



**nano-network**

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**For Immediate Release**

**White House Science Official to Keynote Nano-Network™ event March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Dr. Celia Merzbacher set to discuss National Nanotechnology Initiative*

**CLEVELAND** (February 27, 2006)—The Nano-Network, an Ohio-based organization dedicated to nanotechnology networking, advocacy, and economic development, will host Dr. Celia Merzbacher, acting assistant director for Technology R&D at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) as the upcoming keynote speaker on March 2, 2006 at the Ohio Aerospace Institute in Cleveland, Ohio from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Dr. Merzbacher will present “The U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative: An Engine for Innovation and Competitiveness.” For complete event details, please visit [www.nano-network.org](http://www.nano-network.org) or call 216- 363-6883.

During her presentation, Dr. Merzbacher will describe the National Nanotechnology Initiative ([www.nano.gov](http://www.nano.gov)) and how it fits into our nation’s science and technology agenda. Dr. Merzbacher will also describe the NNI facilities and how Ohio nanotechnology companies and institutions can take advantage of government resources to help build their businesses.

In her current role, Dr. Merzbacher handles matters relating to nanotechnology, intellectual property, technology transfer, and assistive technology. She is also the OSTP liaison with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) during its review of the federal nanotechnology program. Prior to taking her current position, Dr. Merzbacher was a Technology Transfer Officer at Naval Research Laboratory, where she was responsible for intellectual property management and the negotiation of licenses and cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs).

Dr. Luis Proenza, president of the University of Akron and a member of President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) said, “Dr. Merzbacher has done an exceptional job of supporting PCAST’s role in assessing the National Nanotechnology Initiative. She will surely share the cutting edge of what the NNI is accomplishing nationally and how it fares in our globally competitive world.”

During Dr. Merzbacher's visit to Northeast Ohio she will also tour some of Northeast Ohio's most notable nanotechnology businesses and institutions. They include: the Goodyear Polymer Center at the **University of Akron** ([www.poly-eng.uakron.edu](http://www.poly-eng.uakron.edu)), home of the world renowned College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering which helped to establish Northeast Ohio as the #1 region for polymer activity in the United States; **Keithley Instruments** ([www.keithley.com](http://www.keithley.com)), a world leader in advanced electrical test instruments and systems that makes measurement equipment for nanoscale devices and **Nanofilm** ([www.nanofilmtechnology.com](http://www.nanofilmtechnology.com)), one of the oldest nanotechnology companies in the United States, which develops proprietary films and partners with companies to formulate custom coatings or reformulate existing coatings to add new properties.

To register to attend the Nano-Network event featuring Dr. Celia Merzbacher on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, please contact Melissa Shrewsbury at [Melissa@nortech.org](mailto:Melissa@nortech.org) or 216-274-6186.

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#### **About the Nano-Network**

The Nano-Network was formed by scientists, entrepreneurs and financiers to improve and expand nanotechnology research and commercialization activities and capacities in Northeast Ohio, and throughout the nation. The Nano-Network is one of the largest and best-known privately funded, "grass roots" nanotechnology organizations in the U.S. The Nano-Network is currently managed by NorTech ([www.nortech.org](http://www.nortech.org)), a regional economic development organization focused on innovation, technology and entrepreneurship in Northeast Ohio. NorTech's relationship with the Nano-Network provides the group with structure, contacts and resources to further promote nanotechnology in Ohio and the United States. [www.nano-network.org](http://www.nano-network.org)