

BUSINESS COURIER

Friday, February 26, 2010, 10:42am EST

GE Aviation a winner, Immelt says

Business Courier of Cincinnati - by [Rob Daumeyer](#) Editor

General Electric Co. CEO Jeffrey Immelt said at a **Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber** speech Friday morning he's bullish on his firm's historic Evendale aviation business.

"It's an 80-year-old division, but the next 20 years look like they'll be the best we've ever had," Immelt said.

Immelt, a Finneytown native, spoke to a crowd of about 300 in Loveland at the chamber's CEO Roundtable Kickoff breakfast. In a whirlwind visit to his hometown, he said he met with David Joyce, chief at **GE Aviation**, and had dinner last night with his parents, who still live here.

GE Aviation, he said, is core to the future of the entire company.

"Every employee at Aviation has tattooed on his head: 'We want to be No. 1,'" he said. "As long as Dave and I are here, we're going to win in this industry."

Immelt also discussed a broad range of topics, from health care to American happiness.

"The solution to health care has got to come from business," he said. "There's no such thing as national health care. It must be done city by city by city. Cincinnatians have to decide to work together on this. And business has got to be front and center."

Although Immelt called himself a Republican, he cautioned the GOP members of the audience that "anger is not a political strategy."

"Government is a catalyst for business," he said. "To pretend it's not is just wrong."

Immelt, a 28-year veteran of GE (NYSE: GE), took over as CEO in 2001. The Fairfield, Conn.-based company had 2009 revenue of more than \$160 billion, and has 300,000 employees worldwide.

GE Aviation, based in Evendale, designs and manufactures engines for commercial and military aircraft.

