

**Program
News**
**Stark County
The Numbers Tell the Story**

In his October 2009 article “The role of early college high schools and dual credit in changing the college-going culture in Ohio” for the Volume 4, Number 8, issue of *Primer*, Dr. Joseph Rochford said to “Consider that in 2001, 45% of all Ohio high school graduates entered our colleges and universities the following fall. Six years later we remained at 45%. The Ohio Board of Regents estimates that 15% of high school graduates go to college out of state. Even with this addition, taking us to 60%, the National Center of Higher Education Management Systems ranks Ohio a low 33rd among all states in the college-going rate of high school graduates.” Is there a “breakthrough” strategy that will permanently alter the college-going culture in Ohio for our young adults and help meet Governor Strickland’s ambitious goal of a 32% enrollment increase by 2017 despite the college enrollment “bump” in Ohio and across the nation caused by the poor economy? Such a strategy is still needed as economically-induced enrollment increases primarily affect adults and may not persist in the long-term.

A collaborative effort across Stark County is driving toward the goal with remarkable results. High School Based Dual Credit (HSBDC) started with a small pilot project for 65 students partially funded by an OCAN Best Practice Grant in the summer of 2006/7. The current enrollment has grown to 2,358 across seventeen school districts partnered with five institutions of higher education. The participating districts range from urban to suburban to rural and the colleges range from open access public to technical to private. Partners in design and evaluation include the Stark County Educational Service Center and the Stark Education Partnership.

The cornerstone of Stark County’s strategy is recognition and support of a talented pool of high school teachers meeting the content qualifications for college adjunct status. These teachers meet college standards for content, instruction and grading. They adhere to college syllabi in the high school while providing



GlenOak High School Dual Credit Teacher Courtney Breon with students in English 124

additional support to help high school students master the material. Students achieve success and remain in the high schools as exemplars. The long term impact of this strategy will be evident when the Ohio Board of Regents publishes college enrollment data for 2009 and 2010 (2007 enrollment data was released in October 2009). At this date we know that:

- High school students are succeeding in college coursework.
- High school students unfamiliar with college and college coursework are encouraged by their success and plan to apply to college.
- High school teachers and staffs become familiar with and apply college expectations and rigor.
- College professors are supportive of the success of students in HSBDC.

- There is a growing fiscal benefit to students, families and their communities.

High School Based Dual Enrollment has not supplanted other college credit opportunities in Stark County. College Tech Prep and Advanced Placement also have increased significantly and Canton Early College High School is one of the most successful of its kind.

Advancing College Opportunity: An Impact Evaluation of the Growth of Dual Credit in Stark and Wayne Counties, OH, a full report on HSBDC, is available at www.edpartner.org/publications. For more information about HSBDC, contact Dr. Joseph Rochford at rochford@edpartner.org.

Year	Number of Stark County Students Participating in HSBDC	Number of courses completed with grade of C or higher in HSBDC in Stark County	Annual Increase in Number of courses completed with grade of C or higher in HSBDC in Stark County
2006/7	37	36	
2007/8	324	298	262
2008/9	1294	1205	907
2009/10	2358		