

Cover Story

2011 Power 100

Central Ohio leaders who make things happen

By Mark Scott

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The wave of change in Ohio's political leadership had quite an effect on this year's Power 100. Ted Strickland and Lee Fisher have been replaced by the newly elected Gov. John Kasich and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor. Kasich shoots up the list to debut at No. 10, while Taylor comes in at No. 60. The duo takes office with a swell of hope that it will be able to get Ohio's economy moving again.



Two of Columbus' civic leaders are also moving up this year. Mayor Michael Coleman moves from No. 3 to No. 2 as his campaign begins for a fourth term as leader of Ohio's largest city while Gene Harris, superintendent of Columbus City Schools, jumps 24 spots to No. 50. Harris has played a key role in helping the district provide a better education to students.

Elaine Roberts makes another big leap with her efforts for leading Port Columbus International Airport, and she is joined on the way up by Chris Taylor at Mission Essential Personnel LLC and Joel Pizzuti with The Pizzuti Cos.

There are a total of 14 newcomers on this year's list, meaning 14 other powerful figures were left out. There is no change at the top, of course, as Les Wexner keeps his spot. Limited Brands had a great year in 2010 and expectations are high for 2011.

So with that, we present the 2011 Power 100 list of the most influential business, civic and political leaders as ranked by our editors

Numbers in parentheses are 2010 rankings.

1. Les Wexner chairman and CEO, Limited Brands Inc. (1)

When only 420 people in the whole world are worth more than you financially, life can't be too bad. According to Forbes, that is precisely where Wexner sits, with a net worth just shy of \$3 billion. Limited Brands Inc. was coming off a challenging year as sales dipped for the third year in a row to \$8.6 billion in 2009. But the company outperformed expectations in 2010, a sign that things could be turning around. Wexner remains chairman of the Ohio State University Board of Trustees and The Columbus Partnership. And as he told us in December, he's always on the lookout for the next great idea. So stay tuned.

2. Michael Coleman mayor, Columbus (3)

Despite the tidal wave of Republicans that washed over Columbus in November, Coleman, a Democrat, is still standing. Coleman plans to seek a fourth term this fall as mayor of Ohio's largest city, and Republicans admit that he

will be tough to beat. If he wins and completes his term, he would become the longest continuously serving mayor in Columbus history. One thing Coleman can proudly point to in his campaign is his ability to save money. His proposed budget for 2011 would increase the city's rainy day fund balance to \$33 million by the end of the next fiscal year. In these fiscally challenging times in Ohio, that's an accomplishment.

3. John F. Wolfe
publisher, The Columbus Dispatch; chairman and CEO, The Dispatch Printing Co. (2)

Any fear that may exist about the future of print journalism wasn't enough to stop The Columbus Dispatch from being named the best newspaper in Ohio for the second year in a row by the Associated Press Society of Ohio. The paper also won 35 awards in the annual contest, including 14 first-place awards — the most among Ohio's largest newspapers.

4. E. Gordon Gee
president, The Ohio State University (4)

Gee made national headlines last fall when he suggested that the Boise States of the world don't deserve a shot at eternal glory in college football because they don't play a strong enough schedule. While the remarks drew much scorn in the sporting world, leading Gee to back off his position, the story reminded people about the power of Gee's voice. Earlier in the year, Gee raised the idea of making changes in how tenure is awarded to college professors. Gee suggested that too much emphasis is placed on research and publishing prowess instead of teaching skill. We likely haven't heard the last of this conversation.

5. Ron Pizzuti
chairman and CEO, The Pizzuti Cos. (5)

The times are tough in the real estate and construction industry, but The Pizzuti Cos. just keeps chugging along. The Columbus-based developer began work on a 700,000-square-foot warehouse in Marion for Whirlpool as well as a new office complex for the appliance manufacturer in Michigan. Pizzuti is also building a new center for the contract packager Accel Inc. in New Albany. And to cap it off, the developer was named Columbus' best commercial real estate developer. Not a bad year.

6. Don M. Casto III
partner, Don M. Casto Organization (7)

Casto is another real estate company that is bucking the economic trend and making things happen in the construction business. The only catch is that most of these projects are either outside of Central Ohio or outside the state entirely. Here's hoping 2011 finds more dirt flying in Columbus.

7. Steve Rasmussen
CEO, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. (10)

The company announced plans to move 1,400 suburban office jobs to vacant space in its downtown headquarters, a move that could help create even more jobs in Central Ohio. On the financial front, while 2010 revenue was off the pace from 2009 through three quarters, total net operating income was up substantially. It rose from \$702 million in the first nine months of 2009 to \$975 million for same period in 2010.

8. Tanny Crane
president and CEO, Crane Group (9)

Crane was named in August to the board of directors for Huntington Bancshares Inc. Her past experience as board chair for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland was cited as a key factor in the appointment. She comes aboard just as Huntington seems to be turning things around. As for Crane Group, the company remains a solid presence in Columbus.

9. Alex Shumate
managing partner, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP, Columbus office (6)

Shumate's effort to help Gov. Ted Strickland craft a new school funding plan for Ohio won't mean much now that Strickland is gone. But that doesn't change the fact that Shumate has been and still is one of Columbus' most respected lawyers. He continues to serve as global managing partner at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP. He is also a fellow of the Ohio State Bar Association and a life member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference.

10. John Kasich
governor, Ohio (new)

Kasich steps into his new job leading the state of Ohio with a great deal of support but, perhaps, even more pressure. There is little patience on either side of the aisle these days, so Kasich will not get much of a honeymoon at the Statehouse. He's talked about privatizing job creation, eliminating the Ohio Department of Development and phasing out the state income tax. But, first, he must find a way to balance the state's budget by closing a hole that could approach \$8 billion. So we say, good luck, Governor. You're going to need it.

11. Steve Steinour
chairman and CEO, Huntington Bancshares Inc. (11)

Steinour was confident he could turn around the fortunes of Huntington, and through the first three quarters of 2010, he appears to be making strides toward doing just that. Steinour cited the growth in auto loans as a particular bright spot. Both Moody's and S&P raised their ratings outlooks for Huntington during the second half of 2010. So the future appears to be looking up for Huntington.

12. David Blom
president and CEO, OhioHealth (12)

The health care system completed its transition in the fall to operate four urgent care centers in Dublin, Grove City, Lewis Center and New Albany. OhioHealth was also named a Top 10 health system for the second year in a row by Thomson Reuters. Finally, Blom who serves as secretary of the Central Ohio Hospital Council, was honored by TechColumbus as its Executive of the Year for companies with more than 50 employees.

13. Jay Schottenstein
chairman, Schottenstein Management, American Eagle Outfitters, Retail Ventures Inc., SB Capital Group, DSW (8)

It was an up-and-down year for Schottenstein. Sales at both American Eagle and DSW were up over 2009 through the third quarter of 2010. Schottenstein also bought 500,000 shares in American Eagle for \$6.79 million in September. On the downside, however, news leaked that Schottenstein has been dealing with a family legal squabble that could have ramifications on his family's vast holdings.

14. Larry James
partner, Crabbe, Brown & James LLP (13)

James continues to be near the heart of what's happening in Columbus. He served as chair of the Columbus City Council Charter Review Committee and the Ohio State Highway Patrol Superintendent Advisor Panel in 2010. He also continues his civic involvement as president of the board of trustees for the King Arts Complex, president of the Lincoln Theater Association and co-founder of the African-American Leadership Academy. In addition, James was named general counsel to the USA Track & Field board of directors.

15. John Beavers
partner, Bricker & Eckler LLP (14)

Beavers established and directs the Business First Advisory Board Exchange that finds, trains and places experienced advisers on advisory boards of business organizations. He was named Columbus Corporate Lawyer of the Year in the 2010 edition of "Best Lawyers." He continues to be a respected voice in Columbus when the conversation turns to governance.

16. Donna James
managing director, Lardon & Associates LLC (15)

James was appointed by President Obama to chair the National Women's Business Council responsible for providing recommendations for growing women-owned small businesses. She also serves on numerous boards and is the founder and chair of the Center for Healthy Families, a nonprofit focused on transforming the lives of pregnant and parenting teens and their children.

17. Curtis A. Loveland
partner, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP (16)

Loveland was once again ranked as one of the top lawyers in his area of practice for his work with corporate clients, mergers and acquisitions. Loveland also serves as board secretary for footwear retailer Rocky Brands Inc., where sales through three quarters of 2010 were up over the same period for 2009.

18. Dr. Steve Allen
CEO, Nationwide Children's Hospital (18)

June 18, 2010, will go down in the books as a pretty good day for Allen. It was a day in which he welcomed both Gov. Ted Strickland and President Obama to his nationally renowned hospital. Obama's visit was to discuss a road expansion project that Nationwide Children's is spearheading for a neighboring pediatric hospital scheduled to open in 2012. Strickland arrived later to sign an important bill to help the effort to end childhood obesity.

19. Melissa Ingwersen
district president, Central Ohio, KeyBank (19)

It was announced in late December that Ingwersen would be leaving JPMorgan Chase, where she has been in charge of Central Ohio bank operations, to take on a very similar role with Cleveland-based KeyBank. Ingwersen began her new position in Columbus in January.

20. Ty Marsh
chairman, Columbus Bicentennial 2012 Organizing Committee (17)

Marsh resigned his post last summer as president and CEO of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. He said he had accomplished the goals he had established when he took the position and felt it was time to move on to new challenges. He didn't stay out of the public eye for long, however, as Marsh is now a key player in the plans to celebrate Columbus' 200th birthday.

21. Bea Wolper
co-founder and partner, Emens & Wolper Law Firm Co. LPA (21)

Wolper's law firm is up and running and focused on providing legal services for family-owned businesses and closely held firms. Wolper is a frequent author and lecturer on estate planning, wealth transfer, family-owned business issues and acquisitions. She also teaches courses on entrepreneurship and succession planning at Ohio Dominican University and for the Ohio State Bar Association.

22. Michael Fiorile
president and COO, The Dispatch Printing Co. (23)

Fiorile has moved on from being chairman of the NBC Affiliate Board to chairman emeritus. Fiorile played a key role in the movement of NBC affiliates to make a change with "The Jay Leno Show" when it's 10 p.m. slot began to erode ratings for their late local news broadcasts. Fiorile was hailed for the strong leadership he demonstrated in this situation and overall.

23. Matthew G. Kallner
attorney, Law Offices of Matthew G. Kallner (22)

Kallner's quiet hand continues to be as strong as ever, particularly with Republicans back in control of the state government. In the area of economic development, Kallner is involved with the efforts of CODA Automotive and the relocation of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. headquarters.

24. Dr. Steven G. Gabbe
CEO, OSU Medical Center (new)

Gabbe continues to steer a \$1 billion medical center expansion. The largest construction project in OSU history has accounted for 10,000 jobs, with 6,000 permanent jobs at the medical center and 4,000 other positions that can indirectly be attributed to the project.

Gabbe has also agreed, at the request of OSU President Gordon Gee, to extend his leadership as senior vice president and chief executive officer of the OSU Medical Center beyond his initial contract.

25. Curtis Moody
president and CEO, Moody-Nolan Inc. (29)

It's been another good year for Curtis Moody. In March, he was the speaker for Ohio State's winter commencement. He spoke in the Jerome Schottenstein Center, one of several buildings on the OSU campus that he personally designed as principal architect. Less than a month later, Moody watched proudly as the new \$118 million student union building opened on the campus, giving OSU's 55,000 students a place to enjoy, grow and thrive.

26. Peter Geier
CEO, OSU Health System; COO, OSU Medical Center (20)

Geier pointed to increased demand for patient services as a key reason for OSU's foray into the retail health clinic business. Two FastCare centers opened at Giant Eagle grocery stores in the Columbus area, geared to treat ailments and conditions that do not require a trip to the emergency room.

27. Russell Gertmenian
managing partner, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP (27)

Gertmenian's law firm was one of a dozen Columbus-area firms to take part in a scholarship drive for The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He continues as a board member with the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation and is also part of the Ohio Business Roundtable.

28. Rob Portman
U.S. senator, Ohio (new)

Portman is a familiar name to Ohioans and to those who follow the national political scene. While he is one Republican replacing another, taking over for retired Senator George Voinovich, Portman still rode the wave of voter frustration with the Democrats. He successfully hammered Lee Fisher on his failure to create jobs for Ohioans, so we'll see how Portman fares in helping people get back to work. Like Kasich, results will be expected quickly.

29. Linda Heasley
chairman and CEO, Limited Stores (30)

The company has relocated to new headquarters in New Albany and is riding a wave of fresh energy. Heasley is confident she can build on the fact that the company turned a profit for the first time in 16 years and continue the women's clothing retailer's success.

30. Jack Kessler
owner, John W. Kessler Co.; chairman, The New Albany Co. (24)

Kessler was one of a number of Columbus business leaders to co-host a pre-election fundraiser last October for new U.S. House Speaker John Boehner. Otherwise, Kessler kept a rather low profile in 2010.

31. Doug Kridler
president and CEO, The Columbus Foundation (31)

Kridler leads the ninth-largest community foundation in the United States. The group has committed \$500,000 to the Great Needs Challenge, which helps those in need with health care, housing, food and work assistance. Kridler also serves on the board and executive committee of Compete Columbus, a leadership group working to develop a regional economic development strategy.

**32. John P. McConnell
chairman and CEO, Worthington Industries Inc.; majority owner, Columbus Blue Jackets (35)**

Worthington began to turn things around in 2010, recovering from what the company described as its worst year ever. While net sales fell to \$1.9 billion from \$2.6 billion in 2009, the company realized net earnings of \$51.5 million, compared to a loss of \$103.7 million in 2009. As for the Blue Jackets, McConnell posted a video on the team's website expressing cautious optimism about the team's future in Columbus and thanking fans for their continued support. But he also called on other community leaders to step up and work with him to find a solution to the team's arena issues.

**33. Jeffrey Wadsworth
president and CEO, Battelle Memorial Institute (39)**

Wadsworth was named to the board of trustees at The Ohio State University as well as to President Obama's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The council supports the Obama administration's innovation strategy by helping to develop policies to foster entrepreneurship and help get new ideas from the lab to the marketplace.

**34. Roger Geiger
Ohio executive director, National Federation of Independent Business (34)**

Geiger worked hard to help John Kasich unseat Ted Strickland and become Ohio's new governor. One of his key talking points was a need for lower taxes in Ohio to help smaller businesses. He also encouraged business groups to let their voices be heard when it comes to endorsing candidates for public office.

**35. John B. Gerlach Jr.
chairman, president and CEO, Lancaster Colony Corp. (32)**

Lancaster's net sales for fiscal 2010, which closed at the end of June, once again topped \$1 billion and grew 0.5 percent over fiscal 2009. Gerlach continues to focus on staying flexible to accommodate future growth potential. He also remains active with the Dean's Advisory Council for The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business.

**36. Boyce Safford III
director, Columbus Department of Development (36)**

Safford took part in an economic development round table in April with other city leaders to discuss strategies for job retention, creation and attraction. He also called on additional funding to be allocated to social service agencies to help them meet an increased demand for their services.

**37. Gene Smith
director of athletics, The Ohio State University (38)**

Smith is chairman of the NCAA Men's Basketball Committee for the 2010-11 academic year, a term which began last September. So you can look for Smith next month on CBS as he reviews this year's selection process for March Madness. Smith also received a pay raise at OSU that makes him one of the highest paid athletic directors in the country, according to the Associated Press. Smith manages a \$120 million budget with 36 intercollegiate sports, the most of any athletic department in the nation.

**38. Larry Hilsheimer
president and COO, Nationwide Direct & Customer Solutions (41)**

Hilsheimer is focused on Internet strategy and operations, affinity, strategic alliances, and Nationwide's call-center-based sales units. In addition, he oversees Nationwide Bank, Nationwide Better Health, Veterinary Pet Insurance and Nationwide's Customer Services organization. He also sits on the Dean's Advisory Council at the OSU Fisher College of Business and is a board member of The Ohio State University Alumni Association.

39. Jack Ruscilli
chairman, Ruscilli Construction Co. Inc. (40)

Ruscilli continues to serve as chairman and work with the fourth generation at Ruscilli's to lead the construction firm. The company took on a \$24.4 million construction project in late 2009 to gut Cunz Hall at The Ohio State University and recycled much of the old material from the building to show the benefit of doing so.

40. Lewis Smoot Sr.
chairman and CEO, Smoot Construction Co. (33)

Smoot has stepped down from his role as president at Smoot Construction Co. and passed the reins to his nephew, Mark Cain, who has led the company's office in Washington, D.C., for several years.

41. Michael Gonsiorowski
Central Ohio regional president, PNC Financial Services Group Inc. (42)

The PNC Foundation committed \$250,000 in grants to BalletMet Columbus and the Center of Science and Industry for programming that will help prepare area preschoolers to succeed in school. The program incorporates creative movement and science into learning activities designed to engage their minds and bodies. This represents the first major grant effort by PNC in the Columbus area. Gonsiorowski has also been serving as chair of the board of trustees for United Way of Central Ohio. As for PNC, the company reported a slight dip in revenue but a larger gain in net income for the first three quarters of 2010.

42. David Milenthal
CEO, The Milenthal Group (43)

Milenthal and his company were big supporters of both Gov. Ted Strickland and Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, who were ousted in the November election. Otherwise, Milenthal kept a rather low profile in 2010.

43. Kurt Tunnell
managing partner, Bricker & Eckler LLP (45)

Tunnell was elected managing partner at the firm in February 2010. He spoke last spring to the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council about the potential impact of the 2010 election on chemical manufacturers. Tunnell remains a respected voice in the Columbus region and is being looked to for guidance at Bricker & Eckler.

44. Abigail Wexner
founder and chair, Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence (50)

Wexner continues to serve as the chair of Nationwide Children's Hospital and the Center for Child and Family Advocacy and is the founding chair of KidsOhio.org. The latter group has been busy in 2010 advocating for students in Ohio's schools and raising awareness in less-publicized issues, such as the growing poverty in Ohio's suburban school districts.

45. Michael Morris
chairman, president and CEO, AEP (51)

AEP reached \$13.5 billion in 2009 revenue and was on pace to top that figure after the third quarter of 2010. Morris is leading efforts to develop an advanced interstate high-voltage transmission system that is both reliable and efficient. Morris is chairman of the Columbus Downtown Development Corp. and Capitol South.

46. Curt Steiner
senior vice president for government affairs, The Ohio State University (46)

Steiner continues to strengthen OSU's ties with government and civic leaders. His efforts have led to formal recognition of OSU by Ohio's Board of Regents as the state's national research university. OSU is using this position to push an aggressive agenda at the congressional level.

47. Nancy Kramer
founder and CEO, Resource Interactive (47)

Kramer leads the largest independent, woman-owned agency in the United States. Her company has been chosen by Advertising Age as one of five agencies on its way to the top.

48. Chester R. Jourdan Jr.
executive director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (48)

Jourdan was elected to the American Highway Users Alliance Board in October. The advocacy organization promotes safe, uncongested highways and enhanced freedom of mobility. His term will run through 2013.

49. Dwight Smith
founder and CEO, Sophisticated Systems (49)

Smith took part in a panel discussion at The Ohio State University in late November to discuss the state of the national economy. The discussion, which included Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, focused on the importance of finding a way to create new jobs. Smith said his IT company is taking advantage of every opportunity it can to drive new business.

50. Gene T. Harris
superintendent, Columbus City Schools (74)

Harris was honored in February with the Community Leadership Award presented by the Key Club at an event hosted by Les and Abigail Wexner. Harris was also rewarded for her efforts to move the school district from academic emergency to continuous improvement with a new four-year contract that also included a pay raise. Harris had deferred previous votes by the board to give her a salary bump.

51. Elaine Roberts
president and CEO, Port Columbus International Airport (60)

Roberts is flying high after a five-year agreement was reached that offers an unprecedented sharing of 75 percent of net airport revenues with no cap to airlines that operate out of Port Columbus. She cited her team's discipline in managing costs and increased passenger activity for the ability to share revenue and expand services.

52. Bob Weiler Sr.
chairman, The Robert Weiler Co. (52)

Weiler serves on the board for the Ohio Capital Corp. for Housing, which seeks to provide affordable housing in Ohio. He also continues to offer perspective as the Leader-In-Residence at Franklin University's Leadership Center.

53. Rich Langdale
founder and managing partner, NCT Ventures; interim CEO, DMedia LLC (53)

Langdale is a serial entrepreneur who has founded or co-founded more than a dozen companies. DMedia is his latest business venture, a media planning and buying platform that covers alternative, traditional and digital out-of-home media. Langdale didn't create this company, but he was named interim CEO in July to assist in raising capital for the business's growth.

54. Jordan A. Miller Jr.
president and CEO, Fifth Third Bank, Central Ohio (54)

Miller lent his services to another Central Ohio organization when he was named to the James Cancer Hospital Board that oversees the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute. He is on numerous other civic boards, including the Columbus Partnership, United Way of Central Ohio and the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges.

55. Jane Grote Abell
chair, Donatos Pizzeria LLC (55)

Abell continues to provide strategic counsel for the business in her new role. The company announced in July it had sold the majority share of its Cincinnati and Indianapolis markets to Titan Restaurant Group LLC. The result will be a transition from company-owned restaurants to franchise-owned units, plus the addition of 10 new restaurants in those markets.

56. Craig Marshall
managing partner, Ernst & Young LLP, Columbus office (56)

Marshall serves as secretary/treasurer for the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission. This board oversees capital improvement funds for planning, construction, renovation and expansion projects at Ohio's theaters, museums, historical sites and publicly owned professional sports venues.

57. Michael Petrecca
managing partner, Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, Columbus office (57)

Petrecca continues to serve on the boards of the Ohio Society of CPAs, the Greater Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau, also known as Experience Columbus, and TechColumbus.

58. David Meuse
principal, Stonehenge Financial Holdings, Stonehenge Partners Inc. (58)

Meuse is responsible for providing counsel as it relates to matters of investment origination, portfolio asset management and disposition of Stonehenge investments. He continues to serve on several boards, including those at State Auto Financial Corp. and Kenyon College.

59. Robert M. Eversole
principal, Stonehenge Partners Inc. (59)

Eversole serves as a board member of Advanced Drainage Systems, as well as Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation, the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Dean's Advisory Council for The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business and the Catholic Foundation.

60. Mary Taylor
lieutenant governor, Ohio (new)

Taylor became the first CPA to serve as Ohio's state auditor. Now, along with Gov. John Kasich, she is part of a team that is faced with great pressure to turn around Ohio's economy and create new jobs. She was the only Republican elected to a statewide, nonjudicial office in 2006 when she took over as auditor. She clearly knows a lot about which cities and school districts have their act together fiscally after auditing them over the past four years. Now we'll see what she can do to help get the whole state turned around.

61. Michelle Abreu
co-founder, chair and president, Oxford Consulting Group Inc. (61)

Abreu continues to help Oxford Consulting Group grow and expand its presence in Columbus. She is also a board member of Amethyst Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides long-term addiction and mental health treatment, integrated with affordable housing, to women and families.

62. Tami Longaberger
chair and CEO, The Longaberger Co. (62)

The basket-maker has expanded its online sales options but still relies heavily on its independent home consultants, who number in tens of thousands across the United States. The company is also on Facebook and continues to hold events across the country for basket enthusiasts.

63. Bill Ingram
CEO, White Castle Systems Inc. (64)

More than 1,350 entries were submitted in 2010 as candidates for induction into the restaurant chain's Cravers Hall of Fame, the most ever since the program began in 2001. That long list was whittled down to 13 inductees in November. Clearly there's still plenty of love for these tasty little sliders.

64. Cheryl Krueger
founder and CEO, KRUEGER+CO. Consulting Inc. (65)

Krueger received accolades from Gov. Kasich during his gubernatorial campaign as both leaders support significant changes to the Ohio Department of Development as a means to stimulate the economy in Ohio.

65. J. Richard Emens
partner, Emens & Wolper Law Firm; chairman and executive director, Conway Family Business Center (66)

Emens has been busy working with his team at Conway Family Business Center to put together programs that help family businesses succeed. More than 115 such businesses have been honored by the not-for-profit organization over the past 11 years.

66. Brian Ellis
president and COO, Nationwide Realty Investors Ltd. (67)

Ellis has been hard at work moving forward on Grandview Yard, a project that is expected to eventually contain 1.5 to 2 million square feet of commercial and retail space and create 5,000 new jobs for the region. Ellis says one of the keys to the success of the project will be the ability of the cities of Columbus and Grandview Heights to work together.

67. Denny Griffith
president, Columbus College of Art & Design (68)

The college opened its 132nd school year with 1,385 students, an 8 percent increase over what had been projected. Griffith is also serving on Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman's 2012 Commission, focusing on the image and marketing aspects of the group's efforts.

68. Joe A. Alutto
executive vice president and provost, The Ohio State University (69)

Alutto spoke early in the year about the consolidation of the arts and science colleges and the move from quarters to semesters in 2012 and the opportunity that will exist to reinvent the educational experience at OSU. He also talked about the One Ohio State Framework, an effort to integrate fiscal, program and physical planning at the school.

69. Ted Ford
president and CEO, TechColumbus (70)

Ford expressed hope for continued growth for the 315 Research & Technology Corridor, a 10,000-acre span of property that continues to evolve as a research park. As a technology incubator in Central Ohio, the organization has invested more than \$11 million in technology startups since 2005.

**70. Sandra W. Harbrecht
president and CEO, Paul Werth Associates (73)**

Harbrecht was one of our inductees into the Central Ohio Business Hall of Fame in 2010. She continues to work hard as the chair of Experience Columbus. Her public relations and marketing company, Paul Werth Associates, gained some valuable social media expertise when it purchased Huber & Co. in March.

**71. David Harrison
president, Columbus State Community College (new)**

Harrison took over as president in July, then welcomed a record enrollment of 30,955 students when autumn classes convened in September. That's up 25.8 percent over autumn enrollment for 2008. The college board also approved a \$15.2 million project to renovate and add more than 17,000 square feet to the campus's Union Hall.

**72. Robert Schottenstein
chairman, president and CEO, M/I Homes Inc. (71)**

The company lost \$15.2 million through the first three quarters of 2010, which was better than the \$69.1 million that was lost for the same period in 2009. Schottenstein said the builder will proceed cautiously and continue to hope that employment and housing begin to stabilize.

**73. Chris Taylor
CEO, Mission Essential Personnel LLC (94)**

Revenue at this professional services firm has grown fast, going from \$43 million in 2007 to \$375 million in 2009. Business remained strong into 2010 as the company inked a \$475 million contract to assist U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan with data collection and analysis. The company also headlined the 2010 International Peace Operations Association Annual Summit in Washington, D.C.

**74. Michael Glimcher
chairman and CEO, Glimcher Realty Trust (72)**

While overall revenue and earnings continued to struggle in 2010, average store sales and occupancy in the company's mall properties provided some hope by inching forward in the third quarter. Glimcher announced plans in late August to buy Hawaii's second-largest shopping mall through a joint venture.

**75. Frank Kass
chairman, Continental Real Estate Cos. (76)**

Kass spoke out in August about the lack of adequate parking in downtown Columbus and the impediment it creates for growth in the city. He suggested public/private partnerships could be the answer to erasing the reluctance of some businesses to relocate downtown.

**76. Janet Jackson
president and CEO, United Way of Central Ohio Inc. (77)**

The agency has set 10-year goals that lay out specific benchmarks to be achieved in the areas of education, income, health and home safety. As an example, Jackson wants to reduce by 20 percent the number of households in Franklin County that don't earn enough income to meet basic needs. The goals will not be easy to achieve as fundraising for 2009-10 was down 16 percent from the prior year. Officials are also concerned that donors are directing their contributions to programs outside of the United Way system.

77. Cameron Mitchell
founder and president, Cameron Mitchell Restaurants LLC (79)

Mitchell's company is planning to open an eighth Ocean Prime restaurant in Denver in early 2011. Ocean Prime has won several awards across the country, including Best Piano Bar in Tampa, Best Bar in Orlando and Best Dining Service in Columbus. Mitchell himself is serving as chair of the board of trustees for the Culinary Institute of America.

78. Joel Pizzuti
president and COO, The Pizzuti Cos. (99)

The developer was keeping busy as the year wound down. Construction has begun on a 700,000-square-foot warehouse in Marion for Whirlpool Corp., as well as an office complex in the appliance manufacturer's hometown of Benton Harbor, Mich. Closer to home, Pizzuti has been hired to build a 417,000-square-foot center at the New Albany Business Park for contract packager Accel Inc.

79. Neil Mortine
president and CEO, Fahlgren Mortine (84)

Mortine led the agency's first acquisition in six years, buying the PR firm Edward Howard. He also spearheaded the purchase of GRIP Technology to bolster his firm's digital capabilities. Mortine encourages his team to use their skills for "the greater good" and the firm itself has ongoing pro bono relationships with several organizations, including the Franklin Park Conservatory and the Columbus Symphony.

80. Guy Worley
president and CEO, Columbus Downtown Development Corp. and Capital South Community Urban Redevelopment Corp. (80)

Work is continuing on Columbus Commons. The old mall was dismantled beginning in late 2009 and continuing into 2010. A park is scheduled to open in the spring and work is ongoing to bring tenants to the 1.2 million square feet of space.

81. Douglas Morgan
partner, Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP (78)

Morgan was honored with a Community Service Award from the Columbus Bar Association for his contribution of time and service to Central Ohio. He is also involved with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, where he chairs the Green Council, and the Nationwide Children's Hospital Foundation.

82. Sheri Tackett
founder and president, Delta Energy LLC (82)

The company broke ground over the summer on its new headquarters in Dublin. The building is expected to be completed in March. A time capsule was left that will be unearthed in 2017 in honor of the company's 20th anniversary. Among the items in the capsule: Silly Bandz, drawings by the children of employees, a gasoline receipt and natural gas price charts.

83. Robert Trafford
managing partner, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP (75)

His law firm was once again named one of the best in the nation by Chambers USA. He is also a member of the Ohio Business Roundtable, a director with the executive committee of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and an honorary trustee with the Columbus Council on World Affairs.

84. David Bianconi
founder and CEO, Progressive Medical Inc. (new)

Bianconi was inducted into the Central Ohio Business Hall of Fame this year. Bianconi has helped his company consistently grow and adapt since he launched it as a provider of electromedical equipment in 1986. Bianconi serves on the boards of TechColumbus and Kids Chance Ohio.

85. Robert C. White
co-founder and chairman, The Daimler Group Inc. (87)

A great deal of hard work paid off in January with the opening of the JamesCare Comprehensive Breast Health Center on the old Gowdy Field landfill site. An open house is scheduled for April at the four-floor, 114,000-square-foot center. Daimler worked hard to get EPA-mandated remediation completed to get this project, which includes a new regional headquarters for Time Warner and an eye and ear center for OSU.

86. James Davidson
president and partner, Schottenstein Zox & Dunn (86)

Davidson is coordinator of the employment litigation practice area, focusing on commercial and employment litigation. His firm received numerous accolades in 2010, including being named a top health law firm in Ohio for the sixth year in a row.

87. George Barrett
chairman and CEO, Cardinal Health Inc. (90)

As CEO for most of fiscal 2010, Barrett watched his company register \$98.5 billion in revenue, up from \$96 billion in fiscal 2009. Barrett is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award of Excellence in Global Business from New York University Stern School of Business and a recipient of an Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

88. Barbara Kunz
president, Health and Life Sciences Global Business, Battelle Memorial Institute (new)

Kunz is replacing Jeff Wadsworth as chairman of the board at The Ohio State University's Medical Center. She is also a trustee of OSU's James Cancer Hospital, the Nationwide Children's Hospital Research Institute Board and is the chair of the technology commercialization subcommittee. Kunz is the chairwoman of the board for BioOhio and chairs that group's finance and audit subcommittee. BioOhio works to help companies advance in the biosciences industry.

89. Dave Sceva
president, Central Ohio, U.S. Bank (93)

Sceva presented a check in March for \$1.05 million to the new Ohio Union. A total of \$500,000 will go to the new Union and the balance will benefit more than 900 student organizations at OSU. The Union, a focal point for student life, activities and organizations, is recognizing the support by naming its theater in honor of U.S. Bank. The theater hosts movie showings and a lecture series and will now be known as the U.S. Bank Conference Theater.

90. Alex Fischer
president and CEO, Columbus Partnership (100)

Fischer's organization is a collection of top executives from Central Ohio's largest companies. It has set a goal of raising \$30 million over the next five years to help spur economic development in Ohio.

91. John McEwan
managing partner, Deloitte LLP's Central Ohio practice (91)

McEwan's team moved into a new building in 2010 that Deloitte calls an "office of the future." Designers focused on creating a space that would be sustainable and foster a collaborative environment that includes all of the necessary technology and features employees need to succeed.

92. Deborah Pryce
senior public policy adviser, SZD Whiteboard (new)

SZD Whiteboard is a consulting enterprise with roots in Schottenstein Zox & Dunn. Pryce brings both leadership and legislative experience to the table, having served as House Conference Chair, the highest-ranking woman in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives.

93. Adam Heeter
CEO, Oxford Consulting Group Inc. (new)

Heeter graduated from Leadership Columbus, an intensive 10-month program meant to develop informed and committed leaders in the Columbus area. He manages all Oxford business units and functional disciplines, including sales and client delivery, and has played a central role in Oxford's dramatic growth.

94. Tom Krouse
CEO, Donatos Pizza (new)

Krouse took over as CEO in October. Before this, he headed up the development of Donatos' new brand concept, franchise growth strategy and started the Jane's Dough Foods business unit. Now, he is primarily concentrating on growing the Donatos brand through franchising as the pizza chain currently holds development rights for an additional 250 franchise stores.

95. Sue Zazon
president and CEO, FirstMerit Bank, Columbus region (96)

Zazon and FirstMerit Bank were recognized for their contributions to the Madison County Hospital Foundation. On the financial front, the bank reported third quarter net income of \$29 million, down from the previous quarter but up from the \$22.8 million registered in the third quarter of 2009.

96. Debra Penzone
president, Charles Penzone Family of Salons (97)

Penzone continues to be a visible presence in the Columbus region trying to help and inspire people to succeed. She is on the board of Dress for Success Columbus, an organization that helps give women the skills they need to achieve in today's business world.

97. Philip R. Smith II
office managing partner, KPMG (new)

Smith is a big believer in giving back to the community. He donates his time to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio and mentors Central Ohio youth weekly through the Project Mentor program. He has been an integral member of KPMG Columbus's United Way campaign, which has raised more than \$125,000 each of the past two years.

98. Martin Inglis
executive vice president, CFO, Battelle Memorial Institute (new)

Inglis made lovers of classical music throughout Columbus very happy through his efforts to help the Columbus Symphony Orchestra erase a projected \$1.5 million deficit. Cost-cutting, corporate support and taxpayer dollars all helped the cash-strapped musical entity end its 2009-10 season with a surplus of about \$200,000. Inglis' own company, Battelle, stepped up with \$900,000 of support and Inglis was named chairman of the symphony's board.

99. Thomas M. Zaino
managing member, Columbus, McDonald Hopkins LLC (new)

Zaino is not only well known in the business community in Columbus, but he is also a nationally recognized expert on multistate tax issues. He heads the law firm's Columbus office, is chair of the firm's multistate tax practice and is on

the firm's board of directors. He is also a sought-after tax expert in Ohio for companies and business owners facing tax audits or needing state tax policy changes.

100. Jim Tressel
football coach, The Ohio State University (new)

You're not a leader if you don't have people to follow you, right? Well, Tressel has more than 100,000 people following him every Saturday in the fall. They wear vests and cheer on his team during the game and then they solemnly sing "Carmen Ohio" with his boys after the game is over. Most of all, of course, they adore him for going 9-1 against that school up north. But it's about more than football with Tressel. He's active throughout the Columbus community with numerous charitable causes, and he's a big reason why OSU's athletic department is so successful and generates so much revenue. So he belongs on our list.