Turning the Corner – Education & Economics in Stark County

Education and economic development are on the move in Stark County. What follows are a handful of mounting indicators of this growth.

• Compared to the U.S. average over the last year, the Canton-Massillon metropolitan area ranks 42nd in the nation among the top 200 metros for high tech sector output growth.¹

• College enrollment by Stark residents – now at 22,725 – has increased 39% since 2002.²

• Expansion Management Magazine named the Canton-Massillon metropolitan area as the number one mid-size metro in the nation for business attraction.³

• The North Canton Public Library is ranked among the top 100 in the nation.⁴

• Canton City now leads Ohio’s Big Eight Urban Districts in ACT participation with 53% taking the test.

• ACT has identified 400 high schools across the U.S. whose students have shown greater-than-average increases in scores on the ACT Mathematics or Science Test. North Canton’s Hoover High School is in that ranking.⁵

• Stark State College of Technology is among the top 50 institutions in the nation in the production of associate degrees in Computer and Information Sciences & Support Services and in Engineering-Related Technologies/Technicians.⁶

• Fifteen of 17 Stark school districts are at 90% or better graduation rate on the state 2006-2007 Report Card.⁷

• Unemployment in Stark has dropped a full percentage point since January. The August rate is 5.5%. The workforce stands at 191,700.⁸

• Walsh University (46%), Mount Union (40%), and Malone College (43%) outpace the state average of 38% on first generation college enrollments.⁹

• Ninety-four percent of Kent Stark graduates are retained in the area – tied with Kent-Tuscarawas for the highest retention of graduates among any Ohio regional campus.¹⁰

• Seventy-seven percent of Aultman Hospital School of Nursing students successfully complete their degree in three years – the highest percentage among any not-for-profit two year institutions in the state.¹¹