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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Significant Regional Deficit in Skilled I.T. Talent**  
***New Labor Market Data Indicates Gap Between Supply and Demand in Specific Occupations***  
**Partners Poised to Respond at TechHire Akron/Summit County Meeting**

**WHEN: Thursday, October 5, 2017**  
**9am-10:30am**

**WHERE: The Software Guild**  
**Akron Global Business Accelerator (BOUNCE)**  
**526 S Main St #609**  
**Akron, OH 44311**

A new report entitled “Understanding the IT Skills Gap in Northeast Ohio” will be released at a meeting of companies, educators, public sector leaders and community-based organizations who are responding with action to close the I.T. skills gap. TechHire Akron/Summit County, coordinated by ConxusNEO, will release the study and facilitate a conversation that will lead to the identification of goals, strategies and specific actions.

ConxusNEO and RITE Board managed the I.T. research project to measure the gap the skills gap. An important aspect of the overall skills gap is the specific gap between the supply of graduates from Northeast Ohio colleges and universities and the number of in-demand, entry-level I.T. occupations in which recent college graduates qualified. By utilizing labor market data and insight gained from companies, ConxusNEO and RITE Board are providing strategic guidance to the tech talent ecosystem to take collective action and address the demand for tech talent in Northeast Ohio. A primary goal of the project is to identify opportunities for greater alignment of IT postsecondary education and training with the technical skills needed by companies in Northeast Ohio. Achieving this alignment is a process that requires shared learning and specific action which is active and underway within the ConxusNEO and RITE networks.

TechHire Akron/Summit County grew out of a White House initiative launched in 2015 as a public-private initiative to train more people for well-paying tech jobs through non-traditional accelerated training programs and help companies shift their hiring practices to be more inclusive of non-traditional training. At the prompting of the late County Executive Russ Pry, Akron/Summit County applied for this designation in August 2015 and received recognition as a TechHire community in November 2015. Based on this recent skills-gap research, TechHire Akron/Summit County has expanded its scope to include a broader list of priorities.

**About ConxusNEO:** ConxusNEO is a non-profit organization that partners with companies to identify the skills needed to transform the way people are prepared for great careers. The organization focuses on three areas: (1) *Identify* where there is the greatest unmet demand for a skilled workforce within targeted industry sectors, (2) *Mobilize* key stakeholders to respond to that demand; and (3) *Track* results to determine whether the resulting interventions are making a difference.  
[conxusneo.jobs](http://conxusneo.jobs)

**About RITE Board:** RITE is an award-winning industry-led regional collaborative focused on building a highly skilled, industry responsible IT workforce in Northeast Ohio. As a platform for collective action, RITE takes a systems approach to its mission to attract, prepare, and place IT talent through dynamic programs and cross-sector collaboration. [getitthere.net](http://getitthere.net)