said the goal is to show how the University Park neighborhood , can positively impact Northeast Ohio's economic growth potential.

"Talent, innovation, urban places and prosperity are integrally linked in the knowledge economy," he said.

"This series will help Akron and Northeast Ohio better understand and take advantage of these connections."

The alliance is a nine-year-old collaboration to revitalize a 50-block area around the University of Akron.

Cortright, the first speaker, will present "Attracting Talent Through the Development of Vibrant Urban Centers."