

Looking At The ISSUES

October 19, 2007

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

Looking At The Week

Ohio Grantmakers Forum

On October 17-19, Dr Adrienne O'Neill attended *New World, New Philanthropy* – the Ohio Grantmakers Forum statewide annual conference in Columbus.

Early College

A team, including Dr. Joseph Rochford, from Early College High School attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Columbus.”

¹ Milken Institute and Greenstreet Partners, the annual *Best Performing Cities Index, 2007*. Available at: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/>
² U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data for Stark County, 2002, 2006. Available at: www.census.gov
³ See: *2007 Top Cities for Business Attraction: These Communities Are Literally Magnets for Business* at: www.expansionmanagement.com/smo/newsviewer/default.asp?cmd=articledetail&articleid=18800&st=3
⁴ See: Hennen's American Public Library Ratings 2006 at: <http://www.haplr-index.com/>
⁵ See: ACT, Inc. (2007). *Rigor at Risk: Reaffirming Quality in the High School Core Curriculum* at: <http://www.act.org/path/policy/reports/rigor.html>
⁶ Source: Community College Week's Top 100 Rankings at: <http://www.ccweek.com/news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=54&zzoneid=5>
⁷ Source: Ohio Department of Education
⁸ Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at: <http://lmi.state.oh.us/laus/current.htm>
⁹ Source: Ohio Board of Regents the Performance Report for Ohio Colleges and Universities 2006. At: <http://regents.ohio.gov/perfpt/index.php>
¹⁰ Ibid
¹¹ Ibid

