

June 2008

Internship Funding a Reality

On June 12, 2008, Governor Strickland signed the state's \$1.57 billion economic stimulus package (House Bill 554) into law, which includes the new Ohio Co-Op/Internship Program. This program is to be funded at a minimum of \$50 million per year for fiscal years 2010 to 2014.

The Ohio Co-Op/Internship Program encourages (1) Ohio residents who go to college in the state to stay in Ohio, and (2) Ohio residents who left the state to return to Ohio's colleges and universities. Through this program, the state hopes to provide businesses with Ohio's most talented students—and to simultaneously provide Ohio graduates with job opportunities in growing industries.

This competitive grant program **can benefit public and private institutions**. The legislation provides that the Chancellor of the Board of Regents will make awards to state institutions for new or existing programs or initiatives—and awards may also be granted for programs implemented by a state institution in collaboration with other state institutions or *nonpublic* Ohio universities and colleges. **Private institutions** may submit proposals as lead applicants (or co-lead applicants); and, as noted above, private institutions may receive a portion of the funding if the programs are to be implemented in collaboration with a state institution.

The Ohio Co-Op/Internship Program also provides for scholarships to recruit Ohio residents and support academic programs that utilize cooperative education or internship programs. Scholarships will be awarded to eligible students as a grant to the state institution and will be reflected on the student's tuition bill.

This new program offers an exciting opportunity for Northeast Ohio on many levels—for colleges and universities, students, and employers. NOCHE looks forward to assisting public and private colleges and universities with internship programs that could qualify for funding through the Ohio Co-Op/Internship Program.



CSU President Michael Schwartz



CIM President David Cerone

Educating Citizens for the 21st Century: In More Ways than One

I first got to know **Cleveland State University President Michael Schwartz**—other than by prodigious reputation—when I was a fairly new State Representative from Portage County, with **Kent State University** as one of my biggest constituents. Although already having retired as Kent's president, President Schwartz remained a significant force in the Portage County community and spoke at a League of Women Voters meeting I attended.

In his remarks, President Schwartz displayed an undying passion for higher education and defined its overall mission—and I am paraphrasing—as the education of a productive citizenry to be contributing members of our democratic society. The definition was one of the best I had ever heard about the wide and deep responsibility of higher education to produce well-educated, civic-minded citizens of tomorrow. His success in accomplishing this mission as the leader of two institutions reflects his ability to translate a large vision into reality, a critical quality in any good leader, political or otherwise.

Similarly, I have known **President David Cerone** since I undertook legal representation of the **Cleveland Institute of Music** in the 1980s, then as my children took many piano and voice lessons at CIM in the decade after. President Cerone has been another visionary, identifying and cultivating some of the best musical talent in the world and building CIM to world-class status. He has also brought a distinctive legitimacy to music as a significant factor in the growth and success of our region, showcased at our recent Board meeting presentation by longtime Chief Financial Officer, and now Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Eric Bower.

I am glad both presidents will remain in the region and on their respective faculties, even after their official retirement—next year for President Schwartz but this month for President Cerone. Thus they can continue to make their marks on Northeast Ohio, and mentor people like me in ways they probably do not even realize. Best wishes from NOCHE!

~ Ann Womer Benjamin

“Seniors to Sophomores” Promotes Access and Aspiration

In the 2008 State of the State address, Governor Strickland announced the “Seniors to Sophomores” initiative. This dual-enrollment program allows high school seniors who meet academic standards to take college-level courses at a University System of Ohio campus (public universities, community colleges, branch campuses and facilities that house adult career programs), at no cost to the students, while receiving high school and college credit at the same time. High school seniors who take a full load of courses on a college campus during their senior year will be able to enter a University System of Ohio college on a second-year level—in other words, as sophomores.

To participate in the program, public school districts or community schools identify University System of Ohio institution partner(s) and apply for a grant from the state, with a maximum \$100,000 award per school district. Once awarded, grant dollars go to the school districts; however, a portion of the funds may be provided to universities to serve as plan facilitators.

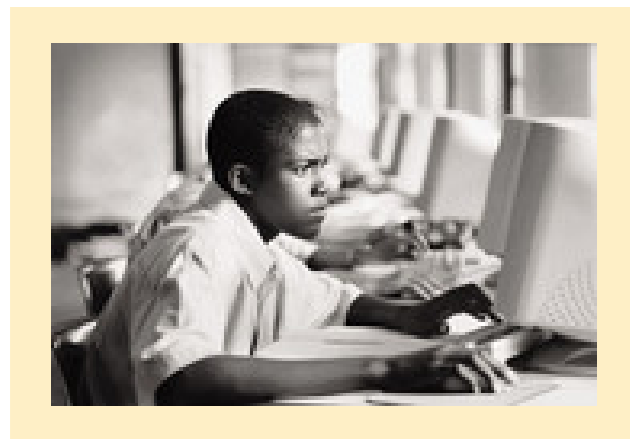
Seniors to Sophomores will be piloted this fall at more than 40 public school districts across the state. In Northeast Ohio, a total of 19 school districts will partner with higher education institutions including **Cuyahoga Community College, Youngstown State University, Kent State University, Lorain County Community College, Stark State College of Technology, and University of Akron.**

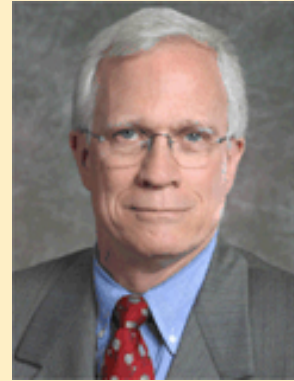
NOCHE will monitor the progress of this new initiative and provide updates as information becomes available. Feel free to contact Richelle Kidder, NOCHE Associate Director, at rkidder@noche.org or 216-420-9200 x 228, with questions.

Voluntary System of Accountability

On June 11, 2008, Ohio's 13 public universities and NEOUCOM signed an agreement to join the Voluntary System of Accountability-Ohio College Portrait (“VSA”). VSA is part of a national reporting program that allows the public to review and compare university performance to other schools across the country. The system tracks data including student characteristics, enrollment, graduation rates, retention, costs, financial aid, areas of study, housing, campus safety, employment and student experiences. According to a June 11, 2008 article in *The Columbus Dispatch*, joining the VSA will cost each college between \$30,000 and \$100,000, depending on its size.

Participation in the VSA was one of the key strategies identified in the 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education. Ohio's VSA data will be displayed on the *Ohio College Portrait* tool, to be housed at the University System of Ohio web site.





***The Plain Dealer* Lauds NOCHE Board Chairman Bob Rawson**

The Plain Dealer ran an editorial on June 26, 2008 that praised President Schwartz's contributions to our region and recognized the unique qualifications of CSU trustee **Bob Rawson**—Partner at Jones Day and NOCHE Board Chairman—to lead the selection process for President Schwartz's successor.

Click on the following link to read the complete article:
<http://www.cleveland.com/editorials/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/opinion/121446921151370.xml&coll=2>

Northeast Ohio Institutions Awarded Funding from Ohio Research Scholars Program

The Ohio Research Scholars Program provides grants to strengthen and increase the number of clusters of research excellence, led by Ohio's academic institutions that support regional economic priorities, in five targeted areas: (1) advanced materials, (2) biosciences, (3) instruments-controls-electronics, (4) information technology, and (5) power and propulsion. Congratulations to the following Northeast Ohio institutions that have been awarded grants under this program:

- **Kent State University**, in partnership with **Case Western Reserve University** - \$14.4 million to establish a research cluster on the science of soft matter interfaces
- **University of Akron**, in partnership with **NEOUCOM** - \$8.6 million to establish the Orthopaedic Research Cluster of Northeast Ohio
- **Cleveland State University** - \$900,000 to strengthen the collaborative relationship with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in cardiovascular repair and tissue engineering
- The Ohio State University, leading a partnership with the **University of Akron** and University of Dayton - \$18.2 million to pioneer revolutionary approaches to materials development
- OSU Research Foundation, leading a partnership with Ohio University, **Case Western Reserve University** and University of Toledo - \$10.5 million to establish a collaborative cluster in advanced energy systems
- OSU Research Foundation, leading a partnership with **Case Western Reserve University** and Wright State University - \$24.9 million to develop a network of biomedical imaging excellence in Ohio



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