



NOCHE News

July 2009

Welcome to NOCHE's Newest Member and NOCHE's Newest Presidents



At its June 4, 2009 meeting, NOCHE's Board approved **Jefferson Community College** as the newest member of NOCHE, making its President, **Dr. Laura Meeks**, a member of the NOCHE Board. Laura Meeks became President of Jefferson Community College in 1999. Previously, she served as President of Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott, Kansas, and was Vice President of Instruction at Green River Community College in Auburn, Washington. In addition, she has served on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges in Washington, D.C.

Jefferson Community College was originally chartered for operation in 1966 as a public two-year institute (the Jefferson County Technical Institute), then was approved by the Ohio Board of Regents to become Jefferson Technical College in 1977. In 1995, the college was renamed Jefferson Community College and expanded its mission to provide associate degrees for transfer to four-year institutions.

Today, Jefferson Community College is at the forefront of an exciting new initiative. As envisioned in the Ohio Board of Regents' Strategic Plan for Higher Education and Governor Strickland's "30 Mile Promise" (ensuring high-quality, low-cost associate and bachelor's degrees within 30 miles of every Ohioan), a new community college is expected to begin serving Northeast Ohio as the "Eastern Gateway Community College" this year. The new Eastern Gateway Community College will grow from the existing Jefferson Community College and will serve Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana and Jefferson counties.

Jefferson Community College also participated as a collaborator in the **NEO IT Project**, a proposal for state internship funding submitted by **Kent State University** on behalf of twelve collaborating higher education institutions and NOCHE.

Ronald Berkman began his presidency at Cleveland State in July, coming from Florida International University (FIU) in Miami where he was Executive Vice President, Provost, and Chief Operating Officer. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1976 and has taught there and at The University of California at Berkeley, Brooklyn College, the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, New York University and the University of Puerto Rico. President Berkman brings with him a longtime interest in urban issues, having served as Dean of the College of Urban Affairs at CUNY and Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at FIU.



Welcome to President Meeks and President Berkman!

Green's Time Has Come: Environmental Sustainability Roundtable Generates Enthusiasm

On June 24, 2009, NOCHE and the Western Reserve Resource Conservation & Development Council hosted an Environmental Sustainability Roundtable on "Green Collar" jobs, held at Corporate College East. More than 70 participants joined NOCHE and the Western Reserve RC&D for an update on Ohio's "green jobs" initiatives from Kimberly Gibson, Assistant to the Governor's Energy Advisor.





Led by Jack Ricchiuto of DesigningLife, attendees from higher education, business, government agencies and nonprofit organizations participated in roundtable discussions on (1) experiential learning opportunities for students (e.g., internships, co-ops and service learning), (2) curriculum alignment with employer needs, (3) research/technology transfer and commercialization, and (4) career information for pre-college students.

The Roundtable generated great ideas and enthusiasm for continued work among individuals and organizations engaged in the emerging "green collar" sector. NOCHE is looking forward to helping to incubate follow-up activities through working groups on the topics identified above. The NOCHE web site will be the "home base" for follow-up on the ideas coming out of the Roundtable. [Click here for a list of participants and compilation of discussion summaries.](#)

"Making It Real": College Caravan and Urban League Team Up

NOCHE is collaborating with the Urban League of Greater Cleveland on a college awareness event scheduled for July 17, 2009, at John Carroll University: "Making It Real: High School and Beyond." College Caravan Program Manager Brenda Davis Smith will be conducting NOCHE Bingo with student participants, an interactive college access game, followed by a question and answer session with college and university admissions representatives. This is the second year NOCHE has worked with the Urban League on events to promote college attendance.

NEOintern and Community Partnerships Grow



NOCHE has filled sixteen **TechLift summer internships** since the collaboration with JumpStart began this spring. Employers will be reimbursed for 50% of the intern's salary, up to \$1,500. Participating employers include Catacel of Garrettsville, Clean Alert of Oberlin,

Consolidus of Akron, COTSWORKS of Highland Heights, Embrace Pet Insurance of Mayfield Village, Endotronix of Cleveland, MyLifePlan of Ravenna, and ReXorce Thermionics of Akron.

NOCHE is partnering with The Cleveland Foundation, the Cleveland Hillel Foundation, (i)Cleveland, City Year, and Summer on the Cuyahoga to engage interns in one day of Greater Cleveland volunteerism, "**Ignite Internships Initiative.**" On July 15, 2009, interns will participate in several service projects across the region, followed by a social event of food and music in University Circle.

Always seeking to expand its student outreach, NOCHE commissioned and recently published an **internship study** which reveals misperceptions and barriers that prevent some students from pursuing or completing an internship. The study highlights some of the strategies and opportunities that Northeast Ohio and NOCHE can embrace to attract and retain a talented workforce in a competitive global market.



Funded by the Fenn Educational Fund of The Cleveland Foundation, the study examined student populations, identified underserved and underrepresented segments, framed common barriers and misperceptions affecting internship participation, and developed key strategic options and hypotheses for initiatives that could improve student awareness of and participation in the internship process.

Among other findings, the survey found that students often see internships as the domain of the more privileged and parent-coached college students whose parents have the awareness, contacts, and financial wherewithal to support internship activities. In addition, internships are viewed as too limited and hard to find and primarily for business and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) majors. Apprehension and concern about compensation and the economics of internships came up consistently as critical issues. The study is available at www.neointern.net and www.noche.org.



Meanwhile, NOCHE joined with Employers Resource Council (ERC) to examine **internship pay rates** in the region. The results of the recently published survey suggest that most Northeast Ohio employers are either maintaining or increasing internships this year, despite national trends showing marked decreases in internships (SHRM, 2009).

According to the results of the [2009 ERC / NOCHE Internship Pay Rates & Practices Survey](#), a study of internship employment and compensation practices in Northeast Ohio, 78% percent of the 125 organizations that responded to the survey plan to maintain or increase the number of interns they employ. Of the 13% that plan to reduce interns, most tended to be larger organizations and manufacturers. Smaller organizations and non-profits were more likely to maintain or increase the number of interns.

Meanwhile, NOCHE is one of only two **new Third Frontier internship grantees** for the upcoming year ([see the Columbus Dispatch article](#)). NOCHE administered a Third Frontier internship grant this past year in partnership with Greater Cleveland Partnership, which recommended NOCHE to be a grantee in its own right for this next fiscal year.



NOCHE Peer Committees Examine Current Topics

The **Chief Financial Officers Committee** met on April 21, 2009 hosted by **Lakeland Community College** at the Mooreland Mansion. John Verdile, President/CEO of Xpense Solutions, offered a presentation on energy management, with a special focus on electricity, given the changes to the market in the very near future. Dr. Craig Foltin of **Tri-C** provided details on the opportunity for institutions to join an electricity aggregation effort with NEO|SO (Tri-C as lead partner with Lakeland Community College). If you are interested in this opportunity, inquiries can be directed to Mark Polatajko at Mark.Polatajko@tri-c.edu or 216-987-4727. The committee is scheduled to meet again on July 21, 2009, 9-11 a.m.

More than 20 people attended the **Public Relations Advisory Committee** on June 16, 2009 at the Greater Cleveland Partnership to discuss messaging initiatives and strategies coming out of the Higher Education Communicators' Summit held March 19, 2009. The committee is seeking participants for an ad hoc group to develop common messaging for higher education in Northeast Ohio—i.e., messaging that would complement and be integrated into schools' existing marketing materials as appropriate. The group will meet this summer to develop an idea or ideas for common messaging and present the concept(s) to the committee at its next meeting on September 24, 2009, from 2-4 p.m. If you are interested in participating in this ad hoc group, contact NOCHE Associate Director Richelle Kidder at RKidder@noche.org or 216.420.9200 at extension 228.

On July 2, 2009, the **Chief Academic Officers Committee** heard a presentation from Meredith Turner, Ohio Education Liaison in the office of United States Senator Sherrod Brown, on the Senator's higher education and workforce priorities and potential opportunities in the federal stimulus package (ARRA).



NOCHE Executive Director Elected Vice President of State School Board



Executive Director Ann Womer Benjamin deals with the spectrum of Ohio education, not only at NOCHE but also as an appointed at-large member of the Ohio State School Board. At its June 2009 meeting, the Board elected her to be its new Vice President, replacing Uniontown member Debbie Cain who was elected the Board's President.

The State School Board's 19 members set primary and secondary education policy for the state, direct the planning and assessment functions of Ohio's public schools, and hire and supervise the state superintendent. Last fall the State School Board hired a new state superintendent, Deborah Delisle of Northeast Ohio, formerly the superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. The state superintendent oversees K-12 education in the state and works with the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents to develop and ensure a more seamless and accountable education system in Ohio.

As Vice President, Ann has been involved in budget discussions and planning in the wake of Ohio's financial challenges.

NOCHE Members in the News

[As president, Michael Schwartz raised Cleveland State University's profile](#)

[\\$2.5M acquired for Eastern Gateway start-up](#)

[Internships not impossible to come by](#) (Lake Erie College)

[Jack Welch lends name to degree program at Chancellor University](#)

[Cuyahoga Community College to get \\$743,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

[YSU plans to develop 4 Centers of Excellence](#)

[The University of Akron and Lorain County Community College strengthen their partnership](#)

[Going green can earn you green](#) (Malone University)

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*.