



## **Past General Assembly Themes**

***As of May 31, 2023***

- 2000: Maumee River Crossing Project  
Gene Figg – President Figg Engineering Group
- 2001: *Partnerships in TMACOG*  
Gordon Proctor –Director, Ohio Department of Transportation
- 2002: *The Power of Partnerships*  
Hope Taft – First Lady of Ohio
- 2004: *Taming the New Wilderness: Carving our Identity in a World Market*  
James Fallows – Author and National Correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly*
- 2005: *Building A Regional Trust*  
Bruce Baumhower – President, UAW Local 12 and  
Kenneth McCarter – V.P, Union Relations & Security Operations,  
DaimlerChrysler/Chrysler Group
- 2006: *Location, Location, Location. Right Place, Right Time*
- 2007: *How to Attract Developers that Share your Community Vision*  
Larry Dillin – President, Dillin Corporation
- 2008: *Catching the Green Wave – Going Green. How to Find it, Fund it, and Facilitate it*  
Dr. Robert Helmer – President, Lourdes College
- 2009: *Education Means Business: Building Today's Local and Global Economy*  
Dr. David Nixon – President, Monroe County Community College and  
Jeff Durham – Division Vice President, Whirlpool Corp., Clyde Division
- 2010: *Building Our Own Bootstraps: How to Grow the Regional Economy*  
Steve Weathers – President and CEO, Regional Growth Partnership and  
D. Gregory Main – President and CEO, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- 2011: *Economic Development Strategies: Plan it, Build it, and Sustain it*  
John Fernandez – U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development
- 2012: *Ohio programs that provide incentives to local governments to share services, promote efficiencies, merge, and collaborate*  
Kevin Futryk – Partner, Government Advantage Group
- 2013: *Local Commitment Global Reach: How Companies Choose to Invest in Their Regions*  
Kurt Darrow – President/CEO, La-Z-Boy, Inc.
- 2014: *Agri-business: From local fields to global yields – the economic impact of agriculture*  
Daniel T. Anderson – President, Retail Group, The Andersons, Inc.
- 2015: *Educating for Innovation: How Colleges and Universities Create Entrepreneurs*  
Kirk D. Kern – Director, Dallas-Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, BGSU  
&  
Gene Poor, Ph.D. – Hamilton Endowed Professor of Entrepreneurship, BGSU
- 2016: *The 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Ohio National Guard on the Airforce's new public-public, public-private or P4 Initiative*

Lt. Col. Gregg Biddle – Deputy Commander, Mission Support Group and  
Lt. Col. John Cupp – Civil Engineer Squadron Commander

2017: *How do local elected officials, law enforcement, business owners, and citizens help in addressing networked threats to our region and nation?*

Matthew J. Grupe – Patrol Agent in Charge, U.S. Customs & Border Protection  
Sandusky Bay U.S. Border Patrol operate in the Lake Erie region? Patrol Station

2018: *Lake Erie Algae, Nutrient Loading, and Current Research Efforts*

Dr. Christopher J. Winslow – Director, Ohio Sea Grant College Program and Ohio State's Stone Laboratory

2019: *Travel and tourism and how these industry is impacted by algal blooms in the Lake Erie region.*

Melinda Huntley – Executive Director, Ohio Travel Association

2020: H2Ohio: What state actions mean for Lake Erie

Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Dorothy Pelanda

2021: Gordie Howe International Bridge and It's Impact on the Region

Joe Comartin, Consul General of Canada in Detroit, United States

2022: Keynote Panel Presentation: How to meet the diverse workforce needs of our region.

Dr. Russell Mills, Senior Director, Department of Regional Development, BGSU

Mary DeWitt, Workforce Administrator, Ohio Means Jobs, Wood County

Dr. Kojo Quartey, President, Monroe County Community College

Edward Ewers, Superintendent, Penta Career Center

2023: The impact of electric vehicles on transportation logistics and the economy Preeti Choudhary, executive director of the Ohio Department of Transportation's DriveOhio program, and Jacob Schwemlein, director of Clean Fuels Ohio's Drive Electric Ohio program