2017
PROGRESS
REPORT
Now more than ever, your voice is needed.

Plexus is committed to advancing economic equality, standing up for diverse communities and helping create welcoming workplaces. Adding your voice unites our business community in this work.

**BE A MEMBER:**
Joining Plexus is the best way to strengthen your organization to increase our influence to represent the LGBTQ business community in Northeast Ohio.

**ATTEND PLEXUS EVENTS:**
Build meaningful business relationships to keep our community connected and prosperous.

**VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME:**
Share your skills and talents through Plexus to enhance the community experience and energize the Plexus mission.

**CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS:**
Tell local, state and federal officials that you want to live and work in communities that celebrate diversity, protect all their citizens and provide equitable opportunities. Vote in every election.

**STAY INFORMED:**
Sign up for the Plexus newsletter. Follow Plexus on social media to amplify your voice and broaden our reach so others join us.

**PLEXUS IS PROUD** to be part of Ohio Business Competes (OBC), a nonpartisan coalition that supports fully-inclusive nondiscrimination policies at the state level. OBC, led by Equality Ohio, has over 300 organizations and businesses lending their power and brand to this effort to pass protections in housing, employment and public accommodations. Treating LGBTQ people fairly allows our state to attract the best talent and grow Ohio’s economy.

Sign on at OhioBusinessCompetes.org
Plexus is a community of people dedicated to economic development, professional advancement, workplace diversity and inclusion, and business growth.

**Members:**
- 47% Small Businesses
- 44% Nonprofit/Government
- 9% Professionals

**IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS:**
- 316% Growth in new Plexus members
- 37% Increase in Plexus event attendance
- 10 Plexus Membership Ambassadors
- 15 Corporate sponsors receive 100% on HRC Corporate Equality Index
- 22% Increase in social media following
- 1,000 LGBT-Certified businesses in the United States
- 40 Plexus members signed on to Ohio Business Competes
- 60 Affiliate Chambers of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce across the US
- 1.3 Million employees represented by ERG Council member companies worldwide

**100% THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF PLEXUS**
PLEXUS MEMBERS WITH LGBT CERTIFICATION IN 2017

360HR
Branches and Roots
Call Management Resources
Cory Electronics
Direct Elite Staffing
Energetic Awakenings
Felty and Lembright, LPA
FIT Technologies
Full Color Printings

CERTIFIED LGBT BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (LGBT-BE):
A business that is 51% owned, operated, and managed by LGBT individuals and certified by NGLCC. Contact president@ThinkPlexus.org for more info.

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY:
A program that encourages contracting with businesses that are owned by individuals belonging to groups that have been historically disadvantaged in the competitive procurement marketplace.

PLEXUS ERG COUNCIL
Plexus convenes leaders from Northeast Ohio corporations with existing and emerging LGBTQA ERG programs to share best practices, explore relevant topics and improve ERG effectiveness. Contact info@ThinkPlexus.org for more information.

American Greetings
Cleveland Clinic
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Eaton
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
GE Lighting
Hyland Software
Giant Eagle
Goodyear
KeyBank
Lubrizol
Marsh & McLennan
MetroHealth
Morgan Stanley
PNC
Progressive Insurance
Rockwell Automation
Signet Jewelers
Starbucks
TEKsystems
Thompson Hine
Turner Construction
United Way
University Hospitals
Louis Stokes VA Hospital
Wells Fargo
Westfield Insurance

EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUPS:
ERGs are employee-led affinity groups organized to foster diverse, inclusive workplaces aligned with a company’s values, goals and practices. ERGs mobilize for advocacy or strategic purposes in areas like professional development, market development, employee engagement and supplier diversity.
David Ream, co-founder of Plexus, passed away unexpectedly in December 2017. A tireless advocate for the LGBTQ community and the arts, Dave was a fixture at Plexus events over the years. He was an LGBT-certified business owner in the publishing industry, and was a dedicated community and civic leader. Dave’s wit, tenacity, and genius made an impact in so many people’s lives.

The David K. Ream Memorial Fund of the Plexus Education Foundation will support continuing education and business certification outreach—the efforts that Dave saw as critical work for the chamber at its founding and over the last decade. To honor Dave’s legacy and contribute to the memorial fund, go to ThinkPlexus.org.
PLEXUS CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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