

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*

**Minutes from August 22, 2007 session of the**  
**Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration & Innovation Study Commission**  
**Held at the Offices of the GAR Foundation, Akron, Ohio**

**Attendees:** Chairman, Ted Boyd, Dorothy Baunach, Bruce Beeghly, Rob Briggs, Dr. William Demas, Phillip Kaufmann, Dr. Lester Lefton, Dr. Lois Nora, John Pogue, Richard Pogue, Dr. Luis Proenza, Dr. Michael Schwartz, Dr. David Sweet, Jane Timken, Jim Trakas, Ronald Weinberg, and Bradley Whitehead

**Guests:** Ann Womer Benjamin, Dr. Roy Church, Kimberly Chapple, Richard Lewis, Tom Maraffa, Chand Midha, Dr. Charlene Reed, Kathleen Ruff, Dr. Beth Stroble, Pat Myers, Dr. Peter Kasvinsky, Dr. Mary Jane Saunders, Dr. John Case, Lynne Woodman, Kathy Stafford, Claire Rosacco, Dr. Robert Frank

**Unable to attend:** James Hambrick

**Staff:** Monica Turoczy, Amy Sabath, Allen Proctor

***Opening Comments of Chairman Ted Boyd***

- Mr. Boyd welcomed everyone and the Commission members approved the minutes from the July 25 meeting. Mr. Boyd acknowledged the Commission's underlying principles that were distributed in the materials. He also noted the Commission is proceeding well on the Workplan. There was a slight delay on the Academic Health Center workgroup which has just been formed to discuss medical professional education.
- Dr. Roy Church, President of Lorain County Community College, was introduced for the presentation to the Commission on behalf of the four community and technical college Presidents.

***Presentation: Community and Technical College Presidents' Presentation***

**PLEASE NOTE:** A copy of the power point presentation is attached.

- Dr. Church stated that we need to be sure that northeast Ohio increases student enrollment 30 – 40% in the next ten years. We need to find better ways to improve higher education. He added that we don't adequately motivate adults to seek higher education.
- The mission of community colleges is to serve residents in their geographical community. Every community needs to be served by providing access for the following: (1) baccalaureate degree, (2) two years programs to meet the needs of every community, (3) developmental education, (4) continuing education, (5) all designed to be responsive to the local communities.
- The first and foremost recommendation is to fully implement the equivalency based transfer system in four phases. Dr. Proenza added this will ensure students don't just get credit for a course, they actually learn the subject.
- Dr. Church suggested a commitment to the “*Choose Ohio First*” STEM Scholars Program in partnership with 2-year colleges. This requires universities to partner with two-year colleges if they take advantage of the STEM program.
- It would also be important to develop curricula which could be delivered by multiple institutions to meet regional needs.
- Dr. Church added other important recommendations such as: initiate joint regional marketing strategies to attract working adults to higher education, develop a plan to reduce health care costs regionally, and consider consolidating investment management to maximize returns and lower costs. Dr. Church noted he did not address barriers to collaborations.
- Mr. Boyd noted these were good suggestions and reflective of the direction of the Study Commission. Dr. Sweet added that the Commission should incorporate many of these suggestions. Dr. Proenza added that they should be allocated to the Commission's two committees with representation from the community colleges.
- Mr. Boyd proposed the community college recommendations to be integrated with the Big Ideas of the Commission.

### ***Other Business***

- Mr. Boyd and Dr. Lefton introduced Dr. Robert Frank as the new Provost at Kent State University.

### ***Big Ideas***

- Mr. Boyd noted the Commission would begin discussions on the Big Ideas which have been distributed in previous months. The presenter would have a few minutes to briefly explain the idea.
- Common Application: (Presented by Rob Briggs) This is already being used by larger, more elite schools and in 316 private colleges. This universal common application is used in several states

and would be a more efficient tool for us to use in northeast Ohio. Mr. Proctor is currently working on this with the Administrative Workgroup.

- Universal Internships: (Presented by Rob Briggs) This is a way for any student who wants to do an internship in northeast Ohio to find one through NOCHE at Clevelandintern.net. Last year there were 2,500 internships and NOCHE hopes to have 3600 internships by next year. Eighteen of the twenty-six NOCHE institutions are subscribed to this program. They pay a nominal fee to access the site; however, the service is free. Students and employers register their internships, most of which are paid. This is a positive solution to tie together higher education, economic development, and the brain gain all together.
- Cross-registration: (Presented by Rob Briggs) While enrolled at one institution, students can take courses at another. It alleviates the problem of campuses hiring specialized faculty or having to cancel courses due to low enrollment. It seems like a very efficient approach. It also establishes uniform communication, registration, library grade reporting policies among institutions that are already using this model. Mr. Briggs noted there are back office adjustments of taking courses at one institution when registered at another.
- Mr. Pogue asked if there is already cross registration being done. Ms. Turoczy noted that there is a rudimentary program operated through NOCHE. It is not as comprehensive as it could be and has room for improvement, but the foundation is there.
- Mr. Briggs added that the legislature should continue the work of the Study Commission and follow-through on implementation. There needs to be follow through on the work being done.
- Joint Purchasing / Procurement: (Presented by Jim Trakas) Mr. Trakas suggested a spin-off of back office functions and segregate them from the core missions and bring value added education to the citizens of northeast Ohio. There will be substantial cost saving over time. There will have to be investment put into this before we see savings down the road.
- Northeast Ohio Internet University: (Presented by Jim Trakas) Mr. Trakas added that we can have a strong Internet university system that we can market and offer world-wide. We have substantial talent at our institutions in northeast Ohio and we can use them in a universal Internet University.
- Realignment of Academic Programs to the economy: (Presented by Jim Trakas) Mr. Trakas suggested we provide better opportunities to people in northeast Ohio if this is done as institutions working together. Some of our programs are out-of-date and ineffective. We have had an undereducated economy for a long time. There needs to be a focused mission to attract new people and new businesses to northeast Ohio. Higher education will be the leader on this with a focused effort on programs and majors to build up our economy.
- Future Academic Programs to be Joint: (Presented by Jim Trakas) Mr. Trakas noted that with if an Academic programs is a good idea at one institution, then it's probably good at another. The institutions need to work together on joint programs.

- P-16: (Presented by Jane Timken) Ms. Timken indicated more needs to be done with the pipeline. Access, affordability and retention are key factors. She referenced California's program, "Campus Action to Facilitate Graduation" to increase preparedness from high school to college. Several areas to consider for P-16 are: to improve community college transfer process, make sure students have a clear path to graduation, market northeast Ohio colleges to our high schools, have a common application system, stronger communication between high schools and colleges with open dialogue, early college administration, and increasing enrollment.
- Dr. Sweet endorsed the idea of P-16 and added that a foundation needs to be built of K-12 to make success of students possible.
- Mr. Boyd noted all the ideas presented have been briefly discussed and they would be referred to the appropriate workgroups for further consideration. All members present were in agreement.

### ***Workgroup Reports***

- Academic Work Group: Ms. Timken noted that members need to digest the Big Ideas and the Academic group would be meeting following the Study Commission meeting to discuss the ideas in detail. It is the hope of the Academic group to bring together more of their recommendations.
- Administrative Work Group: Mr. Kaufmann noted the Administrative group is looking into further analysis of cost savings and further study of implementation. They would like to have a study done by Mercer Health and Benefits. The Commission would underwrite the cost for Mercer. Mr. Proctor added that the community colleges will be added to this study.
- Mr. Proctor presented an illustration to show the timeline with aspirations. The thirteen projects related to tactical issues that can and will be done at the five campuses. There is a two-prong approach including tactical and aspirational.
- Dr. Lefton asked what can and will be done. He noted there are some costs to be noted; we may have to spend one million dollars in order to make five million.
- Dr. Sweet added that unions and healthcare are big issues to look into. He suggesting inviting union representation to look at the Commission recommendations. Mr. Briggs added that people have been reaching out to union leadership and they are willing to work and be helpful.
- Dr. Proenza added that we are moving forward with this Commission without asking students for input as to what they want. We should find a way to access their input.
- Mr. Boyd adjourned the meeting.

Adjourn 10:10 AM

**Presentation to  
 The NEO Universities Collaboration & Innovation  
 Study Commission--August 22, 2007**

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<p>Morris Beverage Lakeland Community College</p>	<p>John O'Donnell Stark State College</p>
<p>Roy A. Church Lorain County Community College</p>	<p>Jerry Sue Thornton Cuyahoga Community</p>

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**Northeast Ohio Public Colleges and Universities  
 Current Enrollment Context  
 (Fall, 2005)**

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	<u>2 Year</u>	<u>4 Year</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<b>Freshmen and sophomores</b>	65,201 (68%)	30,307 (32%)	95,508
23 and under	31,874 (56%)	24,760 (44%)	56,634
24 and older	33,327 (86%)	5,547 (14%)	38,874
<b>All undergrads</b>	65,201 (52%)	60,334 (48%)	125,535
23 and under	31,874 (44%)	40,575 (56%)	72,449
24 and older	33,327 (63%)	19,759 (37%)	53,086

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- Pipeline Opportunities**
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1. Fully implement the equivalency based transfer system:
    - transfer module
    - 38 bachelor's degree TAGS
    - bi-lateral equivalency agreements
    - competency based equivalents.

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**Pipeline Opportunities (con't.)**

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2. Complete the system of Community Colleges throughout the region.
3. Evaluate compliance with ORC 3333.20, Educational Service Standards for community colleges, university branches, technical colleges and state community colleges, and ensure every community in the region has these services.

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**Pipeline Opportunities (con't.)**

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4. Create Bridge Transfer Scholarships to ease students from 2-year tuition rates to 4-year (i.e., first 15 semester hours at half rate; 2<sup>nd</sup> 15 semester hours at three quarters, and full rate thereafter).
5. Accelerate Ohio Core timeline for developmental/remedial to move to 2-year campuses.

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**Pipeline Opportunities (con't.)**

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6. Deliver bachelor's degree completion offerings to adults on all 2-year campuses.
7. Commit to the "*Choose Ohio First*" STEM Scholars Program in partnership with 2-year colleges.

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**Collaboration Opportunities**

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8. Conduct joint periodic industry sector needs assessments.
9. Develop curricula which could be delivered by multiple institutions to meet regional needs.

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**Collaboration Opportunities (con't.)**

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10. Develop and implement a plan to reach NE Ohio's portion of the 230K enrollment increase goal.
  - Develop regional strategies to achieve enrollment and attainment goals.

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**Collaboration Opportunities (con't.)**

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- Monitor progress yearly and report results.

11. Initiate joint regional marketing strategies to attract working adults to higher education.

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**Collaboration Opportunities (con't.)**

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12. Develop a plan to reduce health care costs regionally.
13. Consider consolidating investment management to maximize returns and lower costs.

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**Collaboration Opportunities (con't.)**

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14. Develop consolidated back-office business functions when they project at least 20% savings.

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