Stark County Facts from the Higher Education Performance Report

In a previous edition of *Looking at the Issues* (September 29, 2006), we reported on how enrollment among Stark’s institutions of higher education has grown nearly 13% over the last two years placing the county in a leadership position in the state. The release of the *Institutional Outcome Measures* portion of the Ohio Board of Regents’ 2006 Performance Report for Ohio Colleges and Universities\(^1\) earlier this month gives additional measures pointing to the growing strength of our local colleges and universities.\(^2\)

- 10% of the enrollment at Stark State College of Technology (SSCT) is comprised of black, non-Hispanic students – the largest percentage and number at any technical college in the state.
- 77% of Aultman Hospital School of Nursing students successfully complete their degree within three years – the highest percentage among any not-for-profit two year institutions in the state. The state average is 50%.
- 94% of Kent State Stark (KSU/Stark) graduates are retained – the highest retention of graduates in Ohio among any university regional campuses (tied with Kent State Tuscalawaras).
- 75% of the classrooms at SSCT and Kent State Stark are utilized for evening instruction – the best percentage among any co-located campuses in the state.
- 46% of the students at Walsh University, 40% at Mount Union College, and 43% at Malone College are first generation college students outpacing the state average (38%) for private colleges.
- 26% of Ohio’s total technical college enrollment is on the Stark State College campus. 7,140 students make SSCT the largest technical college in the state with enrollment growing 51% between fall of 1998 and fall of 2005.
- 3,681 enrolled students make KSU/Stark the second largest of all the state’s 24 university branch campuses.

\(^2\) Please note that the report tracks the 2005-06 academic year and enrollment figures reflect fall 2005. Actual current enrollments are higher. Following footnotes are specific tables in the report.