



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

BRINGING NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Making Ohio's State-supported Colleges and Universities More Accessible, Affordable and Effective

Governor John R. Kasich made higher education reform a key priority for his Administration by providing more opportunities for every Ohioan to develop the skills required to obtain a well-paying job. Ohio is a national leader in implementing performance-based funding for public colleges and universities.

INCENTIVIZING COLLEGES TO GRADUATE STUDENTS, NOT JUST ENROLL THEM

To help increase the number of Ohioans with degrees, Gov. Kasich created a new funding formula that ties state higher education funds to successful student outcomes. State funding for undergraduate students is now tied to student graduation and course completion. In addition, the governor has pushed to strengthen career counseling programs on state campuses, helping keep more college students in school and on track to rewarding, productive careers.

IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY AND REDUCING COSTS

At a time when higher education costs were rising faster than health care costs, Gov. Kasich worked to hold down tuition growth, help universities control costs and provide more low-cost pathways to make college degree more attainable.

- **Getting More High School Students Access to College-Level Credit (College Credit Plus)**: Gov. Kasich championed reforms to help more high schools offer college-level credit – and get more teachers qualified to teach these courses – in order to help students get a jump start on college at no cost. As a result, more than 71,000 high school students have taken Ohio college classes over the 2017-2018 academic year, earning college credit while meeting their high school graduation requirements and collectively saving nearly \$139 million on the cost of higher education. Since its launch in 2015, College Credit Plus has saved Ohio students and their families more than \$407 million in higher education costs.
- **Improving College Affordability**: According to the College Board, Ohio's public colleges and universities have been the nation's best in restraining tuition growth over the past 10 years.
- **Strengthening Pathways to a Low-Cost Degree**: The success of Ohio's efforts to provide a seamless transition between community colleges and four-year universities has paved the way for expanded opportunities to allow students to complete three years of their coursework at a community college and finish their degrees at a four-year university. While a record number of schools has "2+2" pathways agreements, Ohio also took steps to develop "3+1" pathways between Ohio's two- and four-year institutions.
- **Creating the Governor's Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency**: Gov. Kasich's Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education, a team that included business leaders who are experts at controlling costs and balancing the bottom line, recommended a number of ways for colleges and universities to reduce costs by sharing services, analyzing staff overhead expenses, monetizing assets, examining space utilization, reassessing low-

enrollment courses and exploring new revenue streams. To continue this work, public colleges and universities are now required to provide annual reporting on the savings they are achieving through their plans and how they are passing those savings onto students. Ohio's 14 public universities plan to generate approximately \$1.2 billion in efficiency savings and new resource generation in the first five years of implementing their plans.

- **Construction Reform:** Ohio reformed its antiquated construction laws to help colleges get more flexibility and restrain costs.
- **Awarding Degrees and Certificates Based on Competency Instead of Just Classroom Time:** Ohio formally recognized Western Governors University, a multi-state, nonprofit online institution that awards college credit and degrees based on a student's demonstrated competencies instead of just the amount of time spent in the classroom. The university provides a flexible college option for working, adult learners to pursue a college degree at their own pace in four career fields to students across Ohio.
- **Offering Bachelor's Degrees at Community Colleges Where There Is a Demand That Is Not Being Met:** Six Ohio community colleges will now offer nine different bachelor degrees in regions of the state where Ohio's four-year universities do not offer specialized degree programs. Each of these degree programs demonstrates employer demand and was formed in partnership between industry and the community college. This provides another low-cost pathway for students and strengthens Ohio's ability to meet ever-changing workforce demands. Degree programs range from culinary and food services to unmanned aerial systems.
- **Encouraging Ohio's Economic Growth:** Ohio now requires universities to have policies that allow employees to benefit financially from commercialization of their research. In addition, state research funding is prioritized for schools with a commercialization tenure track option.

MAKING CAMPUSES SAFER

In an effort to address and prevent sexual violence on all of Ohio's college campuses, Gov. Kasich championed measures to identify and provide quality training and education opportunities to empower campuses to build comprehensive prevention and response strategies to support safe environments. As a result, Ohio's public colleges and universities are collecting data annually to inform their campus response, adopting comprehensive policies, incorporating survivor-centered strategies into their procedures and implementing new evidenced-based training programs. That hard work is paying off with the majority of Ohio students surveyed reporting that they believe campus officials would take a report of sexual misconduct seriously and support the person making the report.

HELPING OHIO ADULTS WITHOUT DIPLOMAS GET BACK ON TRACK

After the age of 22, adults are no longer eligible for traditional high school diplomas. The governor created a program allowing community colleges and technical centers to develop new initiatives to help adults earn credits toward a high school diploma, while pursuing job training. As a result, approximately 1,300 adult Ohioans have earned their diplomas through this program. An additional 1,300 graduates have earned diplomas through the similar Adult 22+ program.

HELPING OHIO VETERANS MAKE THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Gov. Kasich recognizes veterans as valuable, talented and skilled members of the workforce, and his administration has been committed to helping them access the education and credentials they need to make the most productive use of those skills in Ohio.

- **Giving Veterans College Credit for Their Military Training and Experience:** Gov. Kasich stepped up to make sure that veterans get college credit for their military training, experience and coursework they received in the service. In addition, no veteran pays for the military-training credits he or she is awarded.
- **Helping Veterans Navigate the Return to College:** Gov. Kasich required that all colleges and universities in Ohio develop first-rate veteran offices or specifically assigned counselors to support transitioning veterans and provide priority course registration at our public institutions, ensuring they have access to the classes they need to succeed and thrive in civilian life.

ENHANCING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ohio increased investment in state-funded higher education scholarship programs, and the Kasich Administration worked to enhance those opportunities.

- **Ohio College Opportunity Grant:** Continued expansion to let students at community colleges and regional campuses study all academic year, and a new provision allows students who receive federal veteran's education benefits to also receive their full state aid awards.
- **War Orphans:** Increased scholarship coverage from 77 percent to 90 percent of tuition and general fees for children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans attending public colleges and universities.
- **Ohio National Guard:** Maintained state support at almost \$19 million per fiscal year to ensure continued higher education access for the men and women that serve our country through the Ohio National Guard.



November 2018