



SERVICES MENU

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)



The Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI), located in the Office of Research at Youngstown State University (YSU), was established in 1967 as the Center for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS) to act as a research and public service arm of YSU.

During the fall of 2015, CURS transitioned to REDI, and towards the role as “Navigator” in research-based, implementation-focused economic development support services for the Mahoning Valley. REDI’s change in focus and mission will reflect organizational focus on a plan-implement structure known as design-build, a model often seen in the architecture and construction industries. This will enable REDI to serve as the “Navigator” in economic development implementation and support services throughout the Mahoning Valley. Economic development partners throughout the region have affirmed YSU REDI’s “Navigator” role.

REDI coordinates and leads monthly Economic Action Group (EAG) meetings in support of economic development in the city of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. The EAG convenes and engages representatives from a broad cross-section of industries and organizations throughout the Mahoning Valley. REDI provides leadership on federal, state, and private grant-writing initiatives, and also provides valuable GIS mapping and data services to a number of local and regional government, nonprofit, and social service agencies throughout the Mahoning Valley and beyond.

Examples of our recent successful initiatives include:

- Provide a broad spectrum of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and data analysis
 - Comprehensive analysis of property and neighborhood conditions, including vacant properties
 - Production of GIS maps in both printed and digital display formats
 - Tabulation and analysis of socioeconomic and property-based data
 - Geocoding (address-matching), mapping, and analysis of address-level data
 - Network analysis, such as mapping and analysis of service areas
 - Production and maintenance of interactive web maps, including the Regional Property Information System (RPIS)
 - Printing and display mounting services (GIS documents)
- Community strategic planning
 - Structured and documented community workshops
 - Peer communities review and comparison
 - Street asset inventory
- Industrial and residential real estate analysis
 - Identification (by parcel) of opportunity sites, Brownfield parcels, tax information
- Traffic corridor studies
- Community policy and legislation research and analysis
 - Knowledge building services which contribute to more effective governing and greater public confidence in the government decision-making process.
- Community branding and marketing campaigns
- Grass roots community improvement initiatives, coordination and progress tracking

Our experienced staff can assist in the development of a comprehensive understanding of your community’s policies, land use, environment, and economy enabling local leaders to make well-informed decisions toward improving the prosperity, livability, health, and welfare of your community.

PLANNING SERVICES

Opportunity Sites Inventory - Identifying and designating economic development sites and/or sectors

Design Charrette - three day intense design feedback based on community inventory and interaction

Community Marketing and Branding - municipal marketing and community branding strategies

Corridor Inventory and Action Plan - inventory analysis, outreach, strategic community based planning

GIS Mapping - Provide a broad spectrum of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and data analysis

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Draft Legislation - policy services, research analysis and draft legislations recommendations in support of community progress

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - current conditions inventory, CIP scheduling and resource leveraging

Stormwater Management/Riparian Setbacks

Town-Center/Downtown Planning - inventory and analysis of services, businesses, and strategies for retention & attraction

Streetscape Planning - inventory, analysis, and recommendations for street amenities (i.e. lighting, signage, benches, landscaping, trash cans)

Design Review and Technical Assistance - storefront/facade signage, conceptual design specifications, development, and presentations for permits

Economic Development Digdown - Establish goals, policies, objectives, provisions and guidelines for economic growth and vitality, including analysis of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the local economy and workforce; identification of targeted economic development, correlated to the present and projected employment needs and leveraging of assets and resident skills

Wayfinding Signage Planning - analysis of vehicular and pedestrian traveler tendencies and directional signage for efficient navigation from place to place

Multi-modal Transportation Planning

Pedestrian Connections - connectivity and accessibility planning

Peer City Analysis

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PLANNING SERVICES (continued from page 2)

Project Management Services

Group Facilitation

Facilitation of EAG by REDI / extra

Grant Writing

Grant writing services to implement identified community goals and projects

Grant Management Services

Upon successful grant award, REDI can provide assessment, evaluation, fiscal agent, and reporting and management services as required

Site Analysis

Asset inventory and analysis

Proximity assessment

Mapping

Customized mapping for planning strategy and analysis

Development Site Overview

Site development potential

All parcel data, tax information acreage, transfer history, site condition, square footage

Review and align with redevelopment plans and goals (communicate with local partners)

Community meeting to prioritize redevelopment goals for the area/property

Conceptual renderings (working in conjunction with design and architectural partner)

Drone footage

Create specifications and site workplan for redevelopment

Marketing Assistance

Market analysis // marketing assistance

Economic Development Financing Services

Develop a budget and identify funding resources at local, state, and federal level to help project succeed

Grant writing assistance - Financed modeling, economic impact models for economic development

Documentation, filing, on-site photography, organization and editing

Document Design and Review

STRATEGIC & ACTION PLANNING

Basic structure of a Comprehensive Plan

COMMUNITY PLANNING CORE COMPONENTS	SCOPE OF WORK
<p>1 - Demographic Data Trends and Projections Including quality of life indicators such as: housing, education, economic activity, infrastructure inventory & prioritization, and recreation inventory and connectivity</p>	<p>An example of trends and projections of an Economic Activity Inventory would be information collected on existing businesses, products manufactured within the greater community, the number and kinds of manufacturing firms and commercial services, and trends in local employment</p>
<p>2 - Public Engagement and Surveys (Single or Multiple Sessions)</p>	<p>Public feedback session/presentation/SWOT of data analysis and trends. Manage community surveys using either Turning Technologies hand held devices or Survey Monkey online and YSU REDI website to solicit feedback</p>
<p>3 - REDI Review of Community Feedback</p>	<p>Assess all community input and organize appropriately</p>
<p>4 - Community Workshops (3-5 meetings) and Strategy Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use and development patterns Housing Economic activity Education Recreation Infrastructure Transportation (existing and proposed inter-modal) Parks, open space and environmental Policy analysis, recommendations and governance 	<p>Presentation that coalesces community feedback from first meeting and surveys with staff recommendations and potential next steps. Maps, charts and/or descriptive material presenting basic information on each of these comprehensive planning components</p>
<p>5 - Writing of Report</p>	<p>Goals, objectives and funding sources matrix</p>
<p>6a - Final Community Draft Presentation</p>	<p>Present draft of final plan</p>
<p>6b - Final Revisions</p>	<p>Make final revisions on public feedback</p>
<p>7a - Final Community Vision Presentation</p>	<p>Present final plan to community forum</p>
<p>7b - Form local Economic Action Group</p>	<p>Community advisory council selected for ongoing implementation meetings</p>

The team at YSU REDI offers a unique combination of seasoned researchers and planning professionals to bring specialized knowledge and understanding of the municipal processes necessary to undertake for success, along with the fresh perspective of younger staff and talented personnel to provide insight to the most current applicable trends happening in community planning and design. This allows a conservative approach to creative ideas. From publications on economic development, to comprehensive city and regional economic development strategies, to location specific redevelopment planning and design, our team has the knowledge and experience to guide your community through the planning process, resulting in a well thought out, publicly influenced comprehensive plan to steer future development to fit the community's collective vision for itself.

A key service of YSU REDI is Plan Implementation, including community team building, grant finding, and proposal development support. We serve our communities by developing strategies and implementing them.

Mike Hripko

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Mike Hripko has previously served as Deputy Director of Workforce and Educational Outreach at America Makes. In this role, he was responsible for developing and coalescing a national workforce and education strategy in additive manufacturing. Previously, he served as Director for Research and Technology-Based Economic Development for the Youngstown State University College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, where he provided support for several industry, government, and academic collaborations resulting in new and expanded programs, technology-based research, and regional economic development. Hripko also served for 31 years at Delphi Packard Electric Systems, where he managed a number of planning, marketing, engineering, and program management teams. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Dayton, an M.S. in Industrial Engineering Operations Research from the University of Iowa, and an M.B.A. from Kent State University.

Dr. Frank Akpadock

YSU Senior Research Economist/Regional Scientist/Economic Development

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Dr. Frank Akpadock's educational background includes a BA degree in Geology and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from California State University in Fresno, California; a Master's degree in Urban Studies with major in Regional Science from Portland State University, Portland Oregon; and a Ph. D. from Texas A&M University with emphasis in Regional Science. He joined YSU's Center for Urban Studies in 1991. As Senior Research Economist and Regional Scientist, Frank is the Principal Investigator for much of the Department's technical research. Dr. Akpadock's expertise includes Economic Development Planning, Industrial Analysis and Modeling, and Population Forecasting.

Dr. Akpadock has published more than 40 technical research papers associated with industrial, urban and strategic regional economic development planning. His research on *Legacy Central City Best Practices* was instrumental in the development of the nationally acclaimed *Youngstown 2010 Plan*. Recently Dr. Akpadock's technical research works involving "Impact of Pension and Health Care reductions on Salaried Retirees of Delphi Electric Packard Electric Company" was presented to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services. Other publications include articles in national peer reviewed journals and a book entitled: *City in Transition: Strategies for Economic Regeneration of Inner-City Communities—The Case of Youngstown, (2012)*.

John Bralich

YSU Senior GIS and Data Services Manager

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John is a Senior GIS Manager and Data Services Manager at YSU REDI, where he has worked for the past 15 years. He received his B.A. in Geography and M.A. in American Studies at YSU. In addition to managing projects and providing technical assistance to the University and a myriad of local government and social service entities, John has provided GIS mapping and demographic analysis for numerous major projects, including the widely acclaimed *City of Youngstown 2010 land use plan*. His insights and expertise were critical to the development of the city of Youngstown's rental registration program, neighborhood revitalization and watershed action plans, and update of code enforcement and demolitions process. He has also supported mass transportation projects throughout Ohio and Michigan. John developed and maintains the Regional Property Information System, an online interactive map containing comprehensive real property data for Mahoning County.

Dominic C. Marchionda, EDFP

YSU University-City Planner

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City-University Planner, is certified through the National Development Council as an Economic Development Finance Professional. In this role, Dominic is responsible for the University's consistent achievement of its mission and objectives related to community and economic impact. In this capacity, he is also responsible for connecting local governments, municipal systems, non-profit organizations, and private companies with implementation plans and funding opportunities to increase overall capacity. Dominic is also tasked with establishing cross-discipline campus collaboration, and leveraging university research and service-learning opportunities in order to bolster the economic competitiveness of the Mahoning Valley. He oversees the YSU students for revitalization, YSUscape and facilitates the Economic Action Group. Dominic is a member of the Center for Community Progress, National Resource Network, Preservation Rightsizing Network, and APA Ohio. Dominic also serves on the McDonough Museum of Art Advisory Council and is a board member to the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation and Youngstown CityScape.

Rachel McCartney

YSU Research Associate III, Economic Development Analyst

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Rachel holds an M.A. in Urban Planning, Design and Development and B.S.S in Environmental Studies and Sociology. Most recently she was the Principal Investigator for the City of Youngstown/YSU Economic Development Strategic Plan, and previously was the PI for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Mahoning/Trumbull/Columbiana Counties from 2010-2014 at Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, where she was the Community Development Program Manager. She has experience in Environmental and Sustainability planning, earned a LEED Green Associate certification in 2010, and has participated in planning efforts ranging from brownfield redevelopment to watershed and wetland protection projects, and also has grant review and/or management experience with Ohio's Job Ready Sites, the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, and regional EDA projects.

Andrew Shepard-Smith

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Andrew's experiences in research administration are broad, ranging from proposal development to Federal regulatory compliance. He is a frequent guest speaker on the topic of grant fraud and waste, as well as TRiO grants, and Title II. He is the author of *Education Department General Administrative Regulations: A Condensed Guide for Program Managers and Project Directors*, providing awardees of U.S. Department of Education grants with an easy-to-read handbook of grant regulations which include topics such as grant management, human subject research, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). His latest publication, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards: A Handbook for Institutions of Higher Education, Small Businesses, and Non-Profit Organizations*, assists grantees with understanding the new regulations to ensure compliance. Andrew has significant experience in grant finding, grant writing, and grant administration management.

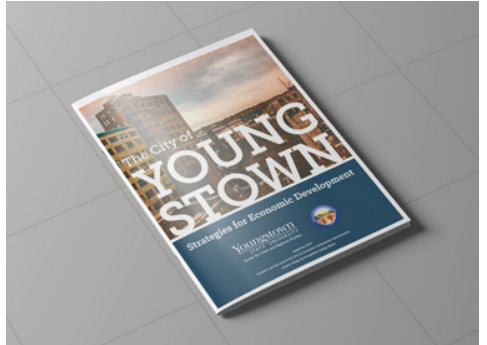
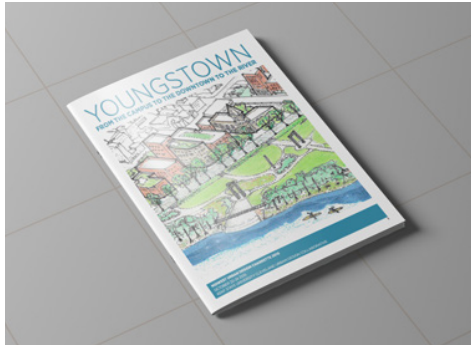
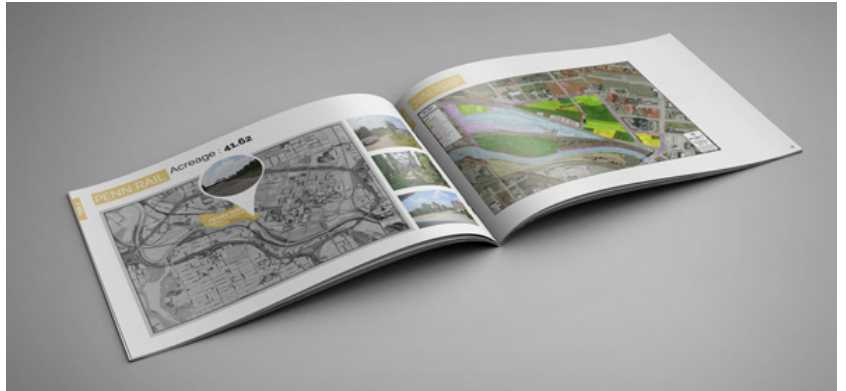
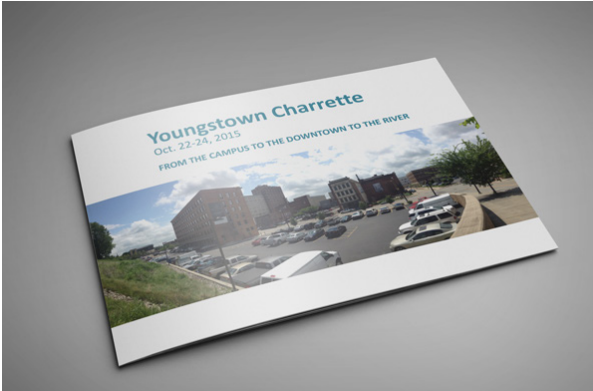
Jacqueline Taylor

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Jacqueline received a Bachelor's degree in Economics and a minor in Mathematics from Youngstown State University. Her career spans over twenty-five years, and her experience includes the study of the production and distribution of resources, goods, and services; researching trends, evaluating economic and markets conditions; and labor and census data as impacting relevant socioeconomic topics. Jacqueline has expertise in devising methods, accessing tools, and developing procedures for obtaining hard-to-find data; developing and conducting surveys, including the understanding of various sampling techniques and interpretation of data; data analysis and testing of effectiveness of current economic policies, and authoring technical reports on economic trends and forecasts. She has also successfully written grants and business plans for regional non-profit organizations and community groups. Jacqueline serves on the *Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership Board of Directors* and on the *Education Panel of the United Way of Youngstown*.

REDI STUDENT ASSISTANTS

YSU REDI actively works to develop the next generation of community leaders through active and strongly supported student assistantship, internship and service learning programs. REDI has established strong relationships with the YSU Colleges and Departments to identify students who are interested in community development and organizing, and employs both undergraduate and graduate students, who assist REDI's professional staff on various community projects.



Youngstown State University Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI)

www.yzu.edu/REDI

Youngstown Economic Action Group

www.eagyo.org

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