

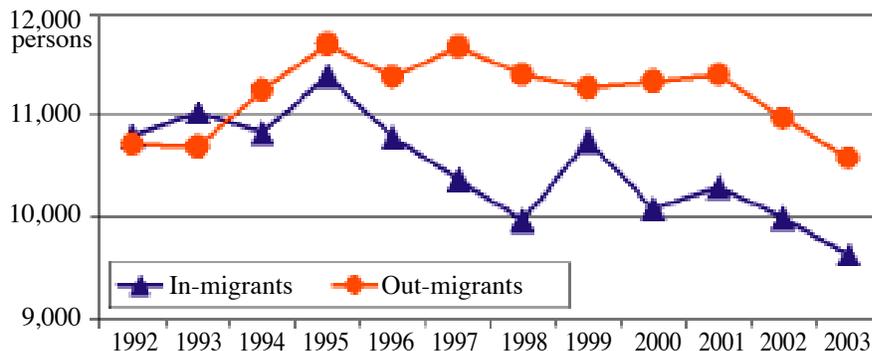
Looking At The ISSUES

September 15, 2006

Dealing with Brain Drain: A Compelling Strategy

The chart in the Ohio Department of Development's 2005 Stark County Profile gives pause for thought. Since 1994, more people have left Stark than have moved into the county.¹ These figures, while not conclusive, are based on income tax returns and one can assume that they represent at least, in part, a loss of college graduates.

Stark County Migration: 1992-2003



Statistics like this underscore the ongoing debate over “brain drain” in the state of Ohio and what to do about it.

Answers are not all that simple. We know that Stark probably mimics the state of Ohio in “brain drain” and in the attraction of graduates from elsewhere. Ohio has been a net loser of college graduates.² What this means is that while students are no more likely to move out of state here as elsewhere across the country, far fewer out of state graduates move in to replace them. Yet, there is cause for hope. The Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and the Economy found that:

They (college graduates) are less likely to migrate if they attended college in their home state. They are highly likely not to return if they attend college out-of-state. ...Altogether, these findings suggest that policy actions to improve Ohio's net migration for this critical population of young college graduates should focus on economic development and educational access.³

Recently, the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce launched its Brain Gain Initiative to retain and attract graduates and its Workforce Development Initiative, in collaboration with Kent State University - Stark, Malone College, Mount Union College, Stark State College of Technology, and

Looking At The Week

Partnership Chairman Judge *W. Don Reader* was guest lecturer in Dr. *Joe Rochford's* graduate education class in Legal and Ethical Issues in Education at Walsh University on September 5th.

Dr. *Adrienne O'Neill* and Dr. *Joe Rochford* were coaches for “*Following Through on Your P-16 Plan*” at the *KnowledgeWorks Networking Meeting* in Columbus on September 13, 2006.

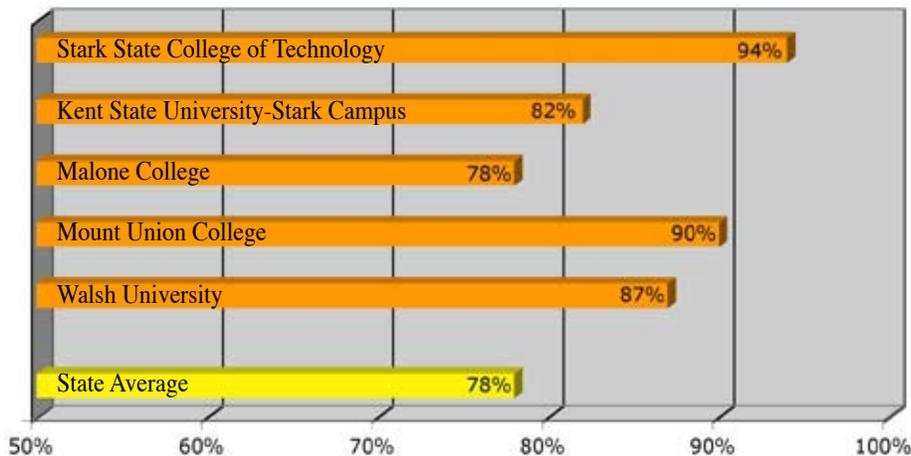
On September 14, Dr. *John O'Donnell*- Stark State College of Technology President- and Dr. *O'Neill* presented “*P-16 as a Strategy for Increasing Economic Well-being*” for the *Ohio Association of Community Colleges* in Wilmington, Ohio.

Dr. O'Neill will serve as Vice-Chair of the Stark State College of Technology Advisory Board for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Walsh University to address the challenges of recruiting and retaining quality employees for area businesses. These new efforts will be valuable contributors to Stark's economic outlook.

Additional hope lies in a little recognized statistic. The 2005 Performance Report for Ohio Colleges and Universities shows that between 1999 to 2004 more graduates from Stark colleges were likely to stay in Ohio in the short term than the state average.

Percentage of Students Working or Attending College in Ohio 6 Months After College Graduation



Noting that graduates are less likely to migrate if they attend college in their own state, one viable strategy would seem to be to increase the number of Stark County students going on to college here in Ohio and in their home county.

According to the most recent Ohio Board of Regents figures,⁴ 4,179 Stark high school students graduated and 2,089 went on to college in Ohio. Stark colleges enrolled 823. Increasing these numbers, particularly in Stark institutions, through district college awareness efforts and programs such as Summer Scholars, Early College High School, and Application Action will begin to produce added benefits for the community as more Stark County students attend Stark institutions – a compelling strategy to deal with “brain drain”.

¹ Ohio Department of Development. *Ohio County Profiles, 2005*. Data were released through the U.S. Bureau of the Census, which obtained the information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), 1993 to 2003.

² In 2000, of the 1.9 million migrating young graduates nationwide, 3.6 percent left Ohio, and only 2.6 percent came into Ohio. For comparison, Ohio had 3.5 percent of the nation's young college graduates in 2000. *Brain Drain or Weak Attraction? Migration of Ohio's Young College-Educated Population: A Briefing for the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy* December 3, 2003 Available at: <http://www.chee.ohio.gov/index.asp?p=17&text=0>

³ *Ibid*

⁴ For the high school graduating class of 2003 monitored through the first year of college enrollment.

Contact The Partnership

Questions or Comments?

Email aoneill@edpartner.org
or call 330-452-0829.

Our Website

www.edpartner.org

Our Address

220 Market Ave S - Suite 350
Canton, Ohio 44702-2181