



December 2007



Expanded Regional Talent Development Initiatives



From the Executive Director

NOCHE continues to become increasingly involved in significant projects, collaborations and talent efforts across the region despite these transitional times. With a new and vibrant staff and a renewed focus on NOCHE's Strategic Plan, 2008 will certainly be a year of accomplishment and growth, with greater community impact, Board involvement, and member benefit. Thank you for your confidence and commitment to NOCHE's community-oriented mission to unite higher education and business to promote regional growth and talent development.

- Ann H. Womer Benjamin

Industry Roundtables: NOCHE hosted the second event in its Roundtable series this fall, featuring entrepreneurship. Attendance doubled from the first event in June, and many of our institutional members were represented. Among the participants were **Ashland, University of Akron, Baldwin-Wallace, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland State, Cuyahoga Community College, Hiram, John Carroll, Kent State, Lake Erie College, Lakeland, Lorain County Community College, Myers, Notre Dame, Oberlin, Stark State, Ursuline, and Walsh.** The Roundtable brought together entrepreneurship program and department leaders from academia with business entrepreneurs to discuss curriculum design, internship design, and initiatives to cultivate entrepreneurs, all under the facilitation of Jack Ricchiuto. More Roundtables are planned for next year, with group follow-up through a Wiki interactive web site.

Entrepreneurial Internship Program: NOCHE has launched a program for internships with entrepreneurial businesses across Northeast Ohio. Consistent with this new program, NOCHE co-hosted "Interns for Entrepreneurs" in November with Key Entrepreneurship Center at

Corporate College. The program featured employment diversity speaker Sandy Crocker and a panel presentation from employers and higher education personnel involved in entrepreneurial programming.

ClevelandIntern.net: The program continues to expand, with more than 15,000 visitors per month to the web site. NOCHE also is working toward a new regional name to be unveiled in early 2008. NOCHE is collaborating with NorTech on its TechLift internship initiative, and with the Greater Cleveland Partnership on Third Frontier internships. NOCHE is also participating prominently with (i)Cleveland in its (i)Connect Internship and Career Expo in December.

Blueprint Project for Talent, Ideas and Innovation: NOCHE is vice chairing an initiative with the Cleveland Council on World Affairs to promote international recruitment and to develop a regional strategy for internationalization. Initially convened by the GAR Foundation, the group is ready to draft a strategic plan for the implementation of its key objectives, all to build the talent pool in Northeast Ohio.



Northeast Ohio
Universities
Collaboration &
Innovation Study
Commission



Cleveland State University
Kent State University
Northeastern Ohio Universities
College of Medicine
The University of Akron
Youngstown State University

NOCHE Kicks off Fall with Access



College Caravan: Back by popular demand, NOCHE organized and executed College Caravans in Cleveland and Youngstown schools in November and December. NOCHE had participation by 17 of the regional institutions, including the **University of Akron, Baldwin Wallace, Case Western Reserve, Cleveland State, Cuyahoga Community College, Hiram, John Carroll, Kent, Lakeland, Lake Erie, Malone, Mount Union, Myers, Notre Dame, Ursuline, Walsh, and Youngstown State.** They visited a total of 19 high schools, and reached about 1,400 students. NOCHE is also in the process of planning its Spring College Caravan with visits to Cleveland and Youngstown. In addition to last year's programming, this Spring Caravan will allow juniors to participate to better prepare them for the fall application process. It will

also include a lunch and facilitated discussion between high school guidance counselors and admissions personnel to improve communications between the two groups.

Member School Events: Throughout the summer and fall, NOCHE staff assisted member schools at information, orientation and career fairs, touting regional opportunities as well as internships and the new Entrepreneurial Internship Program. Program support was provided to **Case Western Reserve, Notre Dame, Hiram, Ursuline, University of Akron, Kent State, Cleveland State, Lakeland, Lorain County Community College, Mount Union, Cuyahoga Community College, and Malone.**

NOCHE Community Advocacy

Issue Forums: NOCHE facilitated a discussion with Senator Sherrod Brown in August, and hosted Chancellor Eric Fingerhut at its December Board meeting. More opportunities to interact with decision makers are anticipated for 2008.

Outreach: As NOCHE's profile on higher education issues continues to rise, the Executive Director has been asked to speak at forums around the region. Ann spoke on educational excellence and the work force at a Fund for Our Economic Future event November 15, 2007; on NOCHE generally and internships in particular to Leadership Cleveland at the invitation of Advance Northeast Ohio in December; and on NOCHE's new directions to the Fenn Educational Fund Advisory Board.

New Opportunity: The Executive Director has just been invited to participate in a new education collaboration, the Education Works Leadership Council. The Council is being formed by The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and The Fund for Our Economic Future. It will be charged with developing a strategy and action plan "to tackle the region's educational challenges, to empower new leaders to hold the region to new standards at every level of the educational spectrum and to shepherd the region to higher levels of educational attainment and achievement."



Update on the Study Commission

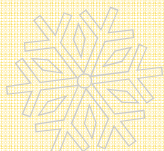
The legislatively created Study Commission has been meeting all year, with NOCHE (under contract) providing professional support and serving as its fiscal agent. Although the Commission only directly involved public four-year institutions in Northeast Ohio, the educational issues and initiatives discussed have a much broader application. NOCHE is expecting to convene its membership together with other regional stakeholders to review the Study Commission's report when it is published and discuss the key issues addressed by the year-long study.





A word about College 360°:

After Board Chairman Bob Rawson and the Executive Director met with Steering Committee members and stakeholders over the summer, the "College 360°" program is transitioning into new and expanded talent development and access programs for 2008. College 360° served a key role in focusing on the importance of the college-educated work force as a driving economic factor in Northeast Ohio. To continue this effort, NOCHE is identifying and pursuing best practices in talent development for the region, including regionalizing the name of ClevelandIntern.net, partnering with local organizations to subsidize intern wages, and developing an internship "best practices" education program for employers.



NOCHE Pleased to Announce New Staff

As you may have anticipated, 2007 has been a transition year for NOCHE in more ways than just hiring a new Executive Director! Kacie Beck began as Office Manager in August, Halley Marsh began as Program Manager in July, and Tara Regan began as Development Manager in September. A new Program Director candidate has been identified, after advertising yielded over 200 resumes, and should be in place by mid-January. In addition, with the departure of the Associate Director in November, a replacement will be sought this spring. Other staff include John Haas, a Program Assistant, and Brenda Davis-Smith, Internship Program Manager and our most tenured employee.



Thank You for Your Support!

Following deliberations of the Ad Hoc Finance Committee, two meetings with member presidents, and other stakeholder feedback, the Executive Committee recommended, and the Board approved, a new dues structure at the October meeting. NOCHE would like to thank its members for your increased support. NOCHE has a vibrant future ahead and a key position in the region. Your membership funds are critical to sustaining our current efforts as well as successfully transitioning to an even more productive future. We are committed to serving you as valued partners and key participants in the education, growth and resurgence of Northeast Ohio.

Season's greetings!



The NOCHE staff would like to wish you and your family a joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of Happiness.

Thank you for your continued support!



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