Powerful Math & Science Partnerships are Increasing Student Achievement in Stark County

Historic collaborations between our school districts, SCESC, colleges, foundations, business community and the Stark Education Partnership lasting well over a decade have produced continued growth in math and science student achievement. Here are some examples:

- **SEEDS (Science Education Enhancing the Development of Skills)** — In 1993, SEP provides $500,000. Teacher leaders use this as leverage to write and receive a major $3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. This five year program targeted the improvement of elementary science and crossed 16 districts. **Results:** Dramatic increases in elementary science scores consistently above state averages. SEEDS wins Ohio BEST Practices Award in 1997. One of only three science programs in the nation selected for inclusion in What Works in the Elementary School: Results-based Staff Development (2002, National Staff Development Council and NEA).

- **SATURN (Science and Technology for Understanding Research and Networking)** — In 1999, while SEEDS is underway, NSF awards another $1 million to the Stark County Educational Service Center to improve secondary science. SEP, the Timken, Hoover, Herbert W. Hoover, Deuble and Stark Community Foundations contribute $100,000 per year over five years for a local match. **Results:** While state average gain in 9th grade science proficiency is 29% over the life of the grant, Stark’s county-wide gain is 33%. Stark districts gain individually from 22% to 44%. At the 10th grade, the county wide average over the course of testing is 34% compared to a statewide average of 29%. Stark districts individually gain between 24% to 53%.

- **SAMM (Science and Math on the Move)** — Originally proposed by W.R. Timken, Jr. and funded by the Timken Foundation for $500,000 over its first three years, SAMM houses high tech science and math equipment which can be delivered to any of the county’s high schools as needed. All five Stark colleges participated in the formation of SAMM. Originally housed at Kent Stark and now at the Bill Mease Center for Science and Math, this common inventory

Additional Local P-16 Council Sites in Ohio

KnowledgeWorks foundation awarded grants to Ashtabula County, Greater Cincinnati, Clark County, Highland County and Summit County to help those locations establish local P-16 Councils similar in function to the P-16 Council in Stark County. The choices were difficult because 13 sites applied for the funding.

The Stark Education Partnership, through a strategic alliance grant from KnowledgeWorks, helped in the selection process by speaking at a conference held in February and by contributing to the review of proposals. We will continue to work with KnowledgeWorks and these five sites as well as responding to the requests from other sites.

**Questions or Comments?**
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On June 5th, the Stark Education Partnership submitted a Best Practices Implementation Grant Request to the Ohio College Access Network (OCAN). If awarded the funds will be used to support “Application Access,” the Kent Stark/Canton Local project to encourage all seniors to apply to college and succeed in their freshman year.

Worthy of Note – Issed on May 31st, a minority report accompanying the report of the Higher Education Funding Study Council said the following: Expand the Stark P-16 as a larger pilot project. The legislature should provide assistance to counties and regions to form P-16 partnerships between primary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education and the business community to connect students throughout the educational spectrum with the benefits of obtaining advanced education (pg. 18).