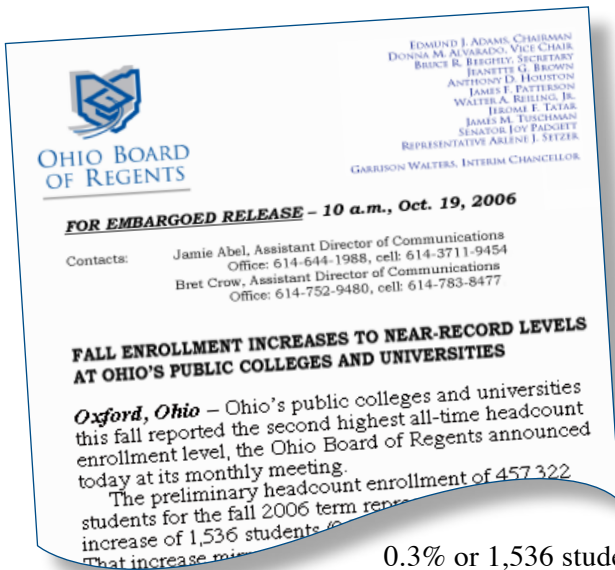


# Looking At The ISSUES

November 10, 2006

## Ohio College Enrollment: The Making of a Paradox



In the September 29<sup>th</sup> *Issues*, we reported on how enrollment at Stark's colleges and universities was up over 6% for fall, reflecting a total gain of nearly 11% since 2004. How does this compare with the rest of the state?

Paradoxically, while claiming the second highest student headcount in its history, Ohio's public college and university enrollment only went up

0.3% or 1,536 students, according to preliminary figures released by the Ohio Board of Regents.<sup>1</sup> That was after a 0.3% decrease in 2005. Ohio's highest headcount was 457,333 students in 2004.

The new total enrollment figure for this year is 457,322 - a difference, even though preliminary, of 11 students from the all-time high. In light of the report of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy calling for an increase of 30% or raising the headcount by 180,000 more students by 2015<sup>2</sup>, the prognosis for Ohio is not good. The new figures mean that Ohio, though enjoying the second highest enrollment in its history, hasn't budged in the two years since that report was issued.

This was further compounded by yet another paradox. Eleven of the state's 16 community colleges and 14 out of 23 university branch campuses<sup>3</sup> dropped in enrollment. These institutions have long been viewed by many as "gateways" and a low cost option for students. Yet, seven of the state's nine technical colleges, led by Stark State, reflected enrollment increases. The biggest overall increase at any campus was

## Looking At The Week

### Stark County Teacher Awards

*Congratulations* go to Stark County Teacher of the Year, Darlene Chidester (Canton Local); Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Thelma Slater-retired (Canton City Schools); Rookie(s) of the Year, Amanda Hennon (Alliance City) and Mindy Smith (North Canton City); and the 2006 All-County Teaching Team, Diane Witham (Alliance City), Manuel Halkias (Canton City), Darlene Chidester (Canton Local), Richard Roth (Fairless Local), Tammy Osburn (Jackson Local), Brian DeLap (Lake Local), Nancy Greenbaum (Louisville City), Cindy Viscounte (Marlington Local), Linda Rothhoff (Massillon City), John Stadler (Minerva Local), Robert Hutchison (North Canton City), Susan Jones (Northwest Local), Gwen Bushey (Osnaburg Local), Deborah Poland (Perry Local), James Gustin (Plain Local), Darla Richard (private schools), Brenda Leedy (R.G. Drage), Judith Orchard (Sandy Valley Local), Faye Coles (Stark County MRDD), Jennifer Ellenberger (Tuslaw Local), Val Litwinow (Parochial-East), and Linda McKeivier (Parochial-West).

Ohio State with a gain of 1,314 students; the biggest decrease Owens State-Toledo at a loss of 1,234 students.

The release also comes in the wake of the state receiving an “F” on college affordability from the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education.<sup>4</sup>

While Stark’s overall gains reflect both our public and private institutions, comparisons become even more dramatic if one looks at these separately. Enrollment increases at Stark State College of Technology and Kent State University-Stark combined reaches a total 686 students. **Stark County increases are equivalent to nearly 45% of the total state public college enrollment increase.**

How did the state do on private college and university enrollment increases? Enrollment increased at these institutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year and is now at 132,139. The private colleges and universities were up 0.4% or a gain statewide of 562 students<sup>5</sup> over fall of 2005. **Private college enrollment increases in Stark accounted for 324 students or equivalent to 58% of the reported statewide gain.**

<sup>1</sup> (2006). Fall Enrollment Increases to Near-Record Levels at Ohio’s Public Colleges and Universities. Press Release. Columbus: Ohio Board of Regents. OBR cautions that preliminary figures are often lower than final headcounts.

<sup>2</sup> Pogue, R., Chairman (2004). The Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and the Economy. Columbus, Ohio: Office of the Governor.

<sup>3</sup> In part, a policy change by Ohio University in registering all graduate students to the Athens Campus contributed to a decline at their regionals

<sup>4</sup> (2006). Measuring Up: the National Report Card on Higher Education. San Jose, California and Washington, D.C.: National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Author.

<sup>5</sup> OBR bases these figures on a survey by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio.

## SMART Board™ Awardees

*Congratulations* to the 27 teachers that have been awarded SMART Boards for their classroom from the Timken Foundation Grant. (A SMART Board is a touch-sensitive interactive whiteboard that is connected to a computer and a data projector. Once the computer image is projected on the board, you can control computer applications directly from the display, write notes in digital ink and save your work to share later.)

Awardees are – *Alliance City*: Debbie Grenamyer, Donna Klayder, Sarah Lantz, Charles Miller, Cynthia Todor / *Canton City*: Bobbie Grimm, Megan Kennedy, Nichole Kosenski / *Canton Local*: Mark Gamertsfelder / *Jackson Local*: Kathy Cochron, Harold Fisher, Christy Harp / *Lake Local*: Ruth Ann Gentzler, Mark Kell, Andrea Schafer / *Louisville City*: Angela Emmons, Susan Moser / *Marlington Local*: Rita Morrison / *Massillon City*: Christine Ferrell, Sharon Seikel, Cali Turley / *North Canton City*: Laura Heckathorn, Heather Neutzling / *R.G. Drage*: SAMM Center / *Sandy Valley Local*: Sarah Faiello, Nichole Gorden-Coy, Jeannette Jernigan / *Tuslaw Local*: Neil Parrot.

## Grantmakers in Education

Adrienne O’Neill attended Grantmakers in Education Conference in San Francisco, November 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. During this time, Adrienne also met with Dianne Talarico to discuss beginning a P-16 Council in Santa Monica/Malibu.