

THE NORTHEAST OHIO TALENT DIVIDEND IS ESSENTIAL TO THE REGION'S ECONOMY

The urgent need to improve Northeast Ohio's talent pool was set forth in 2009 by a Georgetown University report showing that almost 60 percent of all jobs in Ohio would require at least some college education by 2018. NOCHE and its Steering Committee of business, civic, education, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders seized the opportunity to elevate college completion to the top of the regional agenda to measurably impact economic competitiveness and growth.

Team NEO's Quarterly Economic Indicators report for the third quarter of 2012 provided encouraging news about the region's economy: employment is expected to continue increasing from now until 2020 in almost all sectors. Postsecondary education is important to high-growth occupations such as healthcare, finance and professional, scientific and technical services.

PROGRESS BY DEGREES

The Northeast Ohio Talent Dividend focuses attention and action on college completion since more jobs will require postsecondary education. NOCHE and its Steering Committee partners have elevated college success to the top of the regional agenda with a vision of increasing the number of degree holders from 897,000 in 2009 to 1,000,000 in 2014. With more than 225,000 degree-seeking students enrolled in Northeast Ohio's colleges and universities, the region has ample capacity to generate more than one million college degree holders. We are making progress, since the region's colleges and universities are awarding more and more degrees annually — increasing the number of degree holders currently to 925,000.



OhioMeansSuccess.org

For the past year, NOCHE and WVIZ/WCPN ideastream have partnered with the Ohio Board of Regents to develop a website to help students, parents, families and educators prepare for, search for and pay for college in Ohio. OhioMeansSuccess helps students personalize their career and college pathways with interactive features designed to make the college going process easier to navigate.



Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education

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NORTHEAST OHIO TALENT DIVIDEND 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



STRENGTHENING NORTHEAST OHIO'S TALENT PIPELINE

The Northeast Ohio Talent Dividend's broad cross-sector approach emphasizes collective action, accountability, continuous communication and a combination of both short-term actions and long-term strategy. Through the Northeast Ohio Talent Dividend Steering Committee, regional community leaders have assessed the educational attainment and economic competitiveness landscape and established goals to improve the entire postsecondary education continuum. The Steering Committee set forth three goals: **to improve college readiness, increase student retention to degree completion and increase degree attainment among adults with some college and no degree.**

PARTNERS IN REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE COLLEGE COMPLETION

In 2011-2012, fourteen partners led by **NOCHE** and **College Now Greater Cleveland** received a College Access Challenge Grant to increase college access and attainment among low-income and first-generation college students.

Eastern Ohio P-16, LEAF, Portage County College Access Network, REACHhigher and **The University of Akron** have provided educational and career preparation and bridge programming to help high school students in their transition into college.

Kent State University, Lorain County Community College and **Youngstown State University** have expanded dual enrollment programs for high school students to earn college credit.

The **Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland**, which has begun work on raising the college completion rates of Cleveland Metropolitan School District students, and the **Stark Education Partnership**, which has focused on reforming and advancing the P-16 continuum in Stark County, are increasing college going in their communities.

Hiram College, Kent State University and **The University of Akron** awarded scholarships to students within a semester of graduation who had a small amount of unmet financial need. These completion scholarships of less than \$1,000 each made the critical difference in earning a degree for dozens of local college graduates in 2012.

Cuyahoga Community College and **Lakeland Community College**, through a partnership with the **Ohio College Access Network**, are hosting recent graduates as "college completion coaches" to ensure students have support to succeed in their course of study.

Lorain County Community College and **Stark State College** are partners in Completion by Design and are improving academic and student services to promote completion.

NOCHE continues to engage colleges and universities to ensure that adults receive credit for military and workplace learning, and to evaluate the number of credits required to earn a degree to keep the cost and time to degree reasonable. **Cleveland State University** is already changing its credit requirements to help students succeed.

In November 2012, the **Ohio Board of Regents** released a report focused on college completion. The report includes recommendations that have already been the focus of NOCHE and its regional partners since 2009 through the Northeast Ohio Talent Dividend.



"In any region, there are four critical metrics of increased postsecondary attainment: the on-time high school graduation rate, the college continuation rate, the rate at which working adults without previous postsecondary credentials enroll in college, and the college completion rate. Moving the needle in any one of these measures – even if the others remain constant – will increase attainment in the region. Leveraging gains in all of these critical metrics simultaneously compounds success. Northeast Ohio's increases in several of these rates show accelerating progress toward increasing college attainment."

— **Brian Bosworth, President, FutureWorks**

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASELINE (2009)	CURRENT (2011)	GOALS (2014)
Number of degree holders	897,482	924,777	1,000,000
College completion rate	39.05%	40.90%	50%
Adult postsecondary participation rate	3.90%	5.11%	8%
College continuation rate	40.80%	41.83%	51%
On-time high school graduation rate*	82.00%	80.35%	97%
Yearly change in degrees awarded	+591	+1,729	+5,000/year
Regional attainment rate	28.90%	29.77%	32.30%

*The Ohio Department of Education has changed the methodology for calculating the on-time high school graduation rate. The baseline data represent the old methodology, which is based on a seven-year graduation rate. The new methodology is based on a four-year graduation rate.