

September 14, 2007

## Looking At The Week

**North Central Ohio P-16**  
On Tuesday, September 11th, Dr. Adrienne O'Neill presented "Using the Stark County P-16 Compact Experience" to the North Central Ohio P-16 Council Steering Committee in Mansfield, Ohio.

<sup>1</sup> From: United States s1501 Education Data: 2006, Stark County, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, Data Set: 2006 American Community Survey at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

<sup>2</sup> Berkner, L., He, S., Mason, M., and Wheelless, S. (2007). Persistence and Attainment of 2003-04 Beginning Postsecondary Students: After Three Years (NCES 2007-169). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC. Retrieved [date] from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>.

<sup>3</sup> See: College Dropouts Who Borrowed for Education Face Long-Term Economic Hardship on the web site of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education at: <http://www.highereducation.org/news/borrowing-advisory.shtml>

# Looking At The

# ISSUES

## What's in a Figure?

38,206,900. According to the U.S. Census Bureau that's the number of American's over age 25 in the "some college, no degree" category. The figure actually outnumbers the 33,504,512 estimate for persons with a Bachelor's degree.<sup>1</sup>

A study released on August 15th by the U.S. Department of Education points to what has become a continuing national college dropout problem, coupled with often slow progress towards a degree for those who remain enrolled:

*Among the beginning students who were recent (2003) high school graduates, enrolled full time in the fall of 2003, and had bachelor's degree plans, 83% had not attained a degree and were still enrolled at some postsecondary institution three years later; 5% had attained a degree or certificate; and 12% had not attained any degree and were no longer enrolled in June 2006.<sup>2</sup>*

One of the culprits? The heavy borrowing most students must do to afford higher education. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education mentions one such bind:

*Most students must take out loans in order to attain a bachelor's degree. However, many students, particularly low-income students, are caught in a double-bind: Borrowing can result in economic hardship for those who drop out, yet avoidance of borrowing may push students to delay entry into higher education, enroll part-time or work extra hours-all risk factors for dropping out.<sup>3</sup>*

Figures and findings like these underscore the importance of multiple efforts currently being sponsored by Stark County school districts and higher education partners to open more college credit opportunities for students while in high school.

## Take A Look

Visit the Stark Education Partnership website to view the newly released video "Stark County On the Move!" at [www.edpartner.org/Multimedia.html](http://www.edpartner.org/Multimedia.html)

