

August 2008

Welcome, Veterans!

The Ohio GI Promise Offers In-State Tuition to All Veterans, Spouses & Dependents

On July 8, 2008, Governor Ted Strickland signed an executive order creating **The Ohio GI Promise**. This program allows *all* veterans of the United States Armed Services, as well as their spouses and dependents, to attend University System of Ohio colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates. Ohio is the first state to offer this benefit.

The Ohio GI Promise is designed to encourage veterans to settle in Ohio, and does so by changing Ohio's residency requirements. Specifically, the program provides that veterans, their spouses and dependents who live in Ohio while attending a public college or university are deemed residents of Ohio, and are thus entitled to pay in-state tuition rates. To achieve this status, veterans, spouses or children must (1) be eligible for benefits under a federal act establishing veterans' education benefits, (2) remain in Ohio during their course of study, and (3) during their study, accept an approved community service position or participate in an internship or co-op program.

This program will provide an important financial benefit to veterans and their families, while simultaneously boosting the regional economy by bringing those who have served our country in the Armed Forces to Northeast Ohio—hopefully for a long, long time.

For more information, visit <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/veterans/>. This web site will help interested veterans connect with specific colleges and programs.

NOCHE Surpasses Goals for Third Frontier Internship Program

Program Connects Regional Employers and Students

The Third Frontier Internship Program allows Ohio companies to hire interns and receive reimbursement for half of the wages paid to the intern (up to \$3000 per year) for internships in the following categories: advanced manufacturing; advanced materials; bioscience; information technology; instruments, controls and electronics; or power and propulsion. To qualify, a student must be an Ohio resident or student in an Ohio higher education institution, have a GPA of 2.5 or above, and be enrolled in a degree program for physical, biological, or agricultural sciences, engineering, computer science, or math.

NOCHE, in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Partnership, administers this program in Northeast Ohio. NOCHE was recently named one of the highest performing grantees in the state in the program, having successfully connected 72 students—the maximum number allowed under its agreement—to employers, and is receiving additional Third Frontier funds as a result. If you are interested in the Third Frontier Internship Program, please contact Halley Marsh at hmarsh@noche.org or 216-420-9200 x 234.



NEOUCOM President
Lois Margaret Nora



CIM President
Joel Smirnoff

Goodbyes and Hellos

In the “goodbye” realm, NOCHE acknowledges the announced departure of Dr. Lois Margaret Nora, who has indicated that she will leave **NEOUCOM** at the end of 2009. In six years, Dr. Nora has not only doubled the size of the campus, improved finances and added a College of Pharmacy, she has brought a new era of outreach and regional activism, recognizing the importance of health care generally for the aging population and as an industry in Northeast Ohio.

I was a term-limited Portage County legislator when I first met Dr. Nora, having been a long-time advocate for NEOUCOM even though it was just outside my House district. Dr. Nora has a unique combination of practicality and perspective, and we became even better acquainted during my tenure as Director of the Ohio Department of Insurance, with oversight of the medical malpractice crisis. At the helm of a school focused on producing new doctors, Dr. Nora was not only concerned but proactive as we sought to stabilize the marketplace so new doctors would want to stay in Ohio and experienced doctors would not seek to leave.

We also worked together during the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission meetings, where Dr. Nora brought bold ideas and a collaborative spirit to that undertaking. She has become a respected friend in the process. I, for one, hope she remains in the area.

On the “hello” front, NOCHE welcomes new **Cleveland Institute of Music** President Joel Smirnoff and looks forward to his leadership of the Institute and the music community generally. With his leadership role as first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet and chair of the Juilliard violin department, President Smirnoff is a global musical talent and performer whom Northeast Ohio is fortunate to have attracted, especially to fill the major void left at President Cerone's retirement. We are excited about the prospects for heightened music and arts partnerships across the region, and hope to explore a collaborative fine arts and music internship program with CIM, President Smirnoff and other arts aficionados.

~ Ann Womer Benjamin

Northeast Ohio Higher Education Projects Funded

NOCHE Colleges and Universities to Benefit from Capital Bill

On June 24, 2008, Governor Strickland signed the State of Ohio's two-year capital appropriations and budget corrections bill. The legislation included approximately \$1.3 billion for state facilities construction and improvements for fiscal years 2009-2010, of which about \$96.3 million is allocated to Northeast Ohio colleges and universities. The following list includes a few of the exciting regional projects in higher education:



Case Western Reserve University
Energy Center - \$333,333



Cleveland Institute of Art - \$500,000



Cleveland State University - \$4.0 million for Rhodes Tower renovation; \$3.5 million for Law Building renovation



Cuyahoga Community College - \$9.8 million for Health Care Technology Building, Eastern Campus

HIRAM COLLEGE

Hiram College - \$500,000 for the James A. Garfield Institute for Public Leadership



Kent State University - \$6.7 million for Oscar Ritchie Hall rehabilitation; \$5.8 million for Music and Speech Center renovations/addition



Lakeland Community College - \$1.9 million for "C" Building East End



Lorain County Community College - \$3.6 million for Student Center rehabilitation



NEOUCOM - \$2.0 million for renovations and sitework



Stark State College of Technology - \$2.0 million for Business Technologies Building



University of Akron - \$7.4 million for Polymer Processing Center, Phase II ; \$5.0 million for the College of Education



Youngstown State University - \$5.1 million for the College of Business



Ohio Skills Bank Comes to Northeast Ohio

New State Initiative to Prepare Residents for High-Demand Jobs

The Ohio Skills Bank is a new state program that seeks to develop collaboration among business, education, and workforce to meet statewide employment demands. Each region of the state is working to implement the Ohio Skills Bank in a manner that is consistent with its particular industry needs. Here in Northeast Ohio, the Fund for Our Economic Future is leading a "super-region" of 16 counties, called the Regional Talent Network. Guided by regional CEOs on an employer council, the Regional Talent Network will establish an operating framework for workforce development in Northeast Ohio. Stay tuned for more details!



Seniors to Sophomores Program Update

Nonpublic High School Students Permitted to Participate

In the June 2008 NOCHE Policy Points, NOCHE reported on the "Seniors to Sophomores" program, which is scheduled to begin as a pilot program in 49 school districts this fall. This dual-enrollment initiative allows academically-qualified high school seniors to earn high school and college credit simultaneously.

The June edition also indicated NOCHE was monitoring this initiative and would provide you with updates...and there is something to report! Pursuant to recent legislation, the Seniors to Sophomores program now allows **public** as well as **nonpublic** (chartered and non-chartered) high school students to participate.

Please contact Richelle Kidder, Associate Director at NOCHE, at rkidder@noche.org or 216-420-9200 x 228, if you have questions about this or other state higher education programs.

Cleveland State University Added as Collaborating Institution of NEOUCOM

Legislation adds Cleveland State University and Expands Board of Trustees

Cleveland State University is the newest member of the **NEOUCOM** B.S./M.D. program, joining **The University of Akron**, **Kent State University** and **Youngstown State University**. Students at these collaborating institutions have the opportunity to participate in an accelerated B.S. program that will lead to a transition into the M.D. program at NEOUCOM.

The membership of the NEOUCOM Board of Trustees will also grow from nine to eleven members, effective at the end of 2008. All eleven members will be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Ohio Senate.

Both of the above changes were recommended in the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration & Innovation Study Commission and the Ohio Board of Regents' Strategic Plan for Higher Education 2008-2017.



NOCHE Speaker's Bureau

If you are interested in having Ann Womer Benjamin offer a presentation on NOCHE initiatives and higher education and business collaboration in Northeast Ohio, please contact Richelle Kidder at rkidder@noche.org to make arrangements.



Northeastern Ohio Universities
COLLEGES OF MEDICINE & PHARMACY



CASE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

OBOR Taps Expertise of Case Western Reserve University Vice President

Mark Coticchia to Advise Regents on Economic Development

NOCHE congratulates Mark Coticchia, Vice President for Research & Technology Management at **Case Western Reserve University**, on his one-year appointment as senior adviser for economic development at the Ohio Board of Regents. Coticchia will work with the Ohio Department of Development to link higher education to the State of Ohio's efforts to develop business and industries.



Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education

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