



Ohio Workforce Coalition

Growing Ohio's Economy
with a Skilled Adult Workforce

January 27, 2009

Chancellor Eric Fingerhut
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street 36th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chancellor Fingerhut,

On behalf of the nearly 100 employers, economic development organizations, labor unions, education and training institutions, workforce development organizations, and human service providers who have endorsed our 2009 Public Policy Platform, the Ohio Workforce Coalition has recommended that the Ohio Co-op and Internship Program: (1) provide co-operative education, internship, apprenticeship, and other work-study opportunities for the full-range of University System of Ohio students, particularly adult learners, and (2) permits some funding to be used to enable smaller employers to hire OCIP students and fill their skilled workforce shortages.

To that end, the Coalition Executive Committee has reviewed the draft RFP and made several suggested changes and additions. See the marked-up document, attached.

The major points are as follows:

1. **Identify throughout the document the full-range of OCIP strategies.** List *apprenticeship* alongside references to internship and co-operative education.
2. **Identify throughout the document the full-range of academic programs eligible to participate in OCIP.** List *certificate* alongside references to degrees.
3. **Take into account the full-range of student populations in need of outreach, and track their participation accordingly.** Add to the “high need outreach” list (and participation tracking list): *adults (23+)*, and *students enrolled in two-degree and certificate programs in preparation for in-demand middle-skill occupations*.
4. **Take into account the worsening economy and employers’ limited resources to hire interns/co-ops/apprentices.** Target the use of wage subsidies where it is needed the most: for *small- and medium-sized employers* (many of whom would otherwise not be able to participate in OCIP) and for *high-need outreach student populations* (including those identified in #3).
5. **Replace the term business with *Employers*.** This changes takes into account the full-range of OCIP participants, including private sector businesses, private nonprofit organization, and the public sector (like local government).

Thank you for taking these recommendations into consideration.

Thank you,

David Altstadt
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