

PRESS ROOM

News Release

Teams across the state come together to plan local P-16 councils

KnowledgeWorks Foundation Hosts Conference "Thinking P-16 and Beyond"

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COLUMBUS — KnowledgeWorks Foundation is convening for the first time local and regional P-16 Planning Teams, with representatives from across the educational spectrum – from early childhood, K-12, higher education, adult education, workforce and others – to attend the Thinking P-16 and Beyond conference to discuss and plan "P-16" reform which focuses on smoothing transitions from one level of learning to the next.

P-16 is a shorthand way of referring to a systemic approach to integrating the education "pipeline," beginning in early childhood ("P" for preschool) and continuing through a four-year college degree ("grade 16"), which facilitates access from one level of learning to the next, and prepares students for success in the workplace. A P-16 approach to education brings stakeholders together from across the education continuum to study their local community's education data, and identify where students are getting lost in educational transitions, and are unprepared to enter the workforce. These stakeholders work together toward goals of easing these transitions and aligning educational expectations.

"We are encouraged by the number of planning teams interested in thinking about their education delivery system in a different way," said Chad P. Wick, president and CEO of KnowledgeWorks Foundation. "Far beyond being dependent on our industrial past, we recognize that it is time to move forward in preparing for the information age; we must break down barriers that prevent students from succeeding and create smoother paths to success for our students – ultimately for the benefit of our local and state economies, and our society."

The Thinking P-16 and Beyond conference is designed to give attendees information and best practices, and also to provide multiple opportunities for planning teams to work together to begin strategizing for their local P-16 Council.

Planning teams from across the state who will be in attendance include Ashtabula; Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky; Clark County; Columbus; Cuyahoga County, Dayton, Fulton County; Highland County; Howland Local Schools; Lake/Geauga Counties; Lima/Allen County; Lorain County; Summit County; Switzerland of Ohio; and Wood County.

Speakers at the conference include: Governor Bob Taft; Dr. Stephen Portch, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Georgia; Dr. Adrienne O'Neill, President, Stark Education Partnership; Dennis McGrath Senior Research Fellow, National Center for Educational Alliances; Dr. Paul Ruiz Principal Partner, Education Trust

The conference will be held at Crowne Plaza Columbus, January 31 and February 1, 2006.

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KnowledgeWorks Foundation is Ohio's largest public education philanthropy. KnowledgeWorks Foundation provides funding and leadership for education initiatives throughout the state and is focused on creating and improving educational opportunities. The Foundation is committed to sharing knowledge gained and lessons learned with others in Ohio and across the nation to help inform public policy. Learn more about KnowledgeWorks Foundation at www.kwfdn.org.

 **BACK TO TOP**