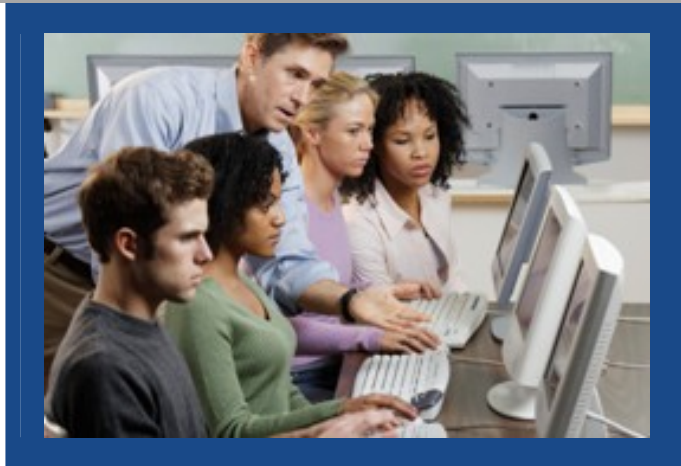


March 2008

NEOintern.net Highlights Regional Character of Internship Initiative

ClevelandIntern.net, NOCHE's constantly expanding network of job opportunities for college and graduate students, has finally been renamed to reflect its regional character. After a concerted stakeholder survey effort, **NEOintern.net** was chosen recently as the new regional moniker and will be the subject of a marketing program over the next several months.

Meanwhile, NOCHE's internship program continues to attract attention, as well as students and employers. With 57% of internships resulting in a fulltime job offer and 77% of the interns accepting such offers (based on the National Association of Colleges and Employers survey), internships are not only a proven method for **experiential training** in areas of interest, but also for the **retention of students** in a region.



With 10,000 active student users and 1,600 registered employers, NEOintern.net has expanded with an Entrepreneurial Internship Program, and NOCHE is exploring other vertical internship options with regional partners like **MAGNET** and **NorTech**. A **Greater Cleveland Partnership** alliance recently netted Third Frontier funding for employer-reimbursed internships as part of NEOintern.net.

On the **college access front**, NOCHE is working with its Admissions Committee to plan the upcoming **Spring College Caravan** April 14-25, 2008. About 18 colleges and universities have signed up, which can be done by contacting John Haas at jhaas@noche.org. The annual Counselor Appreciation Luncheon will be held on May 7, 2008, hosted by **Case Western Reserve University** at Thwing Center.



Environmental Sustainability Roundtable

Continuing the Industry Roundtable series begun last year, NOCHE is gearing up to host an Environmental Sustainability Roundtable April 2, 2008 at the Sheraton Independence Hotel. The Corporate Sustainability Network is co-host and is underwriting the event. Once again Jack Ricchiuto will facilitate this discussion, focusing on how higher education and business can work together for students, curriculum and jobs in this burgeoning field exploring the environmental opportunities to achieve lower costs, increased revenues, and enhanced innovation.

Register Now!

April 2, 2008
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Sheraton Independence Hotel
5300 Rockside Road
Independence, OH

www.nocche.org





Public Policy Opportunities with NOCHE

In the wake of NOCHE's well attended Study Commission Report forum in January, NOCHE hosted **Ohio House Speaker Jon Husted** at its March Board meeting. The Speaker addressed higher education needs in Ohio and the Jobs for Ohio bond proposal, and responded to questions from the audience.

Executive Director Ann Womer Benjamin participated in the **Ohio College Association's** Presidents' Forum in mid-March, beginning with a speech by Chancellor Eric Fingerhut discussing his goals for higher education in Ohio. A panel discussion of the institutions' lobbying associations followed in the morning, then Ann participated in a panel discussion reviewing the Chancellor's remarks along with Hiram President Tom Chema. NOCHE issued a new publication, "**NOCHE Policy Points**," with highlights from the event. If you would like additional copies, please contact the NOCHE office.

The Executive Director is also in contact with the Chancellor's office in anticipation of the release at the end of March of the Chancellor's plan for the University System of Ohio. NOCHE expects to review the plan and provide summary comments for Board members.

The region's foundations have come together to establish and fund an **Education Works Leadership Council** in which the Executive Director has been invited to participate. The group - consisting of leaders from foundations, education, business, and economic development organizations - held a two-day training session in February, discussing and debating potential goals for Northeast Ohio across the education spectrum, particularly in the context of globalization. An initial goal appears to be the development of a framework for a 21st century skill plan to be implemented in the region. The group meets again in May.

Study Commission Report Forum a Success

NOCHE co-hosted with the Northeast Ohio Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission a forum on the Commission's final report in January. FirstEnergy graciously provided the location, the five state institution presidents were present, and Commission chairman Ted Boyd and moderator Brad Whitehead kept the discussion flowing and the questions coming among the more than 120 attendees.

Among Commission recommendations was the recommendation to foster the further development of internships in the region, and NOCHE is working with Cleveland State in pursuit of that goal.

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*



On the International Educational Front

NOCHE continues to help lead the effort known as the **Immigration Blueprint Project**, or the Blueprint for Talent, Ideas and Innovation, with the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. The group published a "Blueprint" last fall outlining ideas in education, economic development, recruitment, policy advocacy and inclusion to revitalize the region through international talent. NOCHE is now working with key higher education partners in this project, including Cleveland State, Hiram, Kent State, and the University of Akron, to convene a discussion among business and academia on the topic of international internship opportunities in the region.



New People at NOCHE

In mid-January NOCHE hired **Sue Nelson** as Program Director, filling a long-time need at the organization. Sue brings a wealth of Northeast Ohio knowledge and employment expertise, having worked in career services at Cleveland State and consulted with a variety of employers in the region, as well as having been part of the Voices and Choices team.

To enhance NOCHE's development opportunities, NOCHE has brought on a fundraising consultant, **Holly Tomasch**, former director of the Harbor Heritage Society and the Mather Museum. Holly is working with Development Manager Tara Regan on a plan to strengthen NOCHE's financial base.

From the Executive Director

As the Chancellor's ten-year plan for higher education is being drafted, I am advocating the importance of public *and* private institutions of higher learning in the region, and in Ohio. Many of the private schools have been around longer than the publics, serving to educate talent in the region and elsewhere. Their unique programs and missions and renowned centers of specialization have brought talent to the region and have educated talent within the region for many decades. As President Tom Chema observed at the recent Ohio College Association Presidents' Forum, **private institutions can be partners with public institutions**, and the Chancellor and Governor should recognize those opportunities.

Meanwhile, NOCHE is exploring ways to assist its members in collaborative endeavors, whether through a **financial aid program** it is researching or **common procurement** opportunities in health insurance and office supplies.

NOCHE has also been working with regional partners investigating the possibility of a central regional job site shared among organizations like **NorTech, Greater Cleveland Partnership, MAGNET, and BioEnterprise**. NOCHE's internship operation has drawn attention as employers, students and schools recognize the benefits of a central point of entry for internships, and groups in the region are thinking the model could serve equally well for jobs, at least through the sharing of a common "platform," or administrative structure. Among other potential cost-saving benefits, the project could be a definitive showing of collaboration among Northeast Ohio's major economic development promoters.

I want to personally thank President John O'Donnell for hosting the March quarterly Board meeting at **Stark State College of Technology**. John is committed to the regional efforts of NOCHE as I am committed to visibly executing regional programs and outreach. As NOCHE continues the battle for higher education and talent development across Northeast Ohio, **your** participation and commitment are equally critical. Thank you for your help.

- Ann Womer Benjamin



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