

Looking At The ISSUES

September 28, 2007

Looking At The Week

Lake Teacher Will Serve on Governor's Committee

Congratulations to Lake Middle School seventh grade teacher, Barb Cockroft for being among 44 chosen Ohio educators to serve on the Governor's Institute for Creativity and Innovation in Education. The project will work towards finding ways to better serve Ohio's students through creative and innovative teaching methods and program. The first meeting will be next week in Columbus.



TG: Stark County's New Partner in College Access

There's a new partner in college access in Stark County. On September 19th TG, a public nonprofit corporation, announced the award of \$113,000 to the Stark Education Partnership to help high school teachers qualify as adjunct faculty at area colleges and universities.¹ With adjunct

status, teachers can then teach dual credit courses offering both high school and college credit and help Stark County students get a head start on college.² Research shows that students who take dual credit courses enroll in colleges in greater numbers and finish faster than their peers.³

College access is nothing new for TG which currently helps create access to higher education for millions of families and students through its role as an administrator of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). This year, the organization awarded more than \$5.2 million to 42 institutions and non-profit organizations to advance access to college, student retention and educational research through its Public Benefit Program, the company's philanthropic initiative.

The grant is important because it provides funds for teachers to add subject matter graduate courses to their credentials. While permanent teacher licensure in Ohio requires a master's degree; it does not require subject content courses. Consequently, many teachers have a generalist master's degree. These degrees do not meet the adjunct status standards of college and university departments that usually require a master's degree and a minimum of 18 credit hours in content areas.

During this past summer, a grant using funding from the Ohio House Bill 115 allowed a pilot that enabled high school teachers with adjunct status to offer nine dual credit courses on high school campuses in Stark and neighboring Columbiana and Wayne Counties. Now a new state grant will support dual credit courses throughout an entire academic year, not just the summer. In order to continue the momentum, education leaders here sought a grant from TG to help quickly expand the number of teachers who can qualify as adjuncts by supporting tuition for graduate-level coursework in the subjects they teach.

¹ Read the September 19, 2007 press release at www.tgslc.org/index.cfm

² For more information, read *All Students Ready: A Process and Outcome Evaluation of the Region 9 Dual Credit Program in Columbiana, Stark and Wayne Counties* available at www.edpartner.org/pdfs/Dual%20Credit%20Evaluation.pdf

³ See the Performance Reports for Ohio Colleges and Universities at: <http://regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/index.php>