

THE PLAIN DEALER

Ohio Gov. John Kasich delivers State of the State speech in Steubenville

By Reginald Fields

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio – Ohio is on the move, Gov. John Kasich said today in his second State of the State address.

Kasich delivered the 80-minute speech at Wells Academy, a preschool through fourth-grade school that has some of the highest test scores in Ohio. He is the first governor to deliver the annual address outside Columbus.

Among the highlights of the speech:

- **Job training:** Kasich said it was critical for colleges and other job-training programs to provide workers with the skills to match the 80,000 unfilled jobs in Ohio. He has promised to overhaul and consolidate the 77 different job-training programs in the state and called on colleges to work together to increase graduation rates and eliminate duplication in programs. "We have to put this together and let nothing stand in our way," he said.
- **Education:** Kasich decried the high dropout rate in urban schools and the cost of providing remedial education for students who graduate unprepared. He said he would spend the next year working toward a consensus on how to fix public education. The governor praised Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's newly introduced school reform plan, saying, "I'm counting on Cleveland to deliver the goods. . . We can change urban education in Ohio and in America. That is worth fighting for."
- **Drilling:** Kasich talked about the potential for shale gas drilling to bring jobs back to the economically depressed region. But he promised to protect the environment with tough but uncomplicated rules. "We cannot let our fears outweigh the potential," he said.
- **The Ohio Turnpike.** Kasich said no decision has been made on whether to lease the turnpike, but vowed that the state would never give up underlying control of the toll road. So "everybody slow down, and chill out a little bit," he said.

Story continued here: http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2012/02/ohio_gov_john_kasich_delivers.html

Dayton Daily News

Kasich: Education will lead to new jobs

By Laura Bischoff

STEUBENVILLE — Ohio Gov. John Kasich on Tuesday said that jobs in manufacturing, logistics and other industries are moving back, but the state needs to revamp public education and align work force training to match job openings.

In his State of the State speech, Kasich said Ohio has picked up 43,500 jobs and climbed from being ranked 48th in job creation to ninth and is No. 1 in the Midwest.

"We are alive again. We are out of the ditch," he said.

The state's unemployment rate hit 8.1 percent in December 2011, down from 9.5 percent a year earlier, just before Kasich took office.

Honda, Chrysler, U.S. Steel and other companies have announced major investments and hiring plans. Ohio's sales tax and income tax revenues are running slightly ahead of projections, according to a monthly financial report due out next week.

Story continued here: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/kasich-education-will-lead-to-new-jobs-1325179.html>

Kasich: End partisanship to help Ohio *Touting 2011, governor calls for collaboration*

By Jim Provance

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio -- Gov. John Kasich called Tuesday for an end to the partisan battles that characterized 2011 and urged Democrats and fellow Republicans to work together to get as close as possible to creating "a prosperous Ohio, a richer Ohio, the Ohio free of unemployment."

"I think we have to steer clear of mindless partisanship," he told members of the General Assembly, Cabinet members, students, and others gathered in the auditorium of the Steubenville City School District's Wells Academy elementary school.

"I've got to tell you something," Mr. Kasich said. "Being a good Republican or being a good Democrat, you've lost it. They don't give you awards for being partisan. ... If you look at what's happening in Washington, do we want to be them? They can't get out of their own way. ... Leave it on the fields, ladies and gentlemen."

The governor delivered his second State of the State address some 150 miles northeast of the Statehouse in what is believed to be the first time that an annual State of the State speech to lawmakers took place outside of Columbus.

The struggling steel city of Steubenville, he said, reminded him of his old home, which is McKees Rocks, Pa., about 35 miles up the Ohio River just outside Pittsburgh.

"If it wasn't for bipartisanship, I wouldn't be standing in Steubenville today," Mr. Kasich said, referring to the heavily Democratic town.

Mark Cleland of Austintown, Ohio, joins protesters gathered outside Wells Academy in Steubenville. Mark Cleland of Austintown, Ohio, joins protesters gathered outside Wells Academy in Steubenville.

He picked Wells Academy, a K-4 elementary school built within the walls of Steubenville High School, because it is the highest-performing elementary school on state tests, flying in the face of arguments that poorer, central-city schools tend to struggle.

"[Wells Academy has] set a standard for the entire rest of the state," he said. "They're the No. 1-performing school in Ohio. If you guess where that No. 1 school would be located, you may not get to Steubenville. But here it is."

Story continued here: <http://www.toledoblade.com/Politics/2012/02/08/Kasich-End-partisanship-to-help-Ohio.html>



Kasich Tells Legislature to Put Politics Aside

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (AP) - Gov. John Kasich is telling Ohio lawmakers to steer clear of what he calls "mindless partisanship" and find common ground.

The first-term Republican made his plea for legislators to put politics aside and focus on what's good for Ohio in his State of the State address Tuesday in Steubenville.

Kasich's fellow Republicans control the state Legislature. The GOP holds a 23-10 edge in the state Senate, and a 59-40 advantage in the House.

The governor told state lawmakers to look at the bitter battles happening in Washington. He asked: "Do we want to be like them?"

Story continued here: <http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2012/02/07/ohio-state-of-the-state-follow.html>

Kasich on Ohio: 'We're alive again'

By Joe Vardon

STUEBENVILLE, Ohio — Ohio's broadband network is going to get faster.

A \$10 million program to boost the state's broadband speeds tenfold and establish a \$2.3 million broadband testing center at Ohio State University was the pre-eminent policy announcement Gov. John Kasich made in his State of the State address yesterday — historic for its circumstance but ripped by Democrats for being short on specifics.

The one-hour, 23-minute speech from the Republican governor in a school auditorium in Steubenville — likely the first State of the State delivered outside the capital — was mainly a rehash of what's been done since Kasich took office on Jan. 10, 2011. Kasich also reinforced suggestions he's made to revamp job-training programs and better align curriculum and training at schools at all levels to put more Ohioans to work.

Kasich gave a tip of the cap to the state's gradually improving economy, with specific nods to automakers and other manufacturers. He renewed his administration's commitment to building a statewide medical corridor, strengthening the state's financial-services sector and continuing to implement Medicaid changes and school-choice programs that were introduced last year.

"We're alive again," Kasich said in the 1,100-seat auditorium shared by Steubenville High School and Wells Academy, the state's top-ranked public elementary school and the "host" for the speech. "We're out of the ditch," Kasich said. "We're growing. It's happening in our state. It's not me, it's all of us, and it's the people of the state.

Story continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/02/08/kasich-were-alive-again.html>



Kasich relaxes at Wells Academy

By Dave Gossett

STUEBENVILLE - Gov. John Kasich sat down in a comfortable chair in Stephanie Greenberg's classroom in Wells Academy Monday night to talk for nearly an hour about the return of manufacturing jobs to Ohio, the future of oil and gas exploration in Eastern Ohio and his JobsOhio program, and briefly touched on the current candidates seeking the Republican nomination for president.

Kasich met with the Herald-Star editorial board, representatives from the Wheeling Intelligencer and News-Register and the Warren Tribune-Chronicle on the eve of his historic State of the State address, which is scheduled to be delivered at 1 p.m. today from the Steubenville High School auditorium.

"I was really touched when I walked in here. I am thrilled to be at the Wells Academy and in Steubenville. Being here is like being back home in McKees Rocks, Pa. It is the same kind of town, the same struggles, the same people with the same values. We don't have enough communities like this one. This is a God-fearing, hard-working and play-by-the-rules town. Steubenville is the best of what makes America. This is a patriotic community," said Kasich.

"I am here more often than you know. I like it here. I like to be around here. I want people to think of me as a friend and not as a politician or a governor. This is the type of community that no matter how tough things get, we may get down but we are never knocked out. I am a Croation and a Czech. I am from McKees Rocks and recognize Steubenville as a blue-collar town that can work in the 21st century. I get my outlook on life from my mother and dad," said Kasich.

Story continued here: <http://www.hsconnect.com/page/content.detail/id/569962/Kasich-relaxes-at-Wells-Academy.html?nav=5010>

Gov. Kasich announces new Ohio courage award

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Gov. John Kasich has announced the creation of a new series of courage awards to honor extraordinary Ohioans.

The first recipients are two women who have overcome tragedies from prescription painkiller abuse and human trafficking and the family of an Ohio soldier killed in Afghanistan.

Kasich introduced the recipients of the Governor's Courage Award at his State of State speech in Steubenville.

He also called for all veterans attending his speech to be honored.

Link: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/ohio-news/gov-kasich-announces-new-ohio-courage-award-1324963.html>



Get School Reform Right

Twenty percent of the young Ohioans who enter the state's public education system don't graduate from high school. The average is much worse - 35 percent - in urban areas.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is right to consider that a tragedy that is both unsustainable and avoidable. He also is correct in avoiding knee-jerk reactions to the problem.

During his State of the State speech Tuesday in Steubenville, Kasich outlined challenges that need to be met throughout Ohio's education establishment. With a few notable exceptions, he did not prescribe solutions, however.

When the governor did talk about specific initiatives, he did so in a way often not heard in Ohio or, for that matter, on the national stage.

For example, Kasich discussed expansion of the voucher system whereby some parents can get government help to enroll children in private schools, as an alternative to failing public institutions. Access to vouchers has been expanded greatly, making about 60,000 of them available this year, the governor noted.

For several years Ohio's work to encourage alternatives to public education focused on vouchers and charter schools run privately but with state funding. An enormous failing in that outlook was that state officials, in effect, merely threw money at the problem.

That is to say, they provided taxpayers' money for charter schools, but exercised little oversight. "Let me make it clear: If you're an underperforming charter school, we'll be on you," Kasich pledged Tuesday.

Better public schools are essential, of course. On Tuesday, speaking from one of the best in the state, Steubenville's Wells Academy, Kasich emphasized that.

Story continued here: <http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/565517/Get-School-Reform-Right.html?nav=511>