

Looking At The ISSUES

July 14, 2006

College Credit in High School and Stark County's Quest to Increase the High School to College Going Rate Without Remediation

Ohio and Stark County have been confronting the brutal facts since 2003. Ohio ranks 40th in the United States for percentage of the population with baccalaureate degrees. In the highest earning counties in the United States, the percentage of the population holding baccalaureate degrees ranges from 45% to 57% whereas in Stark County the percentage is 19.9%.

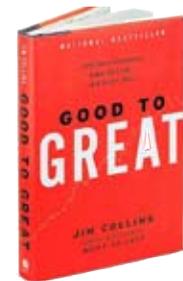
The high school to college going rate in 2003 was 50% in Stark County, about the average in the State of Ohio. This rate preserves the status quo. The quest of the school districts in Stark County and the Stark County Educational Service Center has been to raise this rate to 80% as recommended by the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economy (2004).

At the same time, the statewide and Stark County college remediation rate was about 40%. Stark County school districts have responded by raising the rigor in the high school coursework and increasing the opportunities for students to earn college credit while in high school.

Ohio Board of Regents reports show that students who earn college credit while in high school are more likely to persist in college and less likely to need remediation. The following college credit opportunities have historically existed for students in Stark County:

- 1. Advanced Placement (AP) courses and student enrollment in these courses are increasing in Stark County High Schools.** Traditionally students in the college track took AP classes if they were labeled as gifted in earlier grades. The definition of students able to experience success in AP courses is expanding in Stark County.

AP courses follow a curriculum prescribed by the College Board and standard examinations are given. If a student receives a score of 3 or above on the examination, they are eligible for college credit when they enroll at a college that accepts this credit.



Jim Collins, in his book *Good to Great* (2001), suggests that

good organizations get to great by beginning with the strategy “confront the brutal facts” and moving on to set and accomplish “big hairy audacious goals (BHAG’s).”

Questions or Comments?

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2. **Post Secondary is an opportunity for students in Ohio to take college courses as a high school student.** In the years from 2001 to 2004, the number of Stark students taking post secondary courses ranged from 303 to 339 in a population of about 8,000 high school juniors and seniors. This number has increased in 2005 and 2006 as opportunities have been made available to students on their high school campus. While most counties in Ohio have had fairly even enrollments in post-secondary, some counties have had huge jumps in post-secondary students. Cuyahoga County rose from 578 in 2001 to 1,182 in 2004 and Lorain rose from 404 in 2001 to 626 in 2004.

3. **Tech Prep is an opportunity for students to earn articulated college credit for high school coursework.** As the chart that follows demonstrates, the Stark County College Tech Prep Consortium has grown from 18 high school students in 1993-1994 to 1107 high school students in 2005-2006. Even more interesting is that the number of students who are enrolling from these programs into Stark State College of Technology and Ohio colleges has grown by leaps and bounds.

Stark County College Tech Prep Consortium

	Enrollment – High School		Enrollment – Stark State		% College Students Attending SSCT	Enrollment – Ohio Colleges		Enrollment – Total	
		% Increase - High School		% Increase – Stark State			% Increase – Ohio Colleges		% Increase in Total Enrollment
1993-1994	18		0					18	
1994-1995	34	88.9%	0					35	93.8%
1995-1996	87	155.9%	1					90	156.7%
1996-1997	126	44.8%	6	500%				137	53%
1997-1998	178	41.3%	18	200%				198	44.4%
1998-1999	220	23.6%	33	83.3%		42	100%	296	49.2%
1999-2000	340	54.5%	41	24.2%	50.6%	81	92.9%	463	56.5%
2000-2001	354	4.1%	41	0%	32.5%	126	55.6%	521	12.5%
2001-2002	448	26.6%	66	61%	35.9%	184	46%	699	34.1%
2002-2003	590	31.7%	82	24.2%	35.2%	233	26.6%	906	29.6%
2003-2004	600	1.7%	97	18.3%	32.4%	299	28.3%	997	10%
2004-2005	743	23.8%	145	49.5%	36.5%	397	32.8%	1286	29.1%
2005-2006	1107	49%	175	20.7%					

Source: Stark/Portage Area Computer Consortium (SPARCC)



The Burton D. Morgan Foundation (www.bdmorganfdn.org) and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation (www.kauffman.org) of Kansas City are creating the *Northeast Ohio Collegiate Entrepreneurship Program*, based on the Kauffman Foundation's Campuses Initiative. *The following Ohio schools have been invited to submit proposals for programs to create or expand entrepreneurship education:* Baldwin-Wallace College, College of Wooster, John Carroll University, Dennison University, Hiram College, Kenyon College, Lake Erie College, Oberlin College and Walsh University.

In Columbus, Dr. Rochford attended the second meeting of the *post secondary subcommittee of the Ohio Partnership for Continued Learning* on Wednesday, July 12, and a meeting of the Ohio Board of Regents on Thursday, July 13, 2006.

The Stark County Educational Service Center received *\$47,318 from the Silk Foundation* for the purchase of laptops and mobile carts for SAMM.