

May 26, 2006

Quick Facts

- 40th Ohio's national ranking on bachelors degrees
- 19.9% Stark County population with bachelors degree
- 5.3% Stark County population with associate degree
- 41% 2003 Ohio students needing remediation
- 42% 2003 Stark County students needing remediation
- 44% 2003 Ohio high school to college going rate
- 50% 2003 Stark County high school to college going rate
- 1,227 Estimated number of students needed to increase Stark's college going rate to 80%
- \$89,289 Average earnings in Somerset County, NJ (highest in US)
- 48.2% Bachelors degrees in Somerset County, NJ
- \$38,703 Stark County average earnings

Questions or Comments?
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Looking At The

ISSUES

P-16 Strategies to Create an Educated Workforce in Stark County – Access, ACT, Dual Credit and a Core Curriculum for All students

Stark County established a P-16 Compact in 2002. Currently chaired by Dr. John O'Donnell, President, Stark State College of Technology, the Stark Education Partnership serves as staff to the Compact. The members of the Stark County P-16 Compact include:

Keith Barsuhn, President, United Way of Greater Stark County – Ellen Beidler, Executive Director, The Herbert W. Hoover Foundation – Jim Bower, President, Stark Community Foundation – Theodore Boyd, Chairman, Beaverkettle Company – Dr. Betsy Boze, Dean, KSU Stark Campus – Victoria Conley, Executive Director, Sisters of Charity Foundation – Jackie DeGarmo, Superintendent, Plain Local Schools – Lynne Dragomier, Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing, Mercy Medical Center – Christy Gale, Branch Manager, National City Bank – Jeff Garner, Vice President, National City Bank – Dr. Richard Giese, President, Mount Union College – Patricia Grischow, Senior Government Affairs Specialist, The Timken Company – Dr. Ronald Johnson, President, Malone College – Michael Johnson, Executive Director, Child & Adolescent Service Center – Richard Jusseaume, President, Walsh University – Cindy Lazor, Vice President of Programs, Stark Community Foundation – Mel Lioi, Assistant Superintendent, Stark County Educational Service Center – Larry Morgan, Superintendent, Stark County Educational Service Center – Robert Mullen, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Ralph Regula – Dr. John O'Donnell, President, Stark State College of Technology – Dr. Adrienne O'Neill, President, Stark Education Partnership – Stephen Paquette, President, Stark Development Board – Alice Stephens, Interim Director, The Employment Source – Teresa Pursues, Superintendent, Canton Local Schools – Judge W. Don Reader, Board Chair, Stark Education Partnership – Daryl Revoldt, NE District, Ohio Dept of Development – Dr. Joseph Rochford, Vice President, Stark Education Partnership – Dennis Saunier, President & CEO, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce – Randy Snow, Board Member, Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges / Black, McCuskey, Souers & Arbaugh – Walter Stanislawski, Director & Executive Vice President, Paul & Carol David Foundation – William Stetler, Superintendent, Lake Local Schools – Tracy Stevens, Manager Local Affairs, Dominion East Ohio – Dianne Talarico, Superintendent, Canton City Schools – Ward J. Timken, President, Timken Foundation

The work of the Stark County P-16 is premised upon the concept that the collaborative efforts of many can change Stark County to an educational powerhouse with lasting economic viability. Two goals have emerged from the P-16 discussions. First, we wish to increase the high school graduation rate in Stark County to 100% with rigorous coursework for all. As reported in *Looking at the Issues – May 19, 2006*, Stark County high school graduation rates are increasing.

Second, we wish to increase the college going rate from 50% in 2003 (the most recently reported Ohio Board of Regents rate) to 80% in

2010. We chose a 30% increase recognizing the recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy (April 2004) to make Ohio economically competitive. While the connection between education and economic development is inferential and no one has quantified the exact relationship, it is clear that Ohio and Stark County lag behind the national averages for bachelor and associate degrees.

Just as we use Ohio Department of Education data to report high school graduation rates, we have decided to use Ohio Board of Regents data to measure the college going rate. However, the Ohio Board of Regents now estimates that an additional 15% of students go on to college out-of-state and we would add that those who go on to post-secondary through apprenticeships, internships, or the military are not included. Rather than create our own data, we merely recognize the limitations of the data available to us.

Increasing the high school to college going rate can be accomplished by a blending of a set of collaborative high school and college activities:

1. Increasing college access activities to raise the number of students continuing on by increasing student awareness of college opportunities and scholarships.
2. Using a core curriculum for all students as a requirement for high school graduation.
3. Giving high school students dual credit opportunities while they are in high school so that they can experience success with college curricula.
4. Giving high school students preparation and practice with ACT using the EPAS system (Explore in 8th grade, PLAN in 10th grade, and ACT in 11th and 12th grade).

Implied in the P-16 goals is the collective school district and local college drive to decrease the remediation rates in Stark County. It is now known that students who enroll in college and need remedial work do not usually complete a degree. These are usually students who did not complete a core curriculum, did not enroll in dual credit opportunities, and did not achieve sufficiently high ACT scores. We believe we must increase the number of college graduates in Stark County, so Stark County school districts have taken action to add rigor to the curriculum and work collaboratively with our local colleges to add dual credit opportunities.

Stark County colleges have taken action to increase their graduation rates by increasing the number of students who persist from the freshman year to the sophomore year. Notably, Malone College and Walsh University have increased the persistence rate to more than 90%.

Looking At The Week

Alliance High School senior Auborey Upshaw has been awarded a one-year Nelnet College Access Scholarship of \$2000. Auborey will attend The Ohio State University. The Nelnet scholarship is awarded to individuals who have been assisted by National College Access Network members' staff and meet special criteria. Alliance High School is part of the Stark Education Partnership's Ohio College Access post secondary advisors program. Lynn Jackson, advisor in Alliance, assisted Auborey in her application process.

You're Invited to Attend...

The next Stark County P-16 meeting on June 14th at 1:30 at the Canton Chamber of Commerce. Topic will be *Preschool in Stark County.*