



NOCHE News

April 2009

NOCHE's New Chairman Reffner Steeped in Region



Having practiced law in Cleveland and Akron, having been educated at two NOCHE institutions, being employed at a regional energy leader, and being a longtime civic activist with such organizations as Team NEO, Akron Tomorrow, and 50 Club of Cleveland, Bob Reffner knows Northeast Ohio and shares NOCHE's passion to build the region.

Mr. Reffner joined FirstEnergy in February 2007 where he is Vice President, Legal, after serving for many years as a partner at Brouse McDowell, one of Northeast Ohio's foremost law firms. A graduate of **The University of Akron** with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and **Case Western Reserve University School of Law**, he has been recognized on numerous occasions as one of the best lawyers in the nation and the region.

Mr. Reffner replaces Bob Rawson, Jones Day partner and former managing partner, and current Interim Dean of the **Case Western Reserve School of Law**. Mr. Rawson has led NOCHE for twelve years, most recently through a strategic planning process and transition to new leadership and mission focus. Mr. Rawson will remain a NOCHE Board member and will continue to serve on its Executive Committee.

Leadership Transitions

David Sweet - Youngstown State University

Following a decade at the helm at **Youngstown State University**, President David Sweet will be stepping down next year. Prior to coming to YSU, President Sweet was dean of the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State, and was admired for his innovation and unabashed commitment to community development. At YSU, President Sweet has led enrollment growth, community redevelopment through close alliance with the city, and a Centennial Capital Campaign for \$43 million which has reached \$49 million.

We still have time to enjoy his vision and energy!

David Deming - Cleveland Institute of Art

We still have him around for a year and a half, but President David Deming announced last October that he would retire from the leadership of **Cleveland Institute of Art** in the fall of 2010.

Under President Deming, CIA transitioned from a five-year undergraduate program to a four-year one to make the school more competitive, and broadened the scope of art education. The school also undertook plans to move to a new location on Euclid Avenue, plans which are now being implemented. For more than twenty years the **Cleveland Institute of Art** has been a NOCHE member and President Deming has been on the Board since assuming CIA's presidency in 1998. He recently joined NOCHE's Executive Committee. NOCHE values his leadership!

NEO IT Crunch Time



In early March, *Crain's Cleveland Business* highlighted the unique collaboration known as the NEO IT Project which is progressing to take advantage of state funding available under the **Ohio Co-op/Internship Program**. The coalition consists of fourteen public and private higher education institutions together with businesses, business associations and economic development partners. The project is focused on information technology and will contain comprehensive plans to encourage students to pursue IT internships and cultivate internship and co-op programs at the schools, enhance schools' outreach efforts to students and employers, and encourage employers to develop first-class internship programs to build the talent pipeline in Northeast Ohio.

The State of Ohio's RFP was issued in mid-March, with a timeline requiring the final proposal to be submitted by April 30, 2009. NOCHE is working with **Kent State University** as the lead institution to craft the final submission. The Statement of Intent was submitted by Kent State on April 3, 2009.

You can access the [Crain's article at http://www.noche.org/media/1/Craains_NEO_IT.pdf](http://www.noche.org/media/1/Craains_NEO_IT.pdf), and the [RFP at http://uso.edu/opportunities/partnership/internships/](http://uso.edu/opportunities/partnership/internships/). For questions on the NEO IT Project, contact NOCHE Associate Director Richelle Kidder at rkidder@noche.org or 216-420-9200 x228.

Calling All Employers

NOCHE's internship program NEOintern.net continues to add to its employer registrants and surpassed its intern placement goal for the Entrepreneurial Internship Program by 228%. Employers have been participating in webinars and learned about how to build a great internship program at a workshop in February.



A new employer handbook, *Maximize Your ROI: Return on Intern*, has been published by NOCHE and will be available for purchase through the NOCHE web site. The handbook draws on employer best practices and experience to provide employers with guidelines for a model internship program. It will be used to facilitate NOCHE workshops and employer support down the road, along with volunteer employer coaches NOCHE has been recruiting.

If you are interested in becoming a coach or have questions about *Maximize Your ROI: Return on Intern*, contact Halley Marsh at hmarsh@noche.org or at 216-420-9200 x234.

TechLift Internship Program Launched



A collaboration between NorTech and NOCHE has produced a new internship program through TechLift to support internships at high-tech start-ups affiliated with JumpStart or TechLift. The internships are business internships for these employers, who will be reimbursed for 50% of the intern's salary, up to \$1,500. If you are interested in posting an opportunity, visit www.neointern.net.

Calling All Students

NOCHE has launched an internship blog at blog.neointern.net. Internship tips, perspectives and anecdotes will be regular features, to which students can add their own comments and observations. Participate!

College Caravan in the News

NOCHE's Fall College Caravan made such strides in outreach that it was showcased in the [Winter Edition of the National College Access Network's AccessUpdate](#). Reaching a record 4,766 students in underserved Northeast Ohio high schools, the Fall College Caravan visited 27 schools with admissions counselors from sixteen higher education institutions.



The program was also featured in the Ohio College Access Network's recent *Access* newsletter.

Kudos go to program manager Brenda Davis Smith for her leadership of College Caravan, and thanks go to the high school and college staff who make it a success! If you are interested in learning more about College Caravan, contact Brenda at BDavisSmith@noche.org or 216-420-9200 x223.

Civic Mindedness and Higher Education



NOCHE held its March Board meeting at **Youngstown State University** and saw firsthand what the partnership of school and community can yield. President David Sweet discussed Youngstown's civic vision and YSU's participation in implementing that vision through integrating a walkable campus neighborhood with the city as a whole, and reaching out to blighted areas with development ideas – such as the Smoky Hollow project – to benefit both the city and the university. Among other challenges faced by the area has been the drop in population from 160,000 thirty years ago to 76,000 now.

Also on the agenda was an update on the development of a community college in the Mahoning Valley, a goal in the Chancellor's [Strategic Plan for Higher Education](#) issued a year ago. Youngstown State had been working on the idea even before the Strategic Plan, in the hope that it could alleviate, among other issues, the \$1 million YSU spends on remediation each year. The plans have indeed evolved, with President Roy Church leading implementation. Draft legislation is being written for the "Eastern Gateway Community College," and President Church said that in a year the school should have a half dozen programs, corporate infrastructure and a board of trustees. Some programs are expected to begin this fall.