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For Immediate Release

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33 Alliance Receives Grant from AEP Ohio for Engineering Technology Camp

Lancaster, Ohio – The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance has received a \$9,670 grant from AEP Ohio, an American Electric Power (NYSE: AEP) company, to support its second annual Engineering Technology Summer Camp. The Alliance is one of 15 local economic development organizations to receive a LEAP (Local Economic Assistance Program) grant, which provides funding to help local communities grow with a focus on retaining and expanding manufacturing jobs.

“By investing in new workforce and economic development programs locally, we hope to spur job creation and opportunities for the communities we serve,” said Tim Wells, manager of economic and business development for AEP Ohio.

The 33 Alliance is partnering with Ohio University Lancaster and Lancaster City Schools to show students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) how products evolve from concept to reality. The Engineering Technology Summer Camp will be facilitated by Gina Orr, instructor at Ohio University Lancaster’s Engineering Technology Lab, and Angela Hoy, STEM teacher for Lancaster City Schools. The camp has been expanded to two weeks this year and will include a class for high school students, in part due to funding from the grant.

As part of the program, students will tour local manufacturers like Midwest Fabricating to see how what they learn in the classroom comes to life. Students will also work on a project during the camp which will be showcased during a presentation on the final day. They will get to see advanced machinery and 3D printers at work as well as an introduction into design.

“The manufacturing industry offers wonderful career opportunities in Fairfield County and we want to expose the students to these jobs that offer a great income right here in their backyard,” said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director and executive director of the Alliance. “Because it is the largest portion of Fairfield County’s economy, ensuring a future workforce for those companies is critical to continued success; AEP Ohio’s LEAP grant and its commitment to manufacturing will help train the next generation of employees.”

The Engineering Technology Summer Camp will be held from July 9 – 13 for students entering eighth and ninth grades, and July 16 – 20 for students entering their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years. The camp will be held at Ohio University Lancaster’s Engineering Technology lab and is open to students who will be enrolled at a Fairfield County school or are home-schooled and reside in Fairfield County. There is no cost to attend the camp. There may still be a couple spots available in the camp. Please email Rick Szabrak at rick.szabrak@fairfieldcountyohio.gov for more information.