

Looking At The ISSUES

May 9, 2008

Looking At The Week

New Figures Show Canton's Early College High School Continues to Provide Opportunities for Kids and the Community

This is something that I've strived for since I was a young girl in elementary. I always dreamed of going to college to become a doctor, nurse, or someone who worked big time in the hospital field. – Canton Early College High School Student

There are still only about 160 schools of its kind in the nation. Only eight are in Ohio. Yet, for impoverished or first generation college students, schools like Canton's Early College High School have opened avenues of opportunity for both kids and community. At Early College, students have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree, graduating with both at the end of their senior year. For communities like Canton with low numbers of college educated adults, Early Colleges produce cadres of young people prepared for a future in which education will mean the difference between poverty and good paying jobs.

ECHS in Canton is a partnership between Stark State College of Technology, the Canton City Schools and the Stark Education Partnership. Additional support for the school is provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates and KnowledgeWorks Foundations and the state of Ohio.

The 2008-2009 academic year will be a banner year for Canton as the first class of Early College students reach their senior year. How are students doing? New figures compiled by SSCT tell an amazing story. As of January 2008, students collectively had amassed nearly 4,000 hours of college credit, passing courses with success rates from 84-95%. As the state of Ohio prepares to pilot the governor's proposed *Seniors to Sophomores Program* to enable high school students to earn a full year of college credit, naysayers who believe that high school students can't do rigorous college coursework would do well to look at the results in Canton and its sister Early Colleges across the state.

Canton City Early College High School as of January 21, 2008

	# of ECHS Students	Cumulative College Credit Hours Attempted	Cumulative College Credit Hours Earned	% of Success
Current Juniors	67	2,609	2,239	86%
Current Sophomores	81	1,125	1,052	94%
Current Freshmen	75	481	447	93%

P-16 OCAN Presentation

On May 7, Adele Gelb attended the Member Advisory Council meeting of the Ohio College Access Network. She presented a quick snapshot of the Stark County P-16 Compact in a segment about P-16 by Julie Schaid and Deborah Gavlik from the Partnership for Continued Learning.

P-16 & Early College

Adrienne O'Neill attended a network meeting of local P-16s, while Joe Rochford attended a meeting of Early College Coaches in Columbus on May 6.