The AKRON MODEL
The University as an Engine for Economic Growth
2010 - 2011

The University of Akron
“COLLABORATIVE DOING IS THE ENGINE THAT DRIVES OUR UNIVERSITY AND REGION.”

Luis M. Proenza
More than a decade ago, The University of Akron proactively began to assume increasing responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities and constituencies it serves. We understood that our own long-term competitive and comparative advantages are inextricably tied to the health of our regional economy.

Today, the reality of a "new normal" of declining state appropriations, technological changes and increasing economic pressures on students and their families is forcing many other institutions to confront a fundamental question that we addressed in 1999: "Who do we really want to be?"

The University of Akron provided a definitive answer to that query more than a decade ago in our 2000 strategic plan, Charting the Course. There we stated our identity as "The University in, of, and for Akron." We recognized in our antecedents a path forward suitable for our times as well: that through synergy and collaboration with our greater community, we can collectively leverage opportunities and overcome challenges for the benefit of our region, country and world.

Throughout the past decade, we have enhanced this University’s relevance, and connectivity to the community and region, and increased productivity. In doing so, we created a broad-based and robust platform for revitalizing the Northeast Ohio economy that has strengthened the economic vitality of our community, while also improving our own long-term, institutional competitive and comparative advantages.

Two primary development drivers are key to our overall strategy: the enhancement of physical, economic and social infrastructure, and the leveraging of resources through collaboration. These drivers contribute to the formation of all varieties of capital, e.g. creative, knowledge, human, social, financial and natural capital. They also reinforce the centrality of our academic mission to all of our engagement initiatives.

The University of Akron also evolved into a regional catalyst for collective impact, facilitating and promoting collaborations among the region’s civic, corporate, philanthropic and institutional players. Our first collective achievement was the University Park Alliance, and as the impact of such partnerships became evident, more initiatives followed: The University of Akron Research Foundation. The Innovation Alliance. The Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron. An interactive network of collaborations formed as each initiative, in pursuit of its own specific goals and objectives, contributed to the greater common good.

People beyond our region took notice of the successes here. We have been asked to share the story of this fertile, collaborative environment and its outcomes at economic and academic conferences and symposia throughout the country and abroad. As we did, the term "Akron Model" came into use to describe the economic development platform that emerged as the cumulative result of these and other initiatives.

We are committed to further refining and expanding this dynamic model to strengthen our existing relationships, and to seek beyond all borders for new partners eager to join us in inventing the future.

Luis M. Proenza
President
The University of Akron
SHIFTING ECONOMIC REALITIES WILL REQUIRE UNIVERSITIES TO DEVELOP NEW BUSINESS MODELS AND ADOPT NEW PERFORMANCE STANDARDS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN EXCELLENCE.

THE AKRON MODEL
The Akron Model: A New Path for Universities in the 21st Century

New Realities
Shifting economic realities will require universities to adopt new business models and performance standards in order to maintain excellence. Institutions that embrace the guiding principles of relevance, connectivity and productivity will strengthen the economic vitality of their communities and, at the same time, improve their own long-term competitive and comparative advantages. Self-regenerating feedback cycles have long existed between most universities and their communities, but recent seismic rumbles of economic and technological change have made it abundantly clear that institutions must serve not only as anchors for regional economies, but also as stimulators, facilitators and connectors.

New Roles
In many regions, universities have the greatest institutional capacity to improve the human condition. This potential is manifested through multiple touch points: thought leaders, conveners, credentialers, assessors, entrepreneurs, and knowledge/technology creators and distributors. Institutions that fully commit their assets to these roles contribute to the formation of all varieties of capital, e.g. creative, knowledge, human, social, financial and natural capital. Such utilization, however, requires active and enterprising engagement.

New Framework
The University of Akron has ascertained that university engagement is best enabled by a framework founded upon the principles of relevance, connectivity and productivity. Relevance is demonstrated when tangible benefits are delivered to communities across the full spectrum of disciplines, and by the creation of interdisciplinary teams to solve problems facing the region and the world. This relevance is expressed through a university’s connectivity with community and institutional partners. Connectivity is characterized by nontraditional, often novel collaborations that are entrepreneurial in design and function, and which positively impact the innovation ecosystem. Finally, a commitment to relevance and connectivity yields increased productivity, which can be measured through scaled and normalized metrics that focus on value-added, rather than exclusion-based data, or on output per unit of input.
The Akron Model

With the principles of relevance, connectivity and productivity serving as the foundation of the “Akron Model,” The University of Akron employs two primary economic development drivers as part of its overall strategy: the enhancement of physical, economic and social infrastructure, and the leveraging of resources through collaboration. In so doing, the University has created a broad-based and robust platform for revitalizing the Northeast Ohio economy.

The key components of the Akron Model are described on the following pages. The Model is dynamic by design, adding elements as opportunities arise, modifying existing ones in anticipation of, or response to, evolving conditions. To consult this ever-changing plan, visit us at www.uakron.edu/AkronModel.

The Akron Model Goes on the Road

As more institutions and organizations learn of the Akron Model, more requests are received for details about its components and design. Since 2010, Dr. Luis Proenza and other senior administrators have been invited to present the Akron Model at numerous professional, academic and government gatherings. The following is just a small sample of a much larger list:

- Cleveland, April 25, 2011 “Building The Ohio Innovation Economy” symposium, sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and University of Hawaii.
The core element in UA’s economic development “tool chest” is The University of Akron Research Foundation (UARF). This boundary-spanning organization links industry and the University by supporting entrepreneurial activities, expanding existing industries, and stimulating new economic growth through technology commercialization of University-generated and industrially generated technologies. A team of volunteer, entrepreneurial industrial senior fellows enhances UARF’s scope and capabilities, as does its relationship with one of the nation’s leading intellectual property programs at the UA law school.

UARF was founded in 2001 and since then has:
- entered into five joint ventures with major corporations
- created or assisted in the launch of 49 start-up companies, of which about half were based on UA-created technology
- transformed an initial group of 35 individuals into a 550-investor network that has vested about 80 companies, of which approximately 35 have received more than $125 million in subsequent funding
- grown its assets to $16 million
- created the Akron Innovation Campus, with three buildings to date
- performed contracted research services that exceed $20 million
- managed 286 U.S. patents and 430 patents worldwide
- engaged in diverse industry-sponsored research agreements
- delivered more than $33 million in international training
- developed a broad-based advisory group for the community
- offered advisory research and technical services

Thanks to UARF’s work, The University of Akron was ranked #1 in Ohio in the rate of return per research dollar in technology commercialization in 2007 by the Ohio Board of Regents; ranked #1 in patents issued per million dollars in research expenditures 2000-04 by the Milken Institute; and has been acknowledged through several other technology awards and rankings.

In 2010 UARF, in partnership with the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron, received an i6 Challenge Award, one of only six awarded nationally by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.
New Landscape for Learning

This transformational, $625 million campus enhancement program began in 2000 and has produced 20 new buildings, 18 major additions and renovations, and 34 acres of new green space. In addition to numerous academic buildings, residence halls and parking decks, new construction also includes:

- Student Union
- Student Recreation and Wellness Center
- Honors Complex
- National Polymer Innovation Center
- Gas Turbine Testing Facility
- Medina County University Center
- InfoCision Stadium-Summa Field

This ongoing investment continually catalyzes significant other private-sector infrastructure investments. In 2011, ground was broken for a 39,000-square-foot research building, which will house the National Center for Education and Research in Corrosion and Materials Reliability, as well as the Timken Engineered Surfaces Laboratory. A new 500-bed residence hall will be occupied in fall 2012.

University Park Alliance (UPA)

The University of Akron’s commitment to community development goes hand-in-hand with its educational, research and entrepreneurial initiatives. As part of that commitment, UA helped found the University Park Alliance (UPA) in 2001. UPA is a neighborhood revitalization initiative that catalyzes community engagement and private investment in a 50-block area adjacent to campus. It is a multi-partner initiative that continues to attract additional participants from the private and public sectors. UPA has created 920 jobs, 80 new housing units and attracted $300 million in private investments. The initiative was catalyzed with a multi-year grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which provided $12.5 million over 11 years.

In 2011, UPA unveiled a Master Plan, developed with EE&K, an affiliate of the international architecture and urban design firm Perkins Eastman Co., for the 50 blocks that form University Park and its adjacent areas in downtown Akron. The plan seeks to develop four distinct, pedestrian-friendly business districts that also include residential space and will align with the University’s own master plan.

Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA)

This $200-million partnership is comprised of three health care systems, UA and the Northeast Ohio Medical University. It seeks to establish Akron as the world’s #1 biomaterials and orthopedic research program within 10 years, and advance the region’s goal of creating a biomedical corridor in Northeast Ohio by leveraging existing strengths in advanced materials and biomaterials science and engineering capabilities.

In the three years since ABIA’s founding, renowned researcher, scholar and industry executive Dr. Frank L. Douglas was named president and CEO, more than 700 clinicians, scientists, students and allied health professionals have participated in ABIA Synergy Seminars, and the institute has gained national recognition and won support from the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy.

In January 2011, UA and ABIA launched a new Women’s Entrepreneurship Program that shapes and builds the strengths and capabilities of woman entrepreneurs. The program, which brings together MBA candidates and individuals with technology expertise in the biomedical, medical device and alternative energy sectors, aims to increase the number of woman entrepreneurs in burgeoning technology fields, and to facilitate the commercialization of technology projects.

Corrosion and Reliability Engineering Program

In partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD), NACE International and private industry, UA has established the nation’s first undergraduate corrosion engineering degree program and is creating a research network to battle corrosion, which costs the nation $400 billion annually. With more than $20 million from DoD, the new National Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance located at UA will lead the nation in corrosion-related curriculum development and applied research. It is integrated into the DoD’s University Corrosion Collaboration/Technical Corrosion Collaboration, and has agreements completed or in process with Aalen University of Germany, Manchester University in the United Kingdom and Curtin University in Australia.

The first students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Corrosion Engineering program in 2010, and enrollment doubled in fall 2011. Approved by the Ohio Board of Regents, the program boasts a full complement of core faculty and a detailed, multidisciplinary curriculum. Several companies already have provided funds for scholarships, faculty positions and workforce development.
National Inventors Hall of Fame School (NIHF-STEM)/Akron Early College High School (AECHS)

To encourage best practices in student preparation for elementary and secondary grades, the University has engaged in multiple educational partnerships with Akron Public Schools, other institutions and private individuals and companies over the years. Two of the most promising are the National Inventors Hall of Fame School…Center for STEM Learning (NIHF-STEM), and the Akron Early College High School (AECHS).

NIHF-STEM is the result of private-public collaboration that leveraged unique Akron assets to produce a highly successful middle school founded on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects and problem-based learning. UA’s College of Education provided substantial support during the planning and implementation phases, and has active programs at the school. In its first year, the NIHF-STEM School earned high academic rankings and national recognition.

In 2010-11, the Akron Early College High School (AECHS) received its second consecutive “Excellent” designation from the state of Ohio, and was ranked second among Summit County’s 25 high schools for performance. The school, which is taught on the UA campus, enables students to earn high school degrees and college credits simultaneously. AECHS graduated its first class of students in May, and of the 59 students in this “Legacy Class,” 17 received associate degrees from UA.

Regional Innovation Institute (RII)

The institute is an emerging network of academic, industrial and community stakeholders that will enhance the region’s innovation ecosystem. RII will convene, facilitate and coordinate the region’s innovation and talent resources, and provide value-added services.

It brings together and leverages the strengths of the region’s multiple talent, innovation and entrepreneurial resources, and in many ways is a culmination of UA’s regional innovation strategy. The institute is intended to be the University’s next step in expanding its entrepreneurial platform and adding value through collaborative activities in innovation metrics and data, enhanced University-industry collaboration, linkage of regional entrepreneurial resources, and integrated social and economic networks.

“SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAN ONLY BE SUSTAINED BY EXPANDING A REGION’S COLLEGE-EDUCATED WORKFORCE, WHICH RETURNS A TALENT DIVIDEND FAR IN EXCESS OF THE SUMS INVESTED.”

Dr. W. Michael “Mike” Sherman
Senior Vice President, Provost and Chief Operating Officer
Open Innovation

In August 2011, the University and The Timken Company announced an unprecedented open innovation agreement to accelerate the company’s technology development. The organizations plan to combine their expertise in materials and surface engineering at newly established laboratories in the UA College of Engineering. Timken provided $5 million to launch the project, and will move $2 million in assets into the 6,000-square-foot Timken Engineered Surfaces Laboratory, located in a new campus engineering facility. Douglas H. Smith, Timken’s senior vice president of technology and quality, said the initiative will “further the development and commercialization of advanced materials, engineered surfaces and performance coatings for the world’s most demanding applications.” Dr. Gary Doll, Timken’s chief technologist, leads the lab as the newly established Timken Endowed Chair in Engineering Surfaces.

“The UA-Timken collaboration demonstrates what the Akron Model truly is,” said UA President Luis M. Proenza. “Universities must be engaged with the larger community and its regional economies to build a very synergistic and reciprocal relationship with each other.” An Akron Beacon Journal editorial about the project stated, “The collaboration presents a promising path for the company, the school and the region...the sound thinking goes: our work together will reap a larger reward.”

Innovation Alliance

Formed in 2010 by UA, the alliance brings together the University and two Northeast Ohio community colleges, Lorain County Community College (LCCC) and Stark State College, with the goal of enhancing educational efficacy, talent development, and entrepreneurial and business growth.

UA and its partners have launched several innovative projects to expand access to the general public, such as the Midpoint Campus Center in Brunswick developed with LCCC, and for-credit courses offered in Barberton in conjunction with Stark State College. But one of the most promising initiatives of the Innovation Alliance is a shared services program for information technology in development by UA and LCCC. The project is in the pilot project phase of combining the two business units into one, with an ultimate goal of creating an independent service center that would serve UA, LCCC and other institutions. In April 2011, representatives from seven states visited the UA campus to learn more about this shared services initiative.
THE HISTORY BEHIND THE AKRON MODEL
Akron’s History of Collaboration
By David Giffels

Perhaps it’s just a coincidence that 1870, the year the University was founded, is the same year Benjamin Franklin Goodrich came calling to Akron’s business leaders.

Perhaps it’s a coincidence that two of those leaders who met with him that November day at the Empire House hotel – Col. George Perkins and John Seiberling – were also freshly minted members of the first board of trustees for what was then known as Buchtel College.

But that’s where chance ended and deliberate collaboration began. Perkins, Seiberling and other members of the Akron Board of Trade recognized the value of working with Goodrich to move his struggling rubber company from Melrose, N.Y., to Akron. They networked to organize a group of local investors, who collectively offered enough capital, resources, advice and support to bring Goodrich here.

The rest is Akron history. B.F. Goodrich’s rubber company became the magnet that drew others to establish operations here – Goodyear, Firestone, General, Mohawk, Sun and dozens more, establishing Akron as the Rubber Capital of the World.

The meeting and its result also established the city as a unique capital of collaboration, a trademark that has continued through all the successes and challenges of the ensuing 141 years.

Other cities had a chance to land Goodrich. In fact, he approached Cleveland first. But finding little enthusiasm there, he turned to Akron, where the energy and foresight of private entrepreneurs opened the doors that led to an empire.

Through the 20th century and into the 21st, Akron has continued to prove a particular facility for bringing together individuals and institutions, large and small, of businesses, government, community and education. In all sorts of creative, even surprising ways, the city has made collaboration a defining trait.

An early example of that communal spirit occurred in 1899, after a fire destroyed Buchtel College. The Ohio Universalist Convention, which had built and operated the liberal arts college, found that it could not raise the necessary funds to rebuild it. Instead, the citizenry and businesses of Akron, who recognized the value of higher education to their community’s growth, provided much of the funding that enabled the college to reopen in new facilities in 1901. Just 12 years later, Buchtel College officially became the Municipal University of Akron.

By David Giffels
Meanwhile, the nascent rubber industry flourished into a thriving international force, with the nation’s major tire companies headquartered here. The city’s population had boomed, from 10,000 in 1870 to nearly 245,000 in 1940.

In addition to becoming an economic power, Akron had established itself as the world center of research and intellectual activity in the rubber industry. The University of Akron, at the beginning of the century, offered the world’s first courses in rubber chemistry. The program established by Dr. Charles M. Knight provided the foundation for a thriving research institution that is now a world leader in advanced materials and polymer research. As the industry matured, the University served as an epicenter of corporate and academic research and a conduit between ideas and commercial opportunities. While the University’s laboratories produced new discoveries to support the growing industry, its classrooms produced engineers, executives and researchers for the burgeoning corporations.

But in many ways Akron remained a small town. Executives from all the corporations often dined at separate tables at Portage Country Club, discussing business in whispers and code so as not to be overheard by the competition. Factory workers took fierce pride in their employers, such that neighbors often delineated themselves as being a “Firestone family” or a “Goodyear family.”

Not all of it was benign. The business competition was fierce, as each of the companies vied for market share and the prestige of the latest innovation. Lawsuits, patent challenges and antitrust confrontations came with the territory of the boomtown. These feuds were still boiling when the nation entered World War II, and the city’s collaborative spirit was put to its greatest test. As the war unfolded, supply routes for natural rubber were endangered, and the military desperately needed a substitute to keep its vehicles rolling, its rafts and airships floating. Germany already had a viable formula for synthetic rubber. Akron’s companies separately had been working on their own formulas, but the secretive nature of a close-quartered, competitive market made the notion of collaboration difficult at best.
The need was urgent. By 1942, the Japanese controlled nearly all the world’s natural rubber supply. A committee appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt determined, “Of all critical and strategic materials, rubber is the one which represents the greatest threat to the safety of our nation and the success of the Allied cause... If we fail to secure quickly a new large rubber supply, our war effort and our domestic economy will both collapse.”

Akron’s collaborative spirit would never be more vital.

The U.S. government had formed a committee to focus on developing synthetic rubber for the war effort. The panel included representatives from the rubber, chemical and petroleum industries, with significant representation from Akron. Goodrich research chemist Waldo Semon was selected to head the team of researchers. Semon proved so adept at understanding cooperation that he soon stepped aside from the leadership post because he recognized the friction among Akron’s proud, competing chemists. Bringing in an outside leader to the committee would allow the effort to proceed more smoothly.

He was right. With a researcher from the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh at the helm, the board found its way. Akron’s competing companies opened their laboratories to one another. (The first surprise: their closely guarded formulas were nearly identical to one another.)

At the University, Dr. G. Stafford Whitby continued to produce scientific contributions to the effort in his Rubber Research Laboratory while UA President Hezzleton Simmons played a behind-the-scenes administrative role in managing the nation’s Government Laboratories.

Together, the committee settled on a single formula that allowed the large-scale production of synthetic rubber to flow. Their cooperation was instrumental in bringing World War II to an end. In 1998, a plaque was added to the entrance of the Goodyear Polymer Center on campus, designating the site as a National Historical Chemical Landmark to commemorate the vital war effort in Akron.

The industry matured. The University rose higher in prominence as a worldwide leader in rubber and polymer research, and also as a center for activity, growth and change in the city.

The 1970s brought difficult years of industrial decline, and Akron’s ability to forge successful strategic partnerships once again was tested.

THROUGH THE 20TH CENTURY AND INTO THE 21ST, AKRON HAS CONTINUED TO PROVE A PARTICULAR FACILITY FOR BRINGING TOGETHER INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, OF BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION.
As factories closed and foreign corporations took control of every Akron tire company except Goodyear, the longstanding relationships between industry and the University provided the foundation for the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. The first dean of the college, and the man who guided it into its current prominence, Dr. Frank Kelley, came from one of those “Goodyear families.” His father, grandfather and many other relatives worked for the company. He began his own career at Goodyear before studying rubber chemistry at UA. And when he returned to lead the college, he had a long understanding of how Akron works together, an understanding that allowed him to build many significant research and fundraising relationships.

The University’s physical growth has reflected an organic partnership with the city and local companies and institutions. Adaptive reuse of the Polsky’s Department Store building, the old Goodwill and the Ace Mitchell buildings, Quaker Square and the Wonder Bread factory are further examples of the synergy between the institution and its physical landscape.

Akron has been able to survive and recover from the Rust Belt years in great part because of how effectively the city’s leaders and institutions are able to link forces, often in creative ways. A century ago, when Akron’s theme was rubber, the University offered the first college courses in rubber chemistry. Now, the University and its regional partners are exploring new opportunities in fields as diverse as bioscience, advanced materials and corrosion suppression/prevention.

All of these examples reflect an institution that understands and works with its community, and a community that offers support and ideas of its own.

A long tradition of synergy and collaboration connects them, offering vital lessons in how disparate elements within a region can work together for everyone’s mutual benefit.

David Giffels, assistant professor of English and Akron native, is a nationally prominent author and journalist, with numerous national awards and six Pulitzer Prize nominations. His book, “All the Way Home: Building a Family in a Falling-down House,” received widespread acclaim, including praise from the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Oprah’s O at Home magazine.

Images from The University of Akron, University Libraries, Archival Services.
A YEAR OF SUCCESSES

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ACROSS THE CAMPUS
EARNED ACCOLADES, SET RECORDS, RECEIVED AWARDS AND BEGAN A NEW DECADE BY CONTINUING THE MOMENTUM BUILT OVER THE PAST ONE.
Academic Success

School of Law Among Best in Ohio, and Best Value in Nation

The School of Law ranked 1st and 4th in the state based on results of the Ohio Bar Examinations for February 2011, and July 2011, respectively, as released by the Ohio Supreme Court. In February, Akron Law had a 100-percent pass rate among first-time takers of the exam, ranking it ahead of Ohio’s other eight law schools. Akron also ranked first among all takers of the exam, with a pass rate of 81 percent. Akron Law also ranked first among the nine Ohio law schools with the highest first-time taker pass rate for the July 2010 Ohio bar exam with a 94 percent pass rate.

UA’s School of Law was also named one of the top 60 Best Value law schools by The National Jurist magazine in 2011. The magazine’s ranking takes into account in-state tuition, debt and the percent of graduates employed nine months after graduation – in addition to bar passage. UA, along with other public law schools, dominated the list. The magazine noted that due to the fact that private school tuition has increased so much in the past few years, it was difficult for those institutions to offer a good value.

Other UA Accolades:

- The College of Business Administration’s graduate program has been recognized in The Princeton Review’s Best Business Schools for the past six years.
- UA is among the top 20 percent of U.S. universities conferring doctorate degrees in chemistry.

UA Named Fastest-growing Public Research University in Ohio, Midwest

The University of Akron had the fastest-growing enrollment of any public research university in Ohio and the Midwest from 2004-09, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education 2010-2011 Almanac. In the fall of 2010 UA welcomed its largest freshman class in its 140-year history – 4,796 – a 5.6 percent increase from fall 2009. Overall enrollment is up as well – 4.8 percent, when 29,251 students arrived for the fall semester.

Engineering College’s Growth Among Nation’s Highest

UA’s College of Engineering is the fastest-growing engineering program in Ohio and fourth in the nation, according to a review of the nation’s largest 150 schools of engineering using data collected by the American Society for Engineering Education. Undergraduate enrollment has increased 76 percent over the last seven years, to more than 2,400 students in the fall semester of 2011. In 2010, the college received in excess of $17 million in research funding, having more than quadrupled its research activity over the last four years.
University Success

College of Engineering Awaits New Facility
The University broke ground in May 2011 for a new, 39,000-square-foot research building that will house the National Center for Education and Research on Corrosion and Materials Performance. The center was launched in 2010 and offers the first baccalaureate program in corrosion engineering in the U.S.

The building, scheduled to open in winter 2011-12, will be home to the National Center for Education and Research in Corrosion and Materials Reliability. It will contain laboratories and faculty offices supporting the delivery of the University’s undergraduate program in corrosion engineering, part of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

The facility also will house the Timken Engineered Surfaces Laboratory (See “Open Innovation on p. 16), as well as other labs that will conduct sensors research funded by the Ohio Third Frontier initiative, through the Wright Center for Sensor Systems Engineering. The departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Mechanical Engineering will direct the sensors research.

UA President on Inside Business Power 100 List
Dr. Luis Proenza appeared once again in 2011 on Inside Business’ “Power 100” list of the most influential leaders in Northeast Ohio, coming in at No. 18. In its list, Inside Business noted Proenza’s participation on the national Council of Competitiveness and the University’s shared services arrangement with Lorain County Community College, which the magazine said “could become a model for regional cooperation in education.”

Center for Child Development Earns National Accreditation
The Center for Child Development (CCD) through The University of Akron’s College of Education, jointly sponsored with the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (HSHS), has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – the nation’s leading organization of early childhood professionals. The accreditation is valid for the next five years.

To earn NAEYC accreditation, the CCD went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC early childhood program standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria. The program received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors. The CCD received an excellent rating, meeting all standards and criteria.
The UA Research Foundation Partnership Wins i6 Award
In September 2010, the U.S. Department of Commerce identified and supported the nation’s best ideas for technology commercialization and entrepreneurship through the i6 Challenge. Working together, The University of Akron Research Foundation and Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron received an i6 Challenge award. Only six were awarded nationally. The foundation and the institute received $1 million and became eligible for additional awards from the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation.

The winning project, “Innovative Solutions for Invention Xceleration,” or “ISIX,” aims to increase innovation and minimize the time from idea to commercialization of new technologies by bringing together world-class scientists, physicians, engineers, researchers and entrepreneurs in the biomedical and polymer science industries of Northeast Ohio.

UA Researchers Inducted Into National Academy of Inventors
In February 2011, The University of Akron Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) announced the induction of 60 members at its first annual reception at the Goodyear Polymer Center. Inductees were honored for their efforts and contributions of inventive technology. All NAI members have at least one patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In fact, UA’s patent portfolio includes approximately 400 pending and issued U.S. patents and currently maintains the second largest patent portfolio in the University System of Ohio.

The NAI serves to honor and encourage inventors; enhance visibility of university technology and innovation; encourage intellectual property disclosure; educate and mentor innovative students; and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society.

Over the past decade, UA’s production in research licensing and commercialization has earned numerous awards, rankings and recognition from such organizations as The Milken Institute, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Ohio Board of Regents, and the University Economic Development Association.
UA Men’s Soccer: NCAA Champions At Last!
The 2010 men’s soccer team made it a December to remember by capturing UA’s first-ever team national championship with a 1-0 win over Louisville Dec. 12 in the 2010 NCAA College Cup in Santa Barbara, Calif.
Akron returned to the national championship game for the second consecutive year, vows to reverse the 2009 College Cup’s heartbreaking loss in a shootout. Akron broke a scoreless tie in the 79th minute with a goal by Scott Caldwell. Anthony Ampaipitakwong provided service from the left side off a corner kick. Caldwell received the ball and volleyed a shot that was deflected off a wall of defenders. But the sophomore collected the rebound and sent the ball into the upper right-hand corner of the net from 15 yards out for the score.
But that’s when real drama began. Louisville, playing in its first national title contest, threw everything it had at UA with a barrage of shots in the final 1:30 of the game. UA defender Chad Barson blocked a point-blank shot and Zips’ goalkeeper David Meves stood strong as the final seconds ticked away and the celebration began. The “underdog” Zips closed out their historic season with a 22-1-2 record, while tournament top-seed Louisville suffered its only loss of the year, finishing 20-1-3.

The men’s soccer team made history in January at the 2011 Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft as seven members of the national champion squad were selected. UA landed five of the first eight picks of the draft to set an MLS record for most first-round selections from a single school.
Moreover, with seven draftees on the day, Akron set another milestone for most selections by a team. UA head coach Caleb Porter and his staff have now produced 12 MLS draft picks in the last four seasons, including eight players taken in the top 10. Drafted in 2011 were: Darlington Nagbe, Perry Kitchen, Zarek Valentin, Kofi Sarkodie, Michael Nanchoff, Chris Korb and Anthony Ampaipitakwong.
It was announced in October 2011 that Porter had been named the head coach of the U.S. Under-23 Men’s National Team to compete for a spot in the 2012 Olympic Games in London. He also will continue his role as head coach of the Zips.
UA's MAC Champions

In 2010-2011, the Zips athletic program had one of its most successful seasons in school history, winning UA’s first NCAA national team title and claiming five Mid-American Conference championships, which tied a school record.

- The men’s soccer team dominated in 2010 by winning the national championship in December, concluding a storybook season that included a fourth-straight MAC title along the way.
- Adding another first to the list, the men’s track and field program swept the indoor and outdoor MAC championships, capping a dominant season for the squad.
- Winning its second conference title, the men’s basketball team made an exciting run through the MAC tournament to bring home another trophy and advance to the NCAA Tournament.
- In May, women’s tennis captured the final crown of Akron’s remarkable season by winning the first conference championship in program history after defeating top-seeded Miami (Ohio) in the finals of the MAC tournament.

Athletic Department Wins National Excellence in Management Cup

The University of Akron won another national championship this past year. This time the Department of Athletics took home first prize in the Excellence in Management (EM) Cup, presented by Texas A&M’s Laboratory for the Study of Intercollegiate Athletics. UA ranked No. 1 out of 120 Football Bowl Subdivision schools, including programs that compete in the ACC, Big 10, Big 12, Big East, Pac-10 (now the Pac-12) and SEC.

The purpose of the EM Cup is to raise awareness about NCAA athletics departments that are maximizing fiscal resources leading to championship victories. The Cup awards athletics departments that win the most conference and national championships while managing their expenses most efficiently.
UA Representatives are Awarded Fulbright Scholarships

Two University of Akron alumnae and one current student were named Fulbright U.S. Student Program award recipients for 2010-2011. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is an educational exchange program that provides opportunities for participants to conduct research geared toward finding solutions for shared global concerns. This was the first time in UA’s 141-year history to have three award winners in the same year. Receiving the prestigious awards were Laura Bertrani, Matt Zuzic and Jessica Custer. Laura, Matt and Jessica will spend one year conducting research abroad in Paraguay, Croatia and Peru, respectively.

Z-TV Earns an Emmy Award

The University of Akron’s student-run television station, Z-TV, won an Emmy award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS). Z-TV’s “Akron After Hours,” a sketch comedy show, earned the Emmy in the Lower Great Lakes chapter of NATAS’ competition for programs produced in 2010. This marks the third win for Z-TV since 2006. Z-TV has been nominated for Emmy awards 12 times since 2005. Alumni from the show and the UA School of Communication have gone on to work for “The Tonight Show” with Jay Leno, “The Late, Late Show” with Craig Ferguson, Tribeca Films, and NBC Universal in Los Angeles.

UA Students Study in China

University of Akron students Douglas Beltowski, Tibor Gal and Dawn Wenger received Confucius Institute scholarships from the Hanban/Confucius Institute headquarters in China. The students used their scholarships to study at Henan University in Kaifeng, Henan, China during the 2010-2011 school year. The Hanban/Confucius Institute headquarters established the Confucius Institute Scholarship Program to encourage outstanding students at Confucius Institutes worldwide to study Chinese or conduct research on Chinese language and culture in China.

Each year the Office of International Programs sends approximately 200 UA students abroad. Over the years, UA students have studied in almost 60 countries, ranging from Argentina and Korea – to Australia and Senegal.

FORGING LEADERSHIP
Excel On the Field – And in the Classroom

In addition to being competitive in their respective sports, UA student-athletes excel in the classroom as well. According to Student-Athlete Academic Services, the overall student-athlete GPA was an impressive 3.14 during the 2010-2011 school year.

Student Government President Meets The President

Steve Sedlock, president of The University of Akron’s Associated Student Government (ASG), was selected to be part of the White House Roundtable with Young Leaders at Cleveland State University in February. One of the members on the panel was President Barack Obama.

The young leaders’ conversation with the president focused on three major topics: funding startups and supporting new technology; the affordability of higher education; and helping graduates stay in the state through strategic job placement. The Young Leader roundtable was part of a larger forum attended by Obama on small business development.

President Barack Obama drops by the Youth Engagement Roundtable at the Winning the Future Forum on Small Business at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 22, 2011.

Official White House Photo by Pete Souza
Community Success

AECHS Receives High Marks
In 2010-11, the Akron Early College High School (AECHS) received its second consecutive “Excellent” designation from the State of Ohio, and was ranked second among Summit County’s 25 high schools for performance. The school, which is taught on the UA campus, enables students to earn high school degrees and college credits simultaneously. AECHS graduated its first class of students in May, and of the 59 students in this “Legacy Class,” 17 received associate degrees from UA.

Chinese Cultural Experience Center
UA’s Confucius Institute unveiled the new Chinese Cultural Experience Center on the lower level of Bierce Library in October 2010. Vice President Zhijun Liu, Henan University, joined UA administrators for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The interactive display is designed to enhance the understanding of Chinese culture, and complements the more than 3,000 other Confucius Institute learning and teaching tools made available in Bierce Library. University Libraries is partnering with the Confucius Institute in making these resources available to the campus and to the community.

Akron Is a Great Place …
… To Live In 2011, Forbes Magazine named Akron, home to UA, as one of the nation’s most affordable college towns. In fact, Ohio has four of the country’s top 15 most affordable college towns, with Akron leading the way. The city of Akron ranks fifth in the country in home affordability.
… To Work For the third consecutive year in 2011, UA received the prestigious NorthCoast 99 Award as one of the 99 best places to work in Northeast Ohio by the Employers Resource Council.
… To Support In fiscal year 2010-11, UA raised a record $46.7 million in private support from the community including a significant boost in funding for student scholarships – representing an overall increase of 14.3 percent from the previous year and 27 percent more than the five-year average of $36.6 million. The previous record was $43.9 million in FY 2008-09.
Scholarship dollars raised by UA’s Department of Public Affairs and Development in 2011 totaled more than $6.6 million, compared to $5.5 million in 2010. This represents a nearly 20 percent overall increase for student scholarships.
**UA by the NUMBERS**

Total Enrollment: 29,699**

Enrollment by Gender
- Male: 49%
- Female: 51%

Enrollment by Ethnicity
- Native American: 0.2%
- Asian: 1.8%
- African American: 13.7%
- Hispanic: 1.7%
- White: 74%
- Non Resident Alien: 3.7%
- Multiracial: 1.6%
- Unknown: 3.2%

**Past Fall Enrollments**

- Undergraduate: 25,190
- Graduate: 3,961
- Professional: 548

**Total Fall 2011 Enrollment: 29,699**

- Full-time Students: 21,413
- Part-time Students: 8,286

**Fall 2011 data**
Degrees Awarded by Type*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associates</td>
<td>558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juris Doctor</td>
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<td>Law Master</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,880</strong></td>
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Degrees Awarded by College*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>891</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative and Professional Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sciences and Human Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polymer Science and Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wayne College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,880</strong></td>
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Academic Programs Offered*

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<th>Degree Options</th>
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<tr>
<td>Certificates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>30 67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baccalaureate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>17 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juris Doctor</td>
<td>1 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>290 674</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2010-2011 data
“WE ARE A NATION OF RISK-TAKERS, INNOVATORS AND INVENTORS. THERE ARE, INDEED, MANY CHALLENGES IN THIS KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN, GLOBAL ECONOMY, BUT SO, TOO, ARE THERE MANY OPPORTUNITIES.”

Luis M. Proenza