

Great Lakes Brewing Co.



■ Patrick and Daniel Conway, Co-owners
 ■ Bill Boor, CEO (Not pictured)
 ■ www.greatlakesbrewing.com

InterChez



■ Sharlene Ramos Chesnes
 ■ President and CEO
 ■ www.interchez.com

Lake Business Products



■ Terri Cain
 ■ President and CEO
 ■ www.lakebusinessproducts.com

When Patrick and Daniel Conway opened their fledgling operation in Cleveland's then-moribund Ohio City neighborhood in September 1988, the odds were stacked against them. But they persisted and surrounded themselves with a staff of passionate, knowledgeable people from the start, and committed themselves to bringing a sophisticated, diverse selection of craft beer to their home state.

For 29 years, Great Lakes Brewing Co. has grown from a small-batch brewpub in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood to the 21st-largest U.S. craft brewery in the country, and a top 30 overall U.S. brewery, distributing to 13 states and Washington, D.C.

A pioneer in the American craft brewing movement, from the beginning the company has prided itself on offering a diverse portfolio of only the freshest, preservative-free beer.

Great Lakes Brewing, led by the Conways as well as CEO Bill Boor, has always been committed to more than just beer. The brewpub has long supported local farmers and artisans, offering visitors high-quality, responsibly sourced menu options. It was the first in Cleveland to adopt a smoke-free policy and has always placed the community first, supporting local businesses and nonprofits through patronage and charitable giving.

When Great Lakes opened its doors in 1988, signs of Cleveland's once-booming brewing industry had almost disappeared completely. By bringing brewing back to Cleveland, the blighted Ohio City neighborhood is now the third largest employment center in Cleveland. ●

InterChez is a family-owned and operated small business with strong roots in Northeast Ohio. It all began in 2002 with Sharlene and Mark Chesnes. Sharlene's love of language and Mark's logistics background inspired the creation of InterChez, a company designed to speak the language of logistics. The company has embraced the wisdom of Thomas Watson Sr., who once said, "To be successful, you have to have your heart in your business and your business in your heart."

In 2007, InterChez was quick to fulfill its clients' need for international shipments by establishing InterChez Global Services Inc. In turn, the demand for language services increased, and the company expanded by developing InterChez Translation Services to break down communication barriers. All of these companies came together to create a family of services that speak the language of the global supply chain that customers rely upon. InterChez is led by Sharlene, who serves as president and CEO.

As InterChez grew, the need to acquire more space became evident. In 2010, InterChez upgraded its facility. Soon after, InterChez acquired the Stratford Place building, a facility that boasts more than 50,000 square feet of upscale, executive office space. The InterChez companies occupy about one-fourth of the building, while the remaining space provides offices to local businesses, nonprofits and startups. ●

Lake Business Products was started in 1960 by Jack Slattery from his home in Mentor. Initially a one-man venture, the business grew dramatically. To cope with the growth, Slattery moved the business from his house to downtown Cleveland, then to different sites before settling on a 106,000-square-foot building in Eastlake in 2003. Lake also has branches in Akron, Columbus, Youngstown and Toledo.

Supporting him in the early years were his wife Shireen, daughters Terri, Laura and Linda, and his son Bob, along with his brother, Robert Slattery. Shireen passed away in 1992, Robert passed away in the 1980s and a few years later, daughters, Laura and Linda, and son, Bob pursued other interests.

At Jack's passing in 2008, Terri Cain assumed the role of president and CEO at Lake Business and with the support of her executive team, Lake continues to grow under her direction.

The company's long and successful relationship with Canon has helped it to become one of the largest office equipment dealers in Ohio, and placed it in the Canon Advanced Partner Program once again for 2017. After almost 30 years of upholding a strong and steady relationship with Canon, Lake Business Products then signed a contract with Samsung in 2016. This gave the company a larger product base by offering these innovative and quality multi-functional devices to its customers. ●