

Looking At The ISSUES

November 9, 2007



HR 2272 State P-16 Councils Come of Age

H.R. 2272, the “America COMPETES Act”... authorizes various programs at the National Science Foundation and the Departments of Energy, Commerce, and Education intended to strengthen education and research in the United States related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. –The White House

On August 9th, President George W. Bush signed into law HR 2272, the *America Competes Act*. What many people don't realize is that this act has a lot

to say about state level P-16 activities. Indeed, for the first time, the federal government has outlined what a state P-16 Council should look like.

Section 6401 of the bill is entitled, *Alignment of Secondary School Graduation Requirements with the Demands of 21st Century Postsecondary Endeavors and Support for P-16 Education Data Systems*. P-16 receives a federal definition in this section as...the educational system from preschool through the conferring of a baccalaureate degree.¹ Although the term statewide partnership is used in lieu of P-16 Councils, the membership on such partnerships as prescribed by the bill parallel the membership of most state P-16s, including Ohio's own Partnership for Continued Learning.

Competitive grants under this section will be made available by the Secretary ...to enable each such State to work with a statewide partnership – (1) to promote better alignment of content knowledge requirements for secondary school graduation with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in postsecondary education, the 21st century workforce, or the Armed Forces; or (2) to establish or improve a statewide P-16 education data system.

On July 20th, while the bill was still being debated, the 108 year old National Governors Association, representing the governors of all 50 states had advocated for a P-16 stance. In a letter to Congressional Leaders, including Ohio's own John A. Boehner, House Minority Leader, the association called for matching grants to states to create state preschool to college (P-16) education councils and longitudinal data systems.²

Looking At The Week

Ed Trust Presentation

Dr. Adrienne O'Neill and Dr. Joseph Rochford presented *Canton, Ohio Early College High School: Raising Both Student and Community Achievement* at the Education Trust conference in Washington, D.C. on November 8th.

In The News

Paquette Honored

Congratulations to Stephen Paquette – President and CEO of the Stark Development Board – for his recent Honorary Life Member designation by the International Economic Development Council recognizing individuals and organizations for their efforts that have created positive change in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

¹ HR 2272 can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas>

² A copy of this letter may be found on the NGA web site at: <http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.cb6e7818b34088d18a278110501010a0/?vgnnextoid=8e581e1a075e3110VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>