

# Looking At The ISSUES

Stark  
Education  
Partnership  
inc.

February 15, 2008



## Titanium's Journey from Cornwall to Stark County: A New Industrial Future

*It's 1791. In the Menachan Valley near Cornwall, an English clergyman by the name of William Gregor discovers a strange magnetic black sand along the bank of a creek – titanium. Little does he know that what he has found will play an important role in the history of a county named Stark and in the future of students being prepared for that county's 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce.*

Titanium was named for the mythological Titans, giants who were among the first gods in Greek mythology. The name is fitting for despite all the focus on bio-technology and other emerging industries as the wave of the future, Northeast Ohio and Stark County remain "titans" in specialty metals production, manufacturing, and machining. The key is to keep the region that way through adopting new techniques and technologies.

A major new player in the metals sector has found its home in Stark County. The Defense Metals Technology Center (DMTC), based at Stark State College of Technology (SSCT), is focusing on strengthening the titanium market in the region as part of its overall effort to become the principal repository of data and coordination of academic, government and industrial entities involved with highly specialized and strategic metals.<sup>1</sup> This is because the nation's military needs an industrial base that can competitively increase and produce strategic metals. That Stark County and the region can become that base is the vision of local Congressman Ralph Regula (R-Ohio 16) who says that the center "will bring together our local manufacturers to meet the needs of the Department of Defense and bring good jobs to our area." Local companies such as Canton's own RTI Alloys are already benefiting.

The Executive Director of the center is Charles Clark, previous Director of Government Relations for the University of Akron. Clark realizes that a highly skilled workforce will be critical to the specialty metals industry. DMTC has launched a co-op program with the U.S. Army's Prototype Fabrication Laboratory at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. Two Stark State students, in a pilot program this semester, are currently pursuing state-of-the-art training at one of the nation's top facilities. If successful, the co-op will be expanded to six students next term.

Regula praised DMTC and SSCT for promptly initiating this program adding, "As students complete these programs, they will greatly improve our local talent pool available to our specialty metals industry."

## Looking At The Week

### Meeting of Public Private Collaborative Commission

On Monday, Dr. Adrienne O'Neill attended the second meeting of the Public Private Collaborative Commission in Columbus established to issue recommendations for promoting greater student success in conjunction with the implementation of the Ohio Core curriculum.

## In The News

### Ohio Catalyst on OGT

In the newest issue of *Ohio Catalyst*, the article "OGT: We Hardly Knew You" quotes Dr. Joe Rochford on the efficacy of using the ACT instead of the OGT or proposed end-of-course exams. *Ohio Catalyst* is a newsmagazine that writes about the urban 8 school districts and is funded with grants from the Gund and Cleveland foundations. Read the full article at <http://www.catalyst-ohio.org/news/index.php?item=631&cat=30>.

<sup>1</sup> Visit the DMTC Center website at: <http://www.defensemets.com>

Contact  
The Partnership

Questions / Comments? E-mail [aoneill@edpartner.org](mailto:aoneill@edpartner.org) or call (330) 452-0829 • [www.edpartner.org](http://www.edpartner.org) • 400 Market Ave N, Suite B-Plaza, Canton OH 44702