



Directive 2010-XXX
_____, 2010

Re: REQUEST BY STARK STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY TO CHANGE NAME TO STARK STATE COLLEGE

Stark State College of Technology has requested authorization to change its name to Stark State College to better align its name with the substantive changes it has undertaken in furtherance of its 2004 Strategic Plan as well as to better align with higher education policies of the state.

Stark State was established in 1960 as a technical college. Until 2007, when the Ohio General Assembly enacted section 3357.13 of the Ohio Revised Code which authorized the Chancellor to approve baccalaureate-oriented associate degree programs at technical colleges, technical colleges in Ohio had been organized for the principal purpose of providing for the residents of the technical college district one or more of instructional programs or adult-education technical programs, normally not exceeding two years duration and not leading to a baccalaureate degree.

On March 31, 2008, pursuant to a charge from the General Assembly, the Chancellor delivered to the General Assembly and the Governor his recommendations, known as the Strategic Plan for Higher Education. The Strategic Plan for Higher Education seeks to build a world class university system that is high quality, accessible and affordable. One goal stated in the Strategic Plan is to take advantage of Ohio Revised Code 3357.13 and increase access to higher education by allowing associate degrees to be granted at all twenty-three community colleges.

In April of 2008 the Chancellor responded to the enactment of section 3357.13 by approving a joint application of the technical colleges that allowed them to officially grant associate degrees, Stark State had been expanding its offerings, and in 2009, was approved as a comprehensive associate degree college by the Higher Learning Commission, offering Applied Associate degrees, Associate of Arts degrees and Associate of Science degrees.

The Strategic Plan also identifies Affordability and Efficiency metrics of success. These metrics include the average out of pocket cost for tuition and fees throughout the system, increasing the number of combined associate and bachelor's degrees ("2+2 degrees") offered on a community college or university regional campus, and increasing the percentage of bachelor's degree recipients with at least one year of credit from a community college. (Strategic Plan, page 104)

A key strategy set out in the Strategic Plan to meet these three Affordability and Efficiency metrics is to expand degree offerings by creating networks of high-quality, low-cost campuses offering both bachelor's and associate degrees within 30 miles of every Ohioan by utilizing existing community college and regional campus facilities (Strategic Plan, page 66). Stark State, though its expansion of associate degrees and

partnerships with local governments and businesses has shown its commitment to this key strategy of the Strategic Plan.

Stark State has continued to seek, and has received, approvals from the Chancellor to offer additional baccalaureate-oriented associate degree programs. Stark State's commitment to increasing educational opportunities in its district aligns both with higher education public policy of the state and the institution's strategic plan. The College is dedicated to individual learning, transferable higher education and career success. It advances quality of life through accessibility and business and community partnerships. These changes have also resulted in the dramatic growth in enrollment at Stark State.

On June 2, 2010, the board of trustees of Stark State College of Technology approved a resolution authorizing a name change from Stark State College of Technology to Stark State College to better reflect the college's current mission and status, and submitted for the Chancellor's approval pursuant to section 3357.07 of the Ohio Revised Code a request to change its charter to Stark State College.

Stark State's evolution since its founding in 1960, especially over the last decade, support its request to drop the word technology from its name, as it is now clearly more than a technical education provider.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the name change from Stark State College of Technology to Stark State College as it aligns with the goals of the Strategic Plan and the College's current mission and status.