

November 30, 2007

## In The News

### Wallace is Honored

The Wilderness Center recently recognized Candy Wallace – member of the Stark Education Partnership Board of Directors – as an outstanding civic leader for her lifelong contributions to Stark County. Read the related Canton Repository article at <http://www.cantonrep.com/index.php?ID=387309>.

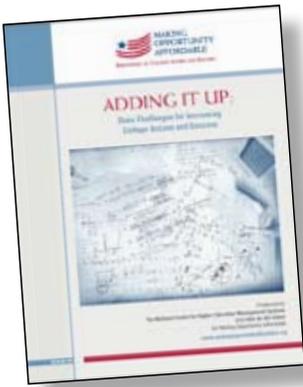
<sup>1</sup> The public may review and comment on these goals at: <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/master-plan/index.php>

<sup>2</sup> The report may be downloaded at: <http://www.makingopportunityaffordable.org/adding-it-up/>

<sup>3</sup> Adding It Up: State Challenges for Increasing College Access and Success *Ohio Profile*. Individual state profiles may be downloaded at: <http://www.makingopportunityaffordable.org/adding-it-up/p04/>

# Looking At The

# ISSUES



## Report Underscores Critical Nature of Ohio's College Master Plan

The importance of draft goals for the University System of Ohio's forthcoming master plan<sup>1</sup> were put in a new light last week by a major report based on data from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS).

*Adding It Up: State Challenges for Increasing College Access and Success*<sup>2</sup> looked at all 50 states and found that if there are no significant changes, the United States will see

a gap of 16 million degrees by 2025 in order to match the leading nations in the percentage of adults with a college education.

The reports specific findings on Ohio were:

- *Today, Ohio ranks behind the nation in the percentage of adults ages 25-64 who have a college degree. Assuming that current trends in degree completion and in-migration of college-educated adults continue, Ohio will improve in national standing on this measure in 2025. However, this will still leave the state short of the college-educated population needed to meet workforce demands and compete with best-performing nations.*
- *To expand its college-educated population, Ohio must pay attention to projected demographic changes, especially growth among African Americans, who represent a substantial share of the current population, as well as an overall decline in its college- and working-age populations (18-24 and 25-44).*
- *Ohio must address racial and ethnic disparities in the percentage of college-educated adults, particularly with respect to African Americans.*
- *Ohio currently stands ahead of the nation in the percentage of students completing high school but lags the nation in the percentage of recent high school graduates going on to college.*
- *Further along the educational pipeline, Ohio must increase the proportion of students completing both two- and four-year college programs to be competitive with best performing states – and nations – by 2025.*<sup>3</sup>

As the report notes, current trends will continue Ohio's "gap." Clearly, neither Governor Strickland nor Chancellor Fingerhut, who is required to present the 10 year master plan by March 31<sup>st</sup>, want those trends to continue. A major goal is to increase college enrollment by 230,000.