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THE INTELLECTUAL PLATFORM

In his 2007 address to the Faculty Council, university President E. Gordon Gee stated that The Ohio State University is one massive intellectual platform, and he called us to unite as one university around that idea. The platform extends, of course, to the university’s regional campuses, where faculty, staff, students, and community members engage each other in intellectual activity both within and between disciplines.

The campus has long benefited from gifts from community benefactors who understand the value of higher education, and the recent $10 million Next Generation Challenge gift from Mr. and Mrs. Reese is dramatically transforming the campus’s ability to extend the Ohio State intellectual platform by making an Ohio State degree more accessible through scholarships. In the same spirit, individuals like Chris Panek, wife of former Academic Dean Paul Panek, and groups like The Ohio State University at Newark Board of Trustees, have made scholarship gifts that will make an Ohio State degree more accessible.

Greater access to Ohio State through the Newark campus experience means that more students will have the opportunity to engage stellar teachers like Dick Shiels, associate professor of history, who recently won the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

The discourse continues off campus through outside collaborations producing events like the “Reality Store.” Other venues, including publications like “El Éxito,” transcend location. Yet most often, the discourse occurs on campus, not only in the classroom, but also through multiple campus events, some organized by students (e.g., the African American Heritage Dinner), and some organized by faculty and staff (e.g., Crosscultural Connections).

The outcome of activity on the intellectual platform is an amazingly diverse array of ideas that helps us make the world a better place. Some ideas help us improve the teaching and learning environment, as demonstrated by Angela Harvey, assistant professor of sociology, who recently won a Carla B. Howery Teaching Enhancement Grant from the American Sociological Association. Others help us better understand human behavior, as Nathaniel Swigge, assistant professor of political science, illustrated when he won the 2009 Paul Lazarsfeld Award for the best paper on political communication presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. And others, such as those generated by Marlies Martine, assistant professor of psychology, provide concrete ideas for improving the quality of life of people who experience challenges that most of us do not have to face.

Ohio State’s intellectual platform, the resources that support it, and the change that occurs because of it give me great optimism for the future. I hope that this issue of our Progress Report gives you reason to share in that optimism.

William L. Macdonald, Dean & Director

The Ohio State University at Newark joins with the community in mourning the loss of Mrs. Christine Warner Powell. It was a lead gift that was initiated by her late husband, John L. Warner, which started the planning for the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center. The unique vision held by this truly amazing couple has transformed the Newark campus forever. Mrs. Warner Powell’s desire to give back to a community that had been so good to her family will be felt in perpetuity as faculty, staff, students and the community at large reap the benefits of a physical facility that has truly wrapped its arms around our campus.
AN INTERVIEW WITH
PRESIDENT E. GORDON GEE

1. What role will Ohio State’s regional campuses play in helping the university achieve its strategic goals?

Let me begin by saying that Ohio State’s extended campuses will continue to play a critical role in realizing the university’s mission and in achieving our strategic goals. I have said it before that Ohio State is the university of the American dream, as well as the front door to Ohio’s future. But to truly fulfill the broad egalitarian promise inherent in Ohio State’s land-grant heritage, we must move forward as one university, not as a collection of colleges, campuses, or detached departments. To that end, I have called on the entire university community to forge One Ohio State.

As we move forward together, being a student-centered institution is another fundamental university priority. At Ohio State Newark, a Strategic Plan has been implemented that provides a blueprint to meet this goal in a variety of ways: to strengthen students’ first-year experience, increase research-oriented learning, improve student retention, enhance opportunities for students to study abroad, develop the campus’s recreational facilities, and increase scholarship funding.

All of our goals are crowned by this overarching one: that Ohio State will be the premier land-grant research university in the nation. To reach that touchstone, we must all work with common purpose. We are one Ohio State University.

2. Do you envision continued growth for the regional campuses?

Yes, I absolutely see continued growth. There is an increasing demand throughout the state for access to the university. Our extended campuses are integrated fully into the university’s overall strategic planning process. In addition, Ohio State Newark has created a five-year plan to increase enrollment and is on track toward fulfilling that plan. Developing a plan for housing at each regional campus is another vital component toward meeting these enrollment goals. This is the path each regional campus is pursuing.

We also need to look at regional needs and consider offering programs that make sense for each individual regional campus. This might entail adding degree-completion majors, or it might mean increasing academic course offerings in a particular major at a regional campus to bolster students’ successful transition to Columbus. By working closely with the regional campus deans, the university can continually monitor and reevaluate needs.

3. Ohio State Newark has a long history of community involvement—can you comment on the importance of local leaders and benefactors for the regional campuses?

Local leaders and community members have contributed enormously toward development at the regional campuses. In Newark, one need only glance around the stunning campus to realize just how critically important and influential community members have been to its development. The John Gilbert Reese Center, LeFevre Hall, and the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center are magnificent testament to the strong, enduring support from the community.

With the Board of the Newark Campus Development Fund often taking the lead, the local community has continually contributed to the development of the campus, enhancing its facilities, enrollment capacity, and accessibility.

Community members have played a vital role in helping the university fulfill its land-grant mission, and their generosity and guidance are responsible for putting the Newark campus in a position to do just that.

4. Please share your thoughts on the importance of the Next Generation Challenge offered by Gib and Lou Reese, and especially on the value of the collaboration between Ohio State Newark, Central Ohio Technical College, and the Newark Campus Development Fund, and the profound impact that this partnership will have on our community.

What has become clear to me is that the role of higher education in our society has never been more profound than it is today. Access to a university education has the unequivocal power to change individual lives and will help shape Ohio’s future. Gib and Lou Reese, who have long displayed their commitment to higher education, have now demonstrated their leadership in a way that will encourage countless others to join with them in providing crucial endowed scholarship monies for future generations of deserving students.

Especially important is the extraordinary collaborative spirit that exists between Ohio State Newark, Central Ohio Technical College, and the Newark Campus Development Fund. Each of these entities is committed to increasing local access, to transforming lives, and to contributing to the health and welfare of the community.
Granville philanthropists J. Gilbert and Louella H. Reese are calling the community to action with a $10 million challenge. The Next Generation Challenge will raise endowed funds to support scholarships benefiting students attending The Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) in perpetuity.

The Reeses will match up to $10 million for all contributions made between April 30, 2010, and June 30, 2012, to support the growth of endowed scholarships for Ohio State Newark or COTC students. The challenge will match gifts dollar-for-dollar up to $10 million. Gifts can be made to the Newark Campus Development Fund (NDCF), a permanent, locally controlled endowment that provides funding for innovative projects and scholarships at Ohio State Newark and COTC, as well as to Ohio State Newark and COTC directly.

"Gilb and Lou have shown a commitment that is exemplary, and their historical efforts demonstrate the value of their leadership," said William L. Macdonald, Ph.D., dean/director Ohio State Newark. "Private contributions are vital to providing access to higher education. Now, more than ever, access to higher education is critical not only to the future of our students but also to the future of our communities."

As co-located partners on the Newark campus, Ohio State Newark and COTC are committed to providing local access to quality education and to helping students enter and remain in school, despite significant financial obstacles. This endowment to support scholarships will ensure that current and future students will have access to higher education on the Newark campus.

"This investment is not only an investment in COTC and Ohio State Newark students, but in their families and the community as a whole. Through the J. Gilbert and Louella H. Reese Next Generation Challenge, doors will open for hundreds of young adults in our community, ensuring the financial assistance necessary to pursue their dreams," said William T. McConnell, NDCF Chair.

J. Gilbert Reese is often referred to as one of the founding fathers of Ohio State Newark and COTC. He has dedicated nearly 55 years of service and leadership to the Newark campus. Mr. Reese, an Emeritus Trustee for both Ohio State Newark and COTC, chaired the campaign in 1986 to purchase land for Ohio State's regional campus with a goal to raise $600,000; he raised more than $1 million. In 1971, he provided leadership in creating COTC, the technical college co-located on the Newark campus. In 1983, he partnered with Howard E. LeFever to spearhead a community wide $2.5 million fundraising drive and founded the NDCF. He also served as honorary campaign governor and made a personal leadership commitment in an effort to raise more than $10 million to fund a new technology center at the Newark campus. The John Gilbert Reese Center opened in 2003, offering a variety of spaces, including a conference center, auditorium, classrooms, and café. He and his wife, Louella, funded the construction of the Martha Grace Reese Amphitheatre at the Newark campus and yearly the Reese Family funds the largest Fourth of July celebration in Licking County, bringing thousands of community members to the campus.

Ohio State Newark and COTC will work collaboratively with the NDCF to meet the challenge put forward by Mr. and Mrs. Reese and have outlined two major objectives:

- Increase the donor base by reaching out to new constituents with a goal to engage more than 500 donors in this initiative;
- Raise a minimum of $10 million to secure the Next Generation Challenge match.

"Mr. and Mrs. Reese continue to be key drivers behind our success," said COTC President Bonnie L. Cee, Ph.D. "Their investment in the campus has transformed the lives of our students, their families, and the community at large."
More than 50 years after its founding, The Ohio State University at Newark continues to benefit from the ongoing generosity of community partners and benefactors. This enduring support has contributed immeasurably toward Ohio State Newark’s goal of increasing access to the university.

During this past year, community and campus members alike supported several new access initiatives, including the Board of Trustees at Ohio State Newark, who demonstrated leadership by contributing toward the establishment of a scholarship fund.

THE PAUL E. PANEK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Long-time Ohio State Newark faculty member, the late Paul E. Panek, Ph.D., will be remembered in many ways — as associate dean, professor of psychology, prolific researcher, licensed and practicing psychologist, and as a mentor to many students and junior faculty members alike.

It is especially Paul’s latter role, however, as dedicated and devoted guide and mentor, that inspired his widow, Christine Panek, to create a memorial scholarship in his honor. “Paul simply loved Ohio State,” said Christine. “He loved the Newark campus, and he was passionate about helping students engage in research and to help them publish their work.”

To honor his legacy, the Paul E. Panek Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate ranked as a junior or senior who is majoring in psychology at Ohio State Newark and has completed psychological research resulting in publication or a research presentation.

“I hope that through this scholarship, Paul’s love for research and the importance he placed on mentoring young people, will remain alive at Ohio State Newark,” said Christine.

THE NEWARK APPALACHIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND
When Assistant Director of Admissions Barb Bruner and Admissions Assistant Kathy Millard realized that a large population of Ohio State Newark’s outreach area didn’t have access to region-specific scholarships, they took action. Their brainchild, The Newark Appalachian Scholarship Fund, began with money that Bruner and Millard contributed. Other staff members followed their lead in contributing, and last year more than $1,000 was awarded to the fund’s first three scholarship recipients. Bruner and Millard noted that many Appalachian students see the price of a college education as a roadblock and don’t even consider college as an option. Both women hope that contributions to the scholarship grow each year so that students in these counties will know that funds are available and the possibility of a college education is a reality.

JUDY RATLIFF STANSBURY SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Benefiting COTC graduates continuing education at Ohio State Newark

Judy Ratliff Stansbury knew that she wanted to help Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) human services graduates who are continuing their education at Ohio State. She also deeply understands the importance of continuing education and has seen the positive impact social workers have in the lives of others. “The COTC faculty members always encouraged our graduates to continue on into a four-year degree program, but many of these students lacked the financial means to stay in school,” noted Stansbury.

The long-time Granville resident and former COTC human services program director worked with development officials at the Newark campus to create the Judy Ratliff Stansbury Scholarship Fund. To be eligible, applicants must be a graduate of COTC’s human services program, and be accepted and enrolled at Ohio State in the College of Social Work in either a B.A. or M.S.W. program.

TO GIVE

For information on establishing a gift, please contact Jennifer Roberts, Director of Development, at 740.364.9644. All contributions made between April 30, 2010, and June 30, 2012, will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $10 million, thanks to Granville philanthropists J. Gilbert and Luella H. Reese, who are calling the community to action with the Reese Challenge Match (see the full article on page 4). This challenge will raise endowed funds to support scholarships benefiting students attending Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) and The Ohio State University at Newark in perpetuity.
RICHARD SHIELS
RECOGNIZED WITH
ALUMNI AWARD FOR
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

Richard Shiels, Ph.D., received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. Shiels was presented with the award by Archie Griffin, Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations and President/CEO of the Alumni Association, The Ohio State University, and representatives from the Columbus campus, the Newark campus, the Department of History, and William L. MacDonald, dean/director, The Ohio State University at Newark.

"Dick is an outstanding teacher who inspires both his students and his colleagues," said MacDonald.

Shiels joined Ohio State Newark in 1976 and gained tenure in 1983. He earned a Ph.D. from Boston University and an M.A. in religion from Yale University Divinity School. He is also the director of the Newark Earthworks Center.

The Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching annually recognizes a maximum of ten faculty members for their teaching excellence. Students, faculty, and alumni may nominate faculty; a committee of students, faculty, and alumni chooses the recipients.

"Dr. Richard Shiels’ passion for history and helping students was evident in the classroom. He was always willing to take time out of his schedule to answer questions or offer suggestions when writing papers," said Laraine Tumble, psychology student at Ohio State Newark. "I feel fortunate to have been a student of his."

Recipients are recognized with a $3,000 honorarium made possible by gifts from The Ohio State University Alumni Association, University Development, and the Office of Academic Affairs. In addition, the Office of Academic Affairs awards an increase of $1,200 to each recipient's base salary.
HONORING EXCELLENCE

Angela Harvey, Ph.D., was a recipient of the Carla B. Howery Teaching Enhancement Grant from the American Sociological Association for her “An Evaluation of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program.” Harvey, assistant professor of sociology, implemented the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program — a national initiative directed at transforming ways of thinking about crime and justice — in Newark last year.

In 2009, Harvey earned the OSU Service Learning Course Development Grant for her work on the same Inside-Out program. Harvey joined OSU’s sociology department in 2007. She earned a Ph.D. in justice studies and an M.S.W. in social work from Arizona State University.

Susan D. Scott, director of the John L. and Christine Wamer Library was honored with the Jay Ladd Distinguished Service Award by the Academic Library Association of Ohio (ALAO) in late 2009. The award recognizes AIAO members who promote academic libraries and librarianship on their campuses and within the state; it also honors those who provide leadership in the promotion of AIAO by way of service.

“I am humbled to... join an elite group of Ohio’s academic librarians who have received this award which has been given annually since 1994,” said Scott, who joined Ohio State Newark and COTC in 2008. She previously held numerous positions at Denison University’s Doane Library from 1996-2008. Scott earned her M.A. in higher education administration at OSU and her M.L.S. in library and information science from Kent State University.

Nathaniel Swigger, Ph.D., is a 2009 recipient of the Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award, given by the American Political Science Association (APSA). Swigger, who joined The Ohio State University at Newark in 2009 as an assistant professor of political science, co-authored the winning paper “Uplifting Manhood to Wonderful Heights: Newspaper Framing of Casualties from World War One to Gulf War Two.” The authors explored the way newspapers cover casualties of wartime, and found that reporting has not changed much, but that the use (or presence) of certain words has.

Swigger earned both his Ph.D. and Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and his B.A. in history from Trinity University.
FACULTY RESEARCH IMPARTS COMMUNITY AND HOPE

Nate, an exuberant eight-year-old with an impish smile, arrived at The Ohio State University at Newark accompanied by his grandmother and legal guardian, Dawn. The pair drove from their home in West Virginia to attend a very special gathering in Newark.

Nate has Williams syndrome, a rare genetic condition that causes medical and developmental problems, including issues with the heart or blood vessels, musculoskeletal troubles, and developmental delays. At Ohio State Newark, Dawn and Nate would get the uncommon opportunity to meet with other families from the region who are also living with Williams syndrome.

Since 2008, Ohio State Newark Assistant Professor of Psychology Marilee Martens, Ph.D., has annually organized two or three of these very special family social activities. Martens, a licensed psychologist, is director of the Williams Syndrome Program at the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

Work conducted through the Williams Syndrome Program is focused on three elements: evaluation and treatment, research, and family support. The program offers a Williams Syndrome Clinic, which is a joint effort between the Nisonger Center and Nationwide Children’s Hospital. At the clinic, Martens and a multidisciplinary team of professionals meet monthly to perform evaluations for families who have traveled to Columbus from all regions of the country. In addition to Martens’ expertise as an educational psychologist, the team includes a geneticist and a developmental behavior pediatrician, clinical psychologist, speech and language pathologist, and occupational and physical therapists.

Martens also conducts intervention-based research aimed at helping improve the lives of children with Williams syndrome. Recent research includes a pioneering computer mouse-tracking study examining hyperactivity in Williams syndrome as well as a separate study examining if music can enhance memory in patients with Williams syndrome.

What sets Martens apart, however, is not only her commitment to intervention-based research, but her efforts to help families connect with a support community. The social events she organizes meet a previously unrecognized need for community among families living with Williams syndrome, as evidenced by their increasing popularity.

“Every time we have an event, we get a new family,” said Martens. “We’re averaging about 70 attendees per event.”

Dawn, who works full time, has learned to become an advocate for her grandson. She was thrilled for Nate to be able to connect with other children who also have Williams, and she was very eager to meet other families who are facing the same issues.

“I have learned so much through Nate,” said Dawn, tears springing to her eyes. “We’ve had a long road, but through him I’ve learned how to look at the world and see what really matters.”

Martens received her Ph.D. in psychology, with an emphasis in neuropsychology, from the University of Melbourne (Australia). She received her M.A. in psychology and Ed.S. in school psychology from the University of Michigan and holds a B.A. in psychology from Grace College. She began working at the Nisonger Center in July of 2005.
REACHING ACROSS CAMPUSES

“it’s important for members of all campuses to find ways to be inter-connected and to share resources, and ¿Qué Pasa, OSU?” is one tool that we use to achieve that,” stated Jose Cabral, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry.

At The Ohio State University, there is a myriad of organizations and clubs created specifically for, and by, in some cases, Latina and Latino students, faculty and staff. These include the Hispanic Business Student Association, the Hispanic Graduate Organization, the University-Wide Council of Hispanic Organizations (UCHO), and the Organization of Hispanic Faculty and Staff. Many other student clubs are designed around cultural activities and the arts for Hispanic students.

¿Qué Pasa, OSU?, the Hispanic magazine, was created in 1984 as a joint effort between the UCHO and the Hispanic Oversight Committee (HOC). Later, the HOC approved permanent funding for the project. Today “¿Qué Pasa, OSU?” is published regularly and overseen by an editorial board including faculty, staff, and students to share resources, events, career opportunities, and more. Its purpose is to provide the Latino community at Ohio State with a venue to express its voice and to communicate with one another about issues of relevance and common interest. “¿Qué Pasa, OSU?” also serves as a mechanism of communication between Ohio State Latinos and external communities, particularly with prospective students and their families.

While “¿Qué Pasa, OSU?” has its roots at the Ohio State Columbus campus, it reaches out university-wide. Two employees at Ohio State Newark serve on both the executive committee and the “¿Qué Pasa, OSU?” editorial board: Jose Cabral, and M. Francesca Amigo, Public Relations Specialist.

“Two of our goals are to foster more awareness of our community, as well as to keep more informed about resources and developments at the university,” added Cabral, who also serves as the magazine’s executive chair.

According to Cabral this is but one of many mechanisms that helps Ohio State to recognize and promote the contributions of Hispanic faculty, staff and students, and their importance in creating the diversity of this institution.

Autumn 2010 data showed that across Ohio State, the Hispanic student population was 1,786 (self-identifying, part-time and full-time, all campuses, graduate and undergraduate). Additionally, there were 860 faculty and staff members at the university (part-time and full-time, faculty and staff, all campuses).

Amigo became involved with the magazine when she answered a call for volunteer editors for “¿Qué Pasa, OSU?” several years ago, and has been assisting ever since. “While the college experience should provide new perspectives, it is comforting, too, to be able to connect with people who understand the culture from which you came,” she said. That can mean language, food, customs, or companionship. I believe that “¿Qué Pasa, OSU?” provides that to our Latinx students.”

To read the current or past issues, visit http://quepasa.osu.edu/.
RESEARCH PROMOTES COLLABORATION BETWEEN COLUMBUS AND NEWARK

Because of a program called Research on Research, Joseph Mandelstein, a junior molecular genetics student, was able to conduct research with his mentor J. Andrew Roberts, Ph.D., associate professor of evolution, ecology, and organismal biology.

After receiving a $5,000 grant from the Ohio State Digital Union, the two set out to learn if wolf spiders would choose hot or cool surfaces when given the option. They created a new instrument for behavioral ecology, specifically to monitor the wolf spider behavior.

In addition to the creation of the temperature monitoring instrument, Mandelstein was charged with creating a multimedia portfolio to display the work he and Roberts did. Even though he had no website creation experience, part of the grant provided for training and use of a laptop for the summer. (Mandelstein’s portfolio can be found at digitalunion.osu.edu/12/.)

According to the portfolio, “Global climate change is impacting ecosystem dynamics planet wide and has the potential to impact crucial behavioral patterns of animals.” The study was intended to study “behavioral thermoregulation and microhabitat choice in wolf spiders.”

“The hands-on research enlightened me so much,” said Mandelstein. “I just learned so much working one-on-one with Dr. Roberts.”

The program was designed to help promote undergrad/faculty collaboration and further, to explore ways that technology could be adapted to promote research and learning,” said Roberts.

R2 is a summer program created by OSU’s Technology Enhanced Learning and Research (TELR) program and the Digital Union, designed to bring the faculty research experience into the undergraduate learning environment. The R2 program is designed to bring faculty and full-time undergraduate students together to collaborate on a research project.
A NEW JUNCTURE IN COLLEGE ACCESS

During the past year, something new was afoot in the Newark City Schools. Second graders began talking about college — yes, college. Eighth graders learned about career choices and what type of education they will need for a specific job. It’s all part of an early awareness program begun in autumn 2008 called PEAK (Providing Early Awareness and Knowledge) that is working to foster college aspirations in elementary and middle school students. What makes the PEAK initiative so special is that five local organizations have joined forces to plan and implement the program: A Call to College, Central Ohio Technical College (COTC), Denison University, Newark City Schools, and The Ohio State University at Newark. Together these organizations have formed a unique partnership known as CAN DO Access.

Last fall, three Ohio Campus Compact/AmeriCorps VISTAs representing COTC, Denison, and Ohio State Newark, respectively, began work on the project. Through a Licking County Library field trip, hands-on tour, and dramatic reading of the book “The Little Engine that Could,” Newark second grade classes got a great first glimpse of how college can make a difference in someone’s life.

In May 2010, Newark eighth graders participated in the PEAK initiative’s “Reality Store.” The simulation game assigned each student an adult identity, with life factors as varied as high school dropout to single parent or adult with disabilities. Students then had to purchase the various necessities of life — housing, transportation, insurance, utilities, food, and entertainment — all the while living with the choices each character had made earlier in life.

Also during the spring of 2010, ten Newark families got an insider’s view of how to turn their children’s dreams for college into reality. Blueprint College, a free five-week college-planning program offered at Ohio State Newark, assists parents in creating “blueprint plans” to help set the right path toward their children’s academic and college success.

Parent workshops were conducted in areas critical to first-generation college students, including choosing college preparatory high school courses, academic programs, saving for college, and applying for financial aid. While parents participated in workshops, children attended College Camp, led by Ohio State Newark students. To help parents understand the college experience, all who completed the program were offered free tuition for a class at Ohio State Newark. The program, which was very well received by participants, will continue in 2010-11.

With the arrival of a new academic year, three new VISTAs arrived at their respective institutions to continue the work begun in the PEAK program’s initial year. In the 2009-10 academic year, PEAK reached out to 1,000 second and eighth grade students, mobilized nearly 200 community and college student volunteers, and initiated more than 200 hours of new early college awareness programming that directly engaged 44 different classrooms. In the coming year, the PEAK program will expand to include Newark fourth grade classes.
STAFF MEMBER RECEIVES STATE-WIDE HONOR

Jacqueline Parrill, director of human resources, campus relations, and planning support at The Ohio State University at Newark, and vice president for institutional planning and human resources development at Central Ohio Technical College (COTC), received the inaugural Outstanding Institutional Representative award from the American Council on Education (ACE) Ohio Women’s Network. The association’s highest internal honor, the award recognizes an institutional representative whose work has served as a catalyst for innovation and support for the advancement of women into key leadership positions in higher education.

Parrill was honored with the award at the ACE Ohio Women’s Network annual state conference, held at Denison University, in autumn 2009. The ACE Ohio Women’s Network is an association of women administrators, staff, and faculty members from colleges and universities across the state. The common passion members share is a dedication to the professional advancement of women.

As an institutional representative, Parrill has been integral to the development and execution of the Ohio Women’s Network strategic plans and has worked in close collaboration with the state co-directors. She serves as a liaison between the women at Ohio State Newark and COTC, the State Executive Board, and American Council of Education/Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE). She was recently invited to serve as an ACE Ohio Women’s Network Executive Board Member.

At Ohio State Newark and COTC, Parrill spearheaded the formation of a Women’s Caucus, which led to professional development sessions on the importance of mentoring for career development, as well as a campus-wide formal mentoring program which will begin its second year in autumn 2011.

Jackie has demonstrated strong commitment to assisting women professionals step into leadership roles in higher education,” said William L. MacDonald, Ohio State Newark dean/interim. “It is especially gratifying to see her leadership and commitment recognized and valued at the state level.”

Parrill holds an MBA and a B.S. from Auburn University and is a graduate of the Institute of Executive Management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She currently serves as an Academic Quality Improvement Program reviewer with the Higher Learning Commission, is a member of the Business Community Task Force for the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence, a member of the Licking County Foundation scholarship review committee, and is a member of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges Human Resources Council.
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The word “diversity” has many different meanings and interpretations. At The Ohio State University at Newark, a focus on increasing and supporting its diverse population of students, faculty, and staff is not only a key goal within the strategic plan, but it is also in the forefront of everyday activities.

According to Associate Dean Paul Sanders, who oversees diversity initiatives at Ohio State Newark, “Diversity at our campus is at the highest level ever: 15.4 percent of our undergraduate students are minorities and over 50 percent are women (autumn 2009 data). We embrace diversity in all its forms and offer many programs and courses to support and enrich our students’ lives. Courses include English as a Second Language, Social Stratification: Race, Class, and Gender, and Latin American Civilizations. Offerings in Women’s Studies, African and African-American Studies draw large enrollments, and we will offer American Sign Language beginning in winter 2010. Our diversity enriches the lives of all our students, faculty, and staff as well as the surrounding community.”

In 2004, Ohio State Newark and Central Ohio Technical College established a campus-wide diversity committee to create, implement, and review diversity-related programs on campus. According to Terrel Taylor, multicultural affairs coordinator, a faculty and staff diversity training program was piloted in May 2005 with a goal of gathering data to improve communication across various cultures and backgrounds. “This training program is now offered annually and titled the Intercultural Exploration Workshop Series,” stated Taylor, adding, “In 2006 the series theme was Images of Diversity, which focused on exploring individual differences and the spectrum of influences and interactions with others.”

“We all know that we’re different from each other, but connecting and appreciating these differences is another matter. That’s where the training was helpful,” said Taylor. Participant evaluations showed that they not only enjoyed the workshops, but also found them worthwhile and wanted more. In 2010, the series theme was Cross-Cultural Communication and included a panel of students with varying backgrounds and experiences, demonstrating the wide scope of global communications.

Students attending the Newark campus often come from metropolitan areas or regions unlike the rural Licking County environment. In spring of 2010, an event was held for area business and community leaders to “The Community Intercultural Relations program was held as part of an effort to open the communication between students and the community. Language and other barriers often create challenges for a new, diverse student population and area businesses. More than 25 community members attended representing local financial institutions, insurance companies, social services and other organizations.

Additionally, the campus continues to offer annual programs for students including Fresh Image for first-year African-American students, HIV/AIDS Awareness, Multicultural student leadership retreat, and the Black Heritage Dinner.

Diversity can spark creativity and enrich the lives of students, opening their minds to a stimulating learning atmosphere. "At Ohio State Newark, we are committed to enhancing our diverse campus and preparing our students for a global culture," stated Sanders.
When the university opened in 1957, there were 80 students and eight faculty members.

Other representations of diversity: Students represent 69 of Ohio’s 88 counties, and 66 students have origins in 27 foreign countries.