

Looking At The ISSUES

Stark
Education
Partnership
inc.

March 14, 2008



County's Advances in STEM Education Continue as Stark State Shares Major Ohio Grant

"In order for Ohio to be globally competitive for the jobs of the 21st century, we must increase the number of Ohioans with college degrees in critical areas of math, science, engineering and technology. Choose Ohio First helps us do just that."
– Governor Ted Strickland

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program is one component of the *Ohio Innovation Partnership* created by the General Assembly to help make the state a global leader in the new economy. In total the legislature set aside \$50 million for student scholarships in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to be used specifically to attract, retain and graduate more than 2,000 new students over the next five years.

On March 7th, Governor Ted Strickland announced the first round of awards under this program totaling \$22.7 million. A consortium led by the University of Akron in partnership with Baldwin-Wallace College, Lorain Community College, and Stark State College of Technology was the major winner, gaining \$6.5 million in state funds.

Called, *STEM Undergraduate Engagement in an Engineering Environment*, the program is more than just scholarships. The collaborative proposal was praised by the state, noting that it "demonstrated innovation" in supporting areas such as student learning communities, early academic intervention, and redesigned science modules. Further, the program had a clear commitment to recruitment and retention of underrepresented student populations. It is estimated that the proposal will attract nearly 800 students in the STEM fields over the next five years.

Added to an earlier announcement (see Issues 2/22/08) that a consortium of Stark County's seventeen public school districts, led by Canton Local, had also received a major state grant under the *K-8 STEM Programs of Excellence*, the news for STEM education in Stark is indeed good as the county prepares its students for 21st century jobs.

In The News

More Good News

News also came this week that Stark State will receive \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to prepare students for careers in high-growth, high-demand health occupations in Stark and five surrounding counties. This employment-focused competitive grant, *Expanding Capacity in Health Occupations (ECHO)*, brings together 21 business and community partners who will collaborate with Stark State on the education and training project.

ECHO partners include: Affinity Medical Center • Alliance City Schools Robert White LPN Program • Alliance Community Hospital • Ashland University • Aultman Hospital • Buckeye Career Center • Canton City Schools Adult Career & Technical Education • Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron • Greater Alliance Foundation • Health Foundation of Greater Massillon • Medical Mutual • Mercy Medical Center • Stark Development Board • Stark County College Tech Prep Consortium • Stark, Tuscarawas, Summit and Medina County Workforce Initiative Associations (WIAs) • University of Akron's Medina County University Center • Wayne College • Wayne County Career Center.

Contact
The Partnership

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