



## Learning Accountability Conference Unveils Statewide Student Success Plan Concept

During the 2005-2006 academic year, the Regents Planning Committee on Learning Accountability and Productivity – composed of administrators and faculty from Ohio’s two- and four-year institutions of higher education and Regent’s staff – discussed ways in which Ohio higher education institutions could be more responsive to assessment as a critical factor in improving student learning.

A statewide conference was held on June 15 and 16 that focused on student learning; how Ohio’s institutions are responding to the accountability challenge; and the development of institutional student success plans. The centerpiece of the planning committee’s work is a statewide Student Success Plan, which documents learning outcomes and student achievement in the undergraduate experience and expands upon accountability elements that already exist in many of Ohio’s colleges and universities.

Each institution will be responsible for developing an institutional success plan, which will



**Speaker of the House, Jon Husted was the keynote speaker at the conference**

be posted online so that citizens and prospective students can have instant access to the academic expectations and opportunities available at each campus in the state. The development of these plans throughout the state should result in the collaboration of colleges and universities to define the outcomes and develop assessments that also benefit a student’s ability to transfer academic credit and enhance the academic connections between high school and college.

As a follow-up action step to the statewide conference, a series of regional meetings this coming fall will assist institutions as they deal thoughtfully, yet practically, with institutional accountability concerns and develop their own unique Student Success Plans. The success plans would foster continuous improvement and have the following common characteristics:

- Define learning outcomes and assess student achievement of those outcomes in General Education.
- Define learning outcomes and assess student achievement of those outcomes in undergraduate majors.
- Set not just current standards but also higher expectations in undergraduate education: content, competencies, abilities and successful completion.
- Ensure the engagement of faculty and the entire instructional community in continuous improvement of student outcomes and student achievements.

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# Cincinnati Leaders launch 'Strive' Educational Partnership

Leaders in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky believe the region can develop the best educational system in the world from preschool through college. In a cooperative effort to ensure that every student in the region succeeds, superintendents and college presidents in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky joined with elected officials, education, business, non-profit, and civic leaders to launch a region-wide community effort called Strive.

"Our region is blessed with a wealth of resources to support student success," said Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory. "We are bringing these resources and initiatives together for the first time into a partnership organized around a core set of goals and strategies. By focusing our work, I join the mayors in Covington and Newport in believing this region can distinguish itself as a national leader on innovative education policy."

The **Strive Promise** of student success is focused on five key goals and initial strategies:

- *Every child will be **prepared** for school from birth through early childhood education.*
- *Every child will be **supported inside and outside the school walls.***
- *Every child will **succeed academically.***
- *Every student will **enroll** in some form of postsecondary education.*
- *Every student will **graduate and enter a career.***

In addition to the strategies, the business community will work with the partners to reengineer the education system and develop an accountability structure that supports alignment of these efforts over the long term. "We believe that by coordinating these strategies and others that will follow, we can ensure precious resources are used efficiently and effectively to reach every student," said Jim Wiseman, Vice President of Toyota.

Kathryn Merchant, President and CEO of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation announced that the Greater Cincinnati Foundation has committed one million dollars over the next four years to support the work of developing Community Learning Centers in Cincinnati Public Schools. Additionally, United Way of Greater Cincinnati will make a first-year commitment of \$200,000 to the Community Learning Center effort--with the potential for more to come."

Chad Wick, President and CEO of the KnowledgeWorks Foundation said, "We have worked throughout the country to learn from and promote reforms that completely rethink how education systems operate. The leadership represented in the Strive partnership is unprecedented nationally and puts Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky on the cutting edge of meaningful educational reform. We feel it is our obligation to support such a bold new vision for the region."

However, the partners believe that this vision can only be

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The regional meetings are being sponsored by the Regents and will be held at selected Ohio public and private colleges and universities. The dates and logistics of the meetings are currently being developed.

At the regional meetings we will review highlights of the statewide conference and discuss the design and purpose of the success plan initiative. It is envisioned that, as a result of this process, we will have something in place to share with the General Assembly at the time of the budget hearings for the next biennial budget. The regional meetings will also provide an opportunity to examine some of the institutional accountability plans and to discuss ways that we can leverage strengths that different institutions evidence and strengthen the access of Ohioans to information about student learning.

achieved with the support and commitment of the community as a whole. University of Cincinnati President Nancy Zimpher noted, "The news here is that so many aspects of the education pathway are coming together in extraordinary ways, to make our community smarter and stronger. This is an opportunity for everyone to get involved all along the way."

Strive is asking for feedback on these strategies and others that should be prioritized to promote student success.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the web site at [www.strivetogether.org](http://www.strivetogether.org).

## Pickaway Co. Partnership Focuses on Access

A new partnership between Ohio University and Columbus State Community College will bring college class offerings to Teays Valley High School, officials of the Pickaway County Board of Commissioners and the Pickaway County Education Improvement Committee announced in early August.

The commissioners have been meeting with local school boards, private organizations and clubs as part of a higher education awareness initiative. The initiative has two major goals: to increase the number of Pickaway County citizens who pursue higher education and to provide those citizens with higher education options and opportunities.

To increase the awareness of the need for higher education, the committee plans to counsel students on the benefits of postsecondary education. In addition, an effort will be made to target and encourage elementary- and middle-school age children and their families to begin thinking about college.

As a result of meetings with representatives from Ohio University, Columbus State Community College and the Ohio Board of Regents an agreement has been made between the two institutions to begin offering courses at Teays Valley High School, in addition to courses that are currently being offered by Ohio University at Berger Hospital and Circleville City Schools.

October 2006

# SAVE THE DATE

October 23-25, 2006  
Ohio College Access & Success Conference  
The Columbus Marriott North Hotel

**ROAD TO SUCCESS**  
Ohio College Access & Success Conference  
October 23-25, 2006

MONDAY, OCTOBER  
**23** ↗  
Keynote Luncheon,  
Educational Breakout  
Sessions

TUESDAY, OCTOBER  
**24**  
Policy Breakfast,  
Advisor Track,  
Awards Dinner

Wednesday,  
OCTOBER  
**25**  
Retention  
Summit

The Ohio College Access Network (OCAN) and the Student Access and Success Coordinating Council of Ohio (SASCCO) work together to increase awareness of and successful participation in quality post-secondary programs, including apprenticeship, certificate, associate, and bachelor degree programs.

**GET INVOLVED!** For Sponsorship information or to submit a proposal to present at the conference, visit [www.ohiocan.org/2006conference](http://www.ohiocan.org/2006conference)

Online registration will be available this summer!  
One-Day registration will be available.

For more information contact:  
**The Ohio College Access Network**  
Phone: 513.830.1200  
Email: [ocan@ohiocan.org](mailto:ocan@ohiocan.org)  
Website: [www.ohiocan.org](http://www.ohiocan.org)

## Miami Access Announced

Miami University next year will take a significant step toward making Miami accessible to all academically qualified students regardless of income. The initiative will cover all tuition and fees for up to four years for Ohio students with family incomes less than \$35,000, Miami President David Hodge announced.

The initiative will begin with new students entering the Oxford campus in fall 2007.

For more information, visit the website at [www.miami.muohio.edu/news/article/view/75](http://www.miami.muohio.edu/news/article/view/75)

## Higher Education Fact

Between 1980 and 2004, earnings increased with education for those aged 25-34 who worked full-time throughout the year. Young adults with a bachelor's degree or higher had higher median earnings than those with less education. Additionally, the difference between the earnings of those with at least a bachelor's degree and those without grew during this period. In 1980, males with a bachelor's degree or higher earned 19 percent more than those without, while in 2004 they earned 67 percent more.

-U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2006). *The Condition of Education 2006* (NCES 2006-071), [Indicator 22](#).

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## National Conference for GEAR UP

Regents staff and local coordinators from Ohio's GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) sites met with members of Ohio's Congressional delegation during the last week of July. More than 2,000 GEAR UP staff members from across the country – representing 1.5 million GEAR UP students – attended the national conference.

The group touted the benefits of GEAR UP programming for students by pointing to the results (higher GPAs, higher test scores, increased college awareness, etc.) of the first GEAR UP grant. More than 13,000 students are involved in GEAR UP in the current round

of funding in eight “lighthouse” communities in Ohio. Over the six-year life of the grant, it's expected that about 30,000 economically disadvantaged students will receive comprehensive services to help them prepare for, go to and succeed in college.



GEAR UP personnel met with aides from the offices of U.S. Representatives Sherrod Brown, David Hobson, Marcy Kaptur, Michael Oxley, Patrick Tiberi and Ted Strickland.

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Jon Tafel, Vice Chancellor for Educational Linkages and Access, oversees the Regents access initiatives and collaborative efforts with statewide partners to increase Ohio's college-going rate.

*Student Access and Success is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Educational Linkages and Access Division of the Ohio Board of Regents for Ohio's access and success community.*