



RICHLAND AREA  
**CHAMBER**  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Strong Business • Strong Community

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION**

The Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development announced that Ellen Heinz, President & CEO, has submitted her resignation and will be leaving the organization in late March 2026.

“We’re extremely thankful for the way Ellen has led and cared for this organization,” said Jon Pierce, Board Chair. “She has done meaningful work here with strong results. From helping advance regional redevelopment efforts to strengthening key partnerships and supporting the growth of our team, Ellen has helped move the Chamber, Richland Community Development Group, and Mansfield Richland Area Educational Foundation forward during a season of real momentum.”

Ellen’s decision is driven by family considerations, and the Board expressed its respect and support for that choice. While the organization is sad to see her leave, it is grateful for her leadership over the past two years and for the thoughtful way she is approaching the transition to ensure continued stability and success.

“The Chamber is in a strong place right now,” Pierce added. “We have an exceptional team, an engaged board, and continued momentum across our programs, partnerships, and economic development efforts.”

“It is with a heavy heart that I am leaving, but I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this organization,” said Heinz. “I am thankful for the support of our team, members, board leadership, community partners, and elected officials. It has truly been an honor to be part of Team Richland County.”

The Executive Committee, working closely with the full Board, is actively guiding a leadership transition focused on stability and continuity, while supporting both staff and members.

Day-to-day operations will continue without interruption, and the Chamber remains fully engaged in serving its members and advancing economic development throughout Richland County. Additional updates will be shared as next steps are finalized.

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development is the leading business advocacy and economic development organization in North Central Ohio. With over 1,100 members, the Chamber supports business growth and building a business-friendly climate in the Richland County area.

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