

The Ohio Board of Regents

Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio:
Meeting the State's Future Needs
March 31, 2008



Ohio needs educated college graduates in the numbers and disciplines required to meet the workforce needs of a thriving 21st century economy.

Photo: Miami University

Highlights from the Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio:

Meeting the State's Future Needs

March 31, 2008



Board of Regents

Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor



Ohio's future is linked to **education** and **innovation**

What can Ohio do to ensure a better quality of life for its citizens and greater economic prosperity in the future? Ohio must **produce and retain more college graduates, attract more college graduates** from other states and countries and **increase workforce development, research and technology transfer activities** in a context of ever-growing global economic competition. The bottom line is that more Ohioans than ever before in our history must obtain college degrees that prepare them to operate on the outer edge of knowledge and to innovate.

If Ohio is successful in producing more degrees, what will it mean for the state? Producing up to 30% more bachelor's or higher degrees and increasing the number of associate's degrees will give Ohio an additional \$1.4 billion of annual expected earned income in 10 years and \$5.6 billion more by 2030 (*estimates are in constant dollars and were calculated by Cleveland State University's Urban University Program*). Attracting and retaining more college graduates will further increase the estimated dollar impact. More income will mean greater consumer spending, a more robust economy and a better quality of life for Ohioans.

In preparing the *Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio*, the Regents set a context by asking:

How well is higher education positioned to provide essential educational, research and public services for a thriving 21st century economy?

We answer this question by assessing Ohio's:

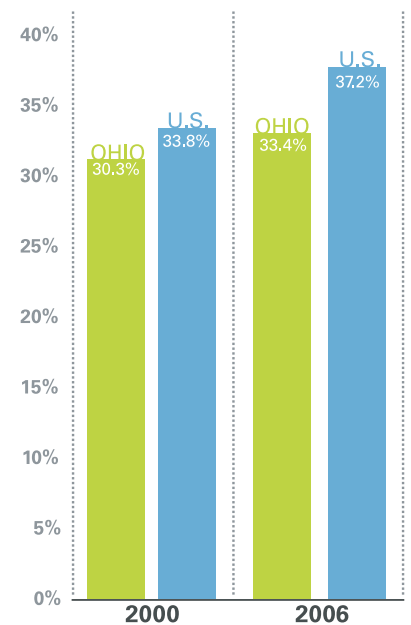
- Educational and degree attainment and participation
- Preparation
- Affordability
- Financial condition and productivity
- Workforce development, research and technology transfer
- Capabilities and strengths of Ohio's higher education system

What We Found

The Ohio Board of Regents developed six questions that form the core of The Condition Report. In answering these questions we found that:

- Ohio's participation, educational and degree attainment are not competitive with other states.
- Too many Ohio citizens are not adequately prepared for college.
- Ohio's public institutions are among the least affordable in the nation.
- Ohio's institutions need to improve productivity and additional state, federal, and private investments are necessary to support additional students.
- Innovative changes are needed to expand employability skills programs to develop a high-talent, flexible workforce and a new cadre of entrepreneurs who can compete in a rapidly changing global economy.
- While Ohio has made progress, additional investments in research and technology transfer are critical to future success.
- Ohio's higher education system is well-positioned for the 21st century, but institutions need to improve focus on their core strengths, reposition themselves to serve additional and more diverse students and increase collaboration to benefit all Ohioans.

Percent of Adults Age 25-64 with an Associate Degree or Higher Ohio compared to the Nation



Source: U.S. Census, Surveys of Educational Attainment, 2000 and 2006

Challenges Facing Ohio

Within the context of producing more college graduates and increasing workforce development, research and technology transfer, Ohio faces 10 significant challenges:

1. Projected declines in the State's youth and working age population
2. Enrolling and graduating more adults (*25 year olds and over*)
3. Improving college-going rates directly from high school
4. Improving participation and degrees awarded in educationally underserved counties
5. Improving college and university retention, graduation, two-year to four-year transfer rates and P-12 linkages
6. Increasing the number of students taking more rigorous high school courses
7. Making higher education more affordable
8. Achieving equitable financial access to 2-year colleges in all geographic regions
9. Increasing state, federal and private investments for education and research
10. Increasing degree attainment while maintaining high quality



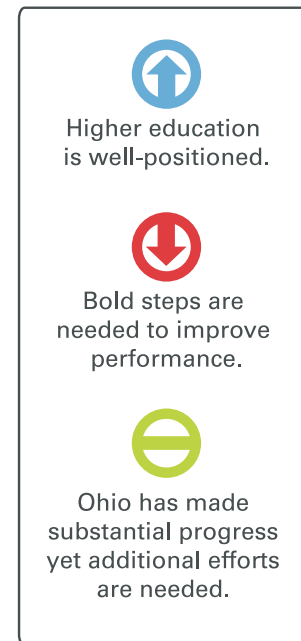
Summary and Next Steps

As other state and national reports have concluded, Ohio's is losing ground in its economic prosperity, which is directly related to educational attainment, workforce training, research and technology transfer. If Ohio is to have college graduates in the numbers and disciplines that it needs for a thriving 21st century economy, how ready is higher education to help Ohio achieve this goal? The Regents assess higher education's condition in the following dashboard:

HIGHER EDUCATION IN OHIO – 2008 CONDITION DASHBOARD



How ready is Ohio's higher education to meet the needs of a thriving 21st century economy?



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