



2023 Walks of Life Honoree

William "Bill" Koehler

As Chief Executive Officer of Team NEO, Bill Koehler is focused on seeing the Northeast Ohio Region grow and thrive. He is a collaborative economic development advocate and business leader working to create economic vibrancy in Northeast Ohio by advancing understanding of the talent gap, enhancing site preparedness, building supply chain resilience, accelerating the impact of innovation, and promoting the region as a business destination.

Leveraging more than 25 years' experience in corporate financial services, for-profit board and private company investor roles, and education-focused not-for-profit boards and committees, Bill engages the economic development network to create coordinated, regional business development strategies to attract new business and help current Northeast Ohio companies grow. This includes serving on the boards of regional economic development partners: Greater Akron Chamber, ONE Lorain County, and Stark Economic Development Board.

Under Bill's leadership, Team NEO has a track record of exceeding performance metrics for completed business investment projects in the Northeast Ohio Region. Team NEO has worked on 692 business investment projects that will generate almost 51,000 new jobs, more than \$2.6B in annual payroll and more than \$13B in capital investments, related to JobsOhio's financial incentive programs, since 2015.

An example of Team NEO's work can be seen this week as Aer Lingus begins offering direct flights from Cleveland to Dublin, substantially reducing the amount of time it takes to reach Ireland's capital – an important plus when trying to attract companies to locate in Northeast Ohio. In addition, Team NEO and its partners worked with the Ardagh Group, a company based in Ireland that is a global leader in infinitely recyclable metal and glass packaging solutions. The Ardagh Group recently expanded in Huron, Ohio, adding 200 local jobs.

Prior to joining Team NEO, Bill served as President of Key Community Bank, where he led 9,000 employees across 14 states. During his banking career, Bill worked with private and public middle market companies, and was involved in several significant corporate change initiatives. He earned a Master of Business Administration in accounting and finance from Columbia University's Business School and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Harvard University.

Bill is the past Board Chair of College Now of Greater Cleveland, Friends of Breakthrough Charter Schools, and St. Ignatius High School. He currently serves on the Governing Committee of Urban Community School. His accolades include the Northeast Ohio Smart Business Smart 50 Awards and Crain's Power 150, recognizing the most influential leaders who are positioned to move the Northeast Ohio Region forward.

He and his wife, Jean, reside in Shaker Heights. The couple has two daughters.

2023 Walks of Life Award of the Irish American Archives Society, Cleveland OH