

**DIRECTIVE 2011-005**

March 13, 2011

**Re: Directive on Aging and Higher Education**

With 1.5 million people age 65 and over, Ohio has the 7<sup>th</sup> largest older population in the nation. Between now and 2035, Ohio's older population will more than double presenting Ohio with both challenges and opportunities. Whether by necessity or by choice, many of the new generation of older Ohioans will remain active and engaged in the work place, either as employees or as volunteers, well beyond traditional retirement age. On the other hand, some older adults will need assistance, and will have serious challenges in areas such as health and long-term care which will intensify dramatically in the future.

The aging of our population is unprecedented in human history. This phenomenon will force Ohio to confront multiple issues including how we: support and retain workers; fund retirement, health, and long-term care programs; train and supply the needed workforce; develop technology to serve older people more efficiently; and how we provide older people with the opportunity to stay actively engaged. Effective resolution of these issues is critical to the success of our state. Ohio's institutions of higher education should help prepare the state for both the opportunities and challenges posed by our aging society.

To implement the key strategy of Lifelong Learning of the Strategic Plan for Higher Education 2008-2017 for the University System of Ohio (Page 60) and pursuant to section 3333.04(M) of the Revised Code, I hereby establish an **Aging and Higher Education Advisory Committee** which will make recommendations to the Chancellor. The committee will be charged with recommending specific ways in which institutions of higher education can help to prepare Ohio for the unprecedented growth in our aging population and the public policy challenges related to work, retirement, education, health, family caregiving, and long-term care. The committee shall meet quarterly and shall issue a report to the Chancellor detailing these recommendations. After issuing the report, the committee shall cease to exist unless the Chancellor requests the committee to implement, monitor, or study any recommendations adopted pursuant to the report or to study and make recommendations on additional issues.

The advisory committee shall be comprised of **15 members** to be appointed by the Chancellor. Membership shall include: representatives of institutions of higher education and the Ohio Board of Regents; Ohio industry; state governmental agencies serving older Ohioans; and agencies providing services to and advocacy for older Ohioans. The Advisory Committee will be co-chaired by representatives of the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Department of Aging.

The Chancellor's Aging and Higher Education Advisory Committee will focus on the following areas:

- Increase Ohio's skilled workforce by retraining workers age 55 and older and linking them with Ohio employers.
- Increase Ohio graduates in the field of aging at the associate, bachelor, graduate and professional degree levels and link them with employers.
- Increase federally and privately funded research in the field of aging at Ohio's institutions of higher education.
- Facilitate partnerships among Ohio's colleges, universities, and businesses to develop innovative products and services for the growing older population.
- Encourage lifelong learning opportunities for adults age 55 and older, for both employment and for enrichment.

The directive was posted for a public comment period. After reviewing staff recommendations, I hereby establish the Aging and Higher Education Advisory Committee as an advisory committee to the Chancellor pursuant to section 3333.04(M) of the Revised Code.

This Directive takes effect immediately.



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Eric D. Fingerhut  
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents