

Looking At The ISSUES

Stark
Education
Partnership
inc.

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How can Ohio change its future economic prosperity? Graduate more Ohioans from college, take actions to increase the likelihood that people with degrees will stay and attract more well educated people to Ohio.

– Ohio Board of Regents

Public Input Sought for 1st Annual Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio

It's a simple mantra, well known to educators and economists alike. Ohio's economic future is directly linked to the number of our college graduates and their willingness to stay. Yet amidst all the studies and reams of statistical reports, something has been missing – a concise and readily understandable report that sums up the condition of higher education for both public and practitioners. The Regents are producing just such a report and they are inviting your feedback.

"We present a limited set of questions," the Regents note, "which are focused on higher education's readiness to produce college graduates, workforce training, research and technology transfer needed for a thriving 21st century." Those questions center around

what the Regents have identified as ten significant challenges facing the state:

1. Projected declines in the State's youth and working age population.
2. Enrolling and graduating more adults.
3. Improving college-going rates directly from high school.
4. Improving participation and graduation rates in educationally underserved counties.
5. Improving college and university retention, graduation and two-year to four-year transfer rates.
6. Increasing the number of students taking more rigorous high school courses, including *Advanced Placement and Postsecondary Education Opportunity* courses.
7. Making higher education more affordable.
8. Equitable financial access to 2-year colleges.
9. Increasing state, federal and private investments for education and research.
10. Increasing degree production while maintaining high quality.

The Regents note that they plan to explore in depth certain key areas and identify through research and stakeholder feedback the underlying causes explaining certain trends and add that future Annual Condition Reports will closely monitor these areas. Go to http://regents.ohio.gov/board_meetings/report/index.php to review the draft report and offer feedback.

Looking At The Week

Brain Drain

Dr. Joe Rochford attended *Plugging the Regional Brain Drain: A Conversation with NOCHE's Ann Womer Benjamin* in Cleveland on Wednesday. Benjamin is the new executive director of NOCHE, the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education.

NE Ohio Commission Discusses Recommendations

Dr. Rochford attended *Collaborate. Innovate. Educate* – a panel discussion by Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission members including Ted Boyd, SEP Board member, who chairs the commission.

Ohio Can! Update

Adele Gelb attended the OCAN Member Advisory Committee meeting in Columbus where an update on the Ohio Can! grant was reviewed by Executive Director Reggie Wilkenson.

Contact
The Partnership

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