

Looking At The ISSUES

March 30, 2007



Stark Hosts a Major Education Summit on Literacy

Stark County's growing reputation as being at the forefront of education reform and the stature of its Congressman Ralph Regula in supporting better schooling for all was underscored Monday by an event at the Pro Football Hall of Fame which drew not only

local teachers and administrators, but also state and national experts to a summit on literacy.

Tagged, *Reading and Writing are More than Elementary: A Summit on Literacy Instruction in Ohio's Secondary Schools*, the program was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, and the Washington-based Alliance for Excellent Education. Additional support was provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Opening remarks at the summit were provided by Marva K. Jones, Interim Superintendent of the Canton City Schools; Harold Brown, KnowledgeWorks Vice-President; State Superintendent Susan Tave Zelman; Alliance for Excellent Education President and former West Virginia Governor Bob Wise; and Congressman Regula.

Envisioned as the first in a series of regional summits across the nation, the event Monday featured presentations by Catherine Snow, the Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education at Harvard University, and Cynthia B. Schmeiser, President and Chief Operating Officer of the Education Division at ACT, Inc. among others. Snow's work with the National Academy of Sciences¹ has been cited as some of the most influential in advancing literacy for all children. Schmeiser's review of the predictability of middle school literacy scores² in determining college success gave valuable new information to summit participants.

Looking At The Week

Educational Analysis Presented To Massillon Board of Education

Dr. Adrienne O'Neill presented her analysis, *Toward 2025 in the Massillon City Schools* (http://www.edpartner.org/pdfs/toward_2025.pdf) at that district's board of education meeting on March 28. The analysis looks at ways Massillon can build on its strengths to become one of the highest rated school districts in the nation.

Read related stories "[*Massillon Schools Raise Bar*](#)" and "[*City Schools are Right to Set Lofty Goals*](#)" from the Massillon Independent.

Dr. Adrienne O'Neill, President of the Stark Education Partnership and William Hiller, Executive Director of the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation were joined by other experts in an afternoon session discussing how to create effective policies and resources. Dr. O'Neill underscored this discussion by offering real-life stories of the efforts of Stark County teachers and administrators in promoting literacy across all content areas.

With these stories, the summit came full circle. It was these same teachers and administrators who have supported two of the cutting-edge high school reforms in Ohio. With the Ohio High School Transformation Initiative at McKinley and Early College High School at Timken, and a Congressman supporting both, the site was well chosen.

¹ See Starting Out Right: A Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success at: http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=6014

² Based on ACT's EXPLORE and PLAN Tests at the 8th and 10th grade levels.

Looking At The Week

KnowHow2Go

On March 28th, Governor Strickland kicked off *KnowHow2Go*, a college access statewide campaign. The multi-media campaign, funded by Lumina Foundation on Education, reaches out to middle and high school students to help students navigate the steps to enter and succeed in college. The campaign includes materials to be distributed at schools, a web site (www.knowhow2go.org), and public service announcements. Adele Gelb was in attendance.

OCAN Meets at Ohio State University Branch

On March 28th, Adele Gelb attended an OCAN professional development meeting at the Ohio State University's downtown Marion Branch where a panel presented on "Building Collaborations with Schools, Colleges and Community" and a grant writing consultant led a grant review experience.