



## Zane State College Receives \$200,000 for Workforce Development



*Willett-Pratt Training Center in Cambridge*

Congressman Zack Space, along with Senators Brown and Voinovich, have sponsored funding for a project in the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill that will provide \$200,000 to Zane State College's Workforce Development division to upgrade the skills of employees in southeast Ohio. The bill, which passed the House and Senate earlier this month, was signed by President Obama on Wednesday.

The Omnibus Appropriations bill comes on the heels of Space's RENEW Ohio-18 initiative, which provides an economic blueprint for the revitalization of our region. These funds will build on economic strategies for the region by enabling Zane State College to increase the workforce assessment and training opportunities for businesses and industries in the manufacturing sector.

"We are providing quality training through our workforce development training to help local businesses stay competitive in this tight economy," said Dr. Paul Brown, President of Zane State College. "These funds will further enable us to develop the curriculum and purchase equipment to help meet employers' critical needs."

Zane State College's Workforce Development division is housed in the College's Willett-Pratt Training Center in Cambridge. In the last three years, the Training Center has doubled its training and other services to help employers build a pipeline of qualified workers and upgrade the technical skills of current workers. Last year alone, the Training Center collaborated with nearly 150 businesses and public agencies to train more than 3,000 employees.

Cambridge resident Mike Warfield, who lost his job at a small manufacturing firm last year, is one worker who is already benefiting from the training. With a fiancé and two children counting on his income, Warfield decided his best opportunity to re-enter the workforce would be to diversify his skills with training at the Willett-Pratt Training Center. "When I lost my job, I saw it as an opportunity to get

more training so I can change my career,” said Warfield. I’m glad Zane State College received this funding because there are a lot of people who need training to get a new job.”

Norm Blanchard, Economic Development Director for the Cambridge-Guernsey County Community Improvement Corporation, discussed the importance of Zane State College’s training during a recent employer round-table discussion at the Willett-Pratt Training Center. “With Zane State College, we can offer any training a company needs right here in our area,” said Blanchard. “It’s a real bragging point I make to companies from out of the state looking at our area.”