

Looking At The ISSUES

January 11, 2008



Regional P-16 Approach called for in Commission Report

“Northeast Ohio does not produce a sufficient number of college graduates” states the *Collaborate. Innovate. Educate Report of the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission*.¹ The Commission, which is chaired by Canton’s Theodore V. Boyd, released the final report last last month and much is being written about its recommendations.

The Commission was created by the Ohio legislature in 2006. Its assignment was to explore ways to leverage the individual strengths of the five public universities in the Northeast Ohio through collaborative strategies and efforts. While meant to be a “blueprint” for the region, many now hope that the report will provide a template for the forthcoming ten-year master plan for the new University System of Ohio.

Among its many other recommendations, the Commission realized that to increase the number of college graduates, the universities would need a more robust “pipeline” of students. This meant thinking P-16. As the Commission wrote, *...although not part of (our) explicit charge, the pipeline issue was examined with community college Presidents and with representatives from organizations addressing preschool through college (“P-16”) concerns. The Commission was encouraged by the work that has already been done and believes national best practices are in place (for example, the Lorain County Community College and University of Akron Innovation Alliance and the Stark Education Partnership) that can be replicated throughout the Region.*²

As a result of this examination the Commission recommended that P-16 groups in the Region be encouraged to form a network that would:

- Interact with the statewide Ohio Partnership for Learning;
- Initiate projects regionally, such as increasing dual credit opportunities for students, creating a common performance feedback system from the universities to area high schools, and building a first-generation college student support system linking area high schools and universities;
- Seek grant funding for projects, and;
- Provide a communication network on P-16 activities and best practices

Looking At The Week

Regional P-16 Meeting

Dr. Adrienne O’Neill attended the Ohio Partnership for Continued Learning meeting for regional P-16s in Columbus on Thursday, January 10th.

Stark P-16 Compact Meets

On Wednesday, January 9th, the Stark County P-16 Compact held its first meeting of 2008 at the Foundation Center.

¹The full report, *Collaborate. Innovate. Educate. Report of the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission*, may be downloaded from: <http://www.neostudycommission.org/FinalReport.htm>

²See *Collaborate. Innovate. Educate.*, page 13