



NOCHE News

December 2008



Happy Holidays from NOCHE

The staff of the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education extend holiday greetings to all our colleagues. We hope the holiday season affords you the opportunity to relax and celebrate with family and friends.

Happy New Year!

2008 Has Been A Red-letter Year for NOCHE!

- NOCHE **renamed its internship program** NEOintern to reflect its regional reach and **upgraded to a new database platform** which will allow us to better serve our stakeholders.
- NOCHE **redesigned the web sites** for NOCHE and NEOintern.
- NOCHE **developed three specialty internship programs** and is about to launch a fourth: Entrepreneurial Internship Program (with Burton D. Morgan Foundation funding), Third Frontier Internship Program (with Greater Cleveland Partnership), Manufacturing Internship Program (with MAGNET), and the soon-to-start TechLift Internship Program (with NorTech).
- NOCHE **held two events in its Industry Roundtable series**, one in Environmental Sustainability (with the Corporate Sustainability Network) and one in Allied Health Care (with the Northeast Ohio Health, Science and Innovation Coalition).
- NOCHE **hosted two higher education policy forums**.
- NOCHE **expanded its College Caravan program to Akron, Warrensville Heights and Canton**, already having a successful track record in Cleveland and Youngstown.
- NOCHE **launched Policy Points**, an Ohio-focused higher education policy summary.

NOCHE Legislative Forum Puts Higher Education Center Stage

Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor **Eric Fingerhut** launched the NOCHE Legislative Forum on October 27, 2008, held at **Cuyahoga Community College's** Corporate College East. In opening remarks, the Chancellor lauded the current General Assembly as one of the most favorable for higher education in Ohio's history. He recounted the bipartisan executive and legislative collaborations on the state's biennial budget containing a record amount for higher education, along with Choose Ohio First Scholarships in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and the Ohio Research Scholars Program. In addition, despite over a billion dollars in budget cuts already, the Governor has spared higher education from the scalpel. (That benefit may be short-lived, however, in light of the recently announced budget shortfall of \$640 million. See "From the Executive Director," below).

A panel discussion followed, during which State Representatives **Scott Oelslager** (R-Canton) and **Michael Skindell** (D-Lakewood) reviewed their legislative priorities in higher education. Both highlighted the importance of higher education in fueling Ohio's economic rebirth and preparing students for the global marketplace.

NOCHE trustee **Ted Boyd**, chairman of FirstCommunications, also on the panel, noted that higher education and business collaboration is increasingly critical to aligning goals for economic vibrance. Another NOCHE trustee and panel member, **Steve Minter**, Executive-in-Residence at Cleveland State, discussed some of the challenges he foresees in the next budget discussions, including finding agreement on sustaining momentum for key new programs in higher education. Many thanks to all who participated and made the event a success.



From the Executive Director



Higher education officials from around the state, including public institution presidents, met on December 4, 2008 with Governor Strickland in Columbus to be briefed on the \$640 million shortfall in this fiscal year and the anticipated \$7 billion deficit in the next biennium. The following week, I met with **Ohio Board of Regents Executive Vice Chancellor Paolo DeMaria**, a former Director of the Office of Budget and Management and one of the most knowledgeable and creative talents in state government.

Mr. DeMaria reported that clearly the Governor feels a continuing sense of commitment to higher education in the state, but this financial downturn will present challenging opportunities. Mr. DeMaria recommended that schools look at any potential cost-savings strategies including cross-institutional collaboration on purchasing, data maintenance, payable and receivable management, and similar functions. Keeping affordability a priority is important to realizing state enrollment and achievement goals, and Mr. DeMaria suggested schools devise creative ideas on tuition to attract students. He noted, however, that despite the current difficulties, "people are looking at Ohio for doing good things" in higher education, so we need to explore innovative ideas and "stay upbeat."

NOCHE is coordinating a meeting on January 16, 2009 from 2-4 p.m. at Cleveland State University, at which Mr. DeMaria will discuss budget issues with government and financial officers from NOCHE member schools. Stay tuned for further developments!

Meet *NEO IT!*

Thirteen colleges together with regional chambers of commerce, employers and regional economic development organizations are involved in planning and developing a proposal to submit for state funding under the Ohio Co-op/Internship Program.

Kent State University is serving as the lead state institution with both public and private schools participating in the discussions. The group has selected information technology as the focus of the project, so the project is called the "**NEO IT Project.**" Information technology was chosen because, among other things, it has cross-sector applications, it is relevant across academic areas, it is important for Northeast Ohio, and it has been recognized by the Ohio Department of Development as one of three "cross cutting core functions" critical for the state's economy.



A state Request for Proposal is expected in early 2009. For more information, contact Richelle Kidder at rkidder@noche.org.

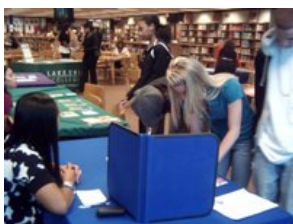
NEOintern Update



NOCHE is winding up a market research study to determine barriers to internships and student attitudes regarding these opportunities. In December, a focus group at **The University of Akron** evaluated new messaging opportunities, media options, and the value of internships to students.

To complement NOCHE's existing specialty internship programs in entrepreneurship, STEM and manufacturing, a fourth specialized internship program is slated to begin in 2009 in collaboration with TechLift. The new **TechLift Internship Program** will focus on Northeast Ohio signature technologies including advanced materials, biosciences and information technology. NOCHE expects to place sixteen interns in TechLift internships for the spring and summer of 2009. For more information, please contact Halley Marsh at hmarsh@noche.org.

College Caravan Blazes Trail Across Northeast Ohio



NOCHE's **College Caravan** took place over a period of two weeks in October, traveling to Warrensville Heights, Akron and Canton for the first time in the program's history. It also visited high schools in Cleveland and Youngstown as before. The goal of the College Caravan is to expose underserved Northeast Ohio high school students to the wealth of higher education opportunities that exist in the region. This fall, the program reached more than **4,700 students at 26 high schools, with 16 colleges and universities participating**, and more than doubled the students who participated compared to fall 2007.

Planning for the College Caravan takes several months of coordination with high school guidance counselors and college admissions officers across the region. NOCHE's Admissions Committee also helps develop programming and other outreach ideas. NOCHE then completes all of the logistics and coordinates and participates in the event. Response has been very positive, and other Akron, Canton and Cuyahoga County schools have asked NOCHE to expand in their districts in the spring.

CAOs Convene, Collaborate

NOCHE recently re-convened the **Chief Academic Officers Committee** which had not met in more than a year. Held at **Cuyahoga Community College**, the event attracted CAOs from across the region. Discussion covered a wide range of topics including the NEO IT Project, curriculum alignment, transfer and articulation agreements, and the importance of forums bringing academia and business together (such as NOCHE's Industry Roundtables). Participants are especially interested in sharing best practices and developing more cross-institution programs and projects.



Cleveland Clinic's Cosgrove and Roizen Captivate Board



Cleveland Clinic

The NOCHE December Board meeting featured a presentation by the **Cleveland Clinic's CEO Dr. Toby Cosgrove and Chief Wellness Officer Dr. Michael Roizen** on the virtues of a smoke-free campus. The pair outlined the Clinic's transition to a smoke-free campus in 2005, stating that "smoking

kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined." With one in five college students smoking, college campuses provide logical sites to launch a smoke-free initiative, particularly since surveys indicate most students and faculty support smoke-free policies. The Board discussed the possibility of joining in a regional smoke-free campus initiative, and NOCHE will survey school interest on the subject with the assistance of the Clinic and the Wellness Council of Northeast Ohio.

NOCHE Members in the News

- [Tri-C, Cleveland State and Kent State Create New Dual Admissions Program](#)
- [University of Akron creates two new colleges](#)
- [NEOUCOM president to give back part of salary](#)
- [S&P revises outlook on Case Western Reserve University](#)
- [Kent State fashion school receives \\$1 million gift](#)
- [Teachers from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Hiram College, Kent State University, Lakeland Community College, Lorain County Community College, NEOUCOM, University of Akron, Youngstown State University honored by Ohio Magazine](#)
- [Group finalizes Mahoning Valley community college plans](#)

Attention NOCHE Members:

If your college or university would like to be listed here, let us know! Contact Kacie Beck at kbeck@noche.org to have your story included in *NOCHE News*.