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OHIO

Columbus Kickoff

The Ohio chamber of the Swedish-American network is only two years old, but it is growing and has expanded its activities into central and southern Ohio. On April 23 a kickoff meeting was held in Columbus with some 25 participants from the fields of business, education, banking, law and more. The meeting was organized by Columbus members **Matias Bonnier**, **Jessica Ferm** and **Anne DeVoe**.

After a general introduction by SACC Ohio, **Cynthia Cole** of the Ohio Department of

Development's International Trade Division spoke about how her division supports Ohio exporters and foreign investors. **Michael Mentel**, council president of Columbus City, presented his city as an ideal place for setting up business.

Guests were able to network at the Columbus meeting. One result of the event was a clear intention to establish cooperation between Stockholm Innovation (www.stockholminnovation.com) and TECHColumbus (www.techcolumbus.org),

two business accelerators/incubators.

SACC Ohio also picked up six new members. Earlier this month, the chamber welcomed IKEA Cincinnati as a corporate member. It was also confirmed that the cities of Umeå in northern Sweden and Dayton, OH, have begun to cooperate in different areas, including in their universities and government departments. (This news followed up a meeting held earlier this year with SACC Ohio).

—LARS ERIKSSON



From left to right: **Michael Mentel**, Columbus City council president; **Matias Bonnier**, vice chairman, SACC Ohio; **Jessica Ferm**, board member, SACC Ohio; **Michael Miller**, Swedish consul in Ohio and chairman, SACC Ohio; **Cynthia Cole**, the Ohio Department of Development; **Bengt Gerborg**, board member, SACC-USA, SACC Ohio