

# Looking At The ISSUES

March 28, 2008

## Graduates from Stark Colleges and Universities Exceed State Average on “Staying in Ohio”

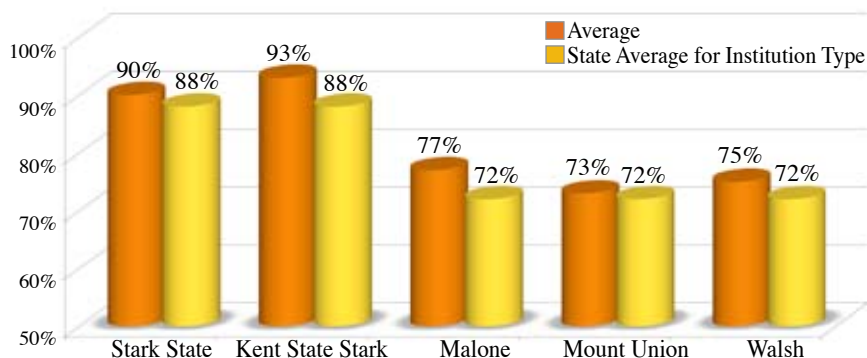
*Ohio has a vital interest in keeping a high proportion of Ohio college graduates in the state after graduation... In today's knowledge economy, Ohio simply cannot afford to lose graduates to other areas. Maintaining a college educated workforce is essential for economic growth. – Ohio Board of Regents<sup>1</sup>*

There has been much debate concerning the “brain drain” in Ohio over recent years. Part of the problem is that the state really does not lose a disproportionate number of its graduates to other states. In fact, Ohio's out-migration of graduates ranks it 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation.

The problem is on the other end. Ohio fails to attract college graduates from other states. In 2000, Ohio ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in the percent of its population who were in-migrants.<sup>2</sup> Given these parameters, it becomes even more critical for communities and regions to retain graduates from their local institutions. Compared to the state, how well do graduates from Stark County colleges and universities do in this category?

Statistical reports issued this month by the Ohio Board of Regents<sup>3</sup> give an idea. Graduates from 2001-2006 were tracked for one-half year after graduation and either had to be employed or seeking further degrees in Ohio.

**Stark-vs-Ohio Postsecondary Graduate Retention**



Based on these figures, graduates from all Stark County institutions tend, at least initially, to stay in the state in greater numbers than the average. Given this, the challenge may well lie not only in increasing these numbers, but also in finding ways to retain graduates on a long-term basis.

## Looking At The Week

### McKinley Literacy Program Recognized

The comprehensive literacy program in the Freshman Academy at McKinley High School is receiving national recognition in the soon to be published 7<sup>th</sup> edition of *Reading and Learning to Read* by Joanne and Richard Vacca and others.

### Donated Education Books Reach Uganda

It was a journey of several months and over 7,000 miles, but Brother Francis Blouin at the Kisubi Brothers Center in Uganda reports that education books donated late last year by the Stark Education Partnership arrived this week. The Kisubi Brothers Center is the site of Walsh University's Master of Arts in Education program in Uganda. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton helped support the shipment costs.

<sup>1</sup> Ohio Board of Regents (2004). Is Ohio Experiencing “Brain Drain?” The Issue, November, Columbus: Author. Available at: <http://regents.ohio.gov/legislative/TheIssue/PastIssues/braindrain.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, based on U.S. Census data.

<sup>3</sup> See Statistical Profiles 2008 at: <http://regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/statProfiles/statProfiles08.php>