Choose Ohio First

Completion Application

PROPOSAL SUMMARIES
Ashland University - Executive Summary

Ashland University is requesting $115,500 in Choose Ohio First (COF) program funding to continue providing $3,000 annual scholarships to the 21 current scholars in our program through their graduation. Our support of these current scholars will build on the strengths of our COF program dating to 2009 by serving a unique regional population with high financial need, leveraging strong academic programs in biology and chemistry, while working with business partners to provide work based learning opportunities for our scholars and fulfilling regional and state needs for graduates in STEMM areas. Our support services have led to high retention and graduation rates for scholars, many completing their undergraduate degrees in less than eight semesters.

As a medium-sized institution in north central Ohio, Ashland University hosts the only COF funded program serving our immediate region. The majority of our undergraduate students come from high schools in Ashland and surrounding counties, making us well located to provide this important state STEMM scholarship support to our region. The high proportion of first generation college students and Pell eligible students in our current COF program illustrates the support needs of our region. Along with our local Community College partner, North Central State College, we provide an affordable pathway for students to earn their Bachelor degree and enter the STEMM workforce. Our close relationship with multiple business partners, including Charles River Laboratory, which manages a pharmaceutical testing facility here in Ashland, Ohio, provides internship and employment opportunities for our COF students.

Ashland University has identified the programs included in this proposal as strengths, committing funding for targeted marketing and a new internally funded scholarship program. The included programs have a long history of student success and faculty achievement, including many university, regional and national teaching and research awards and federal funding of faculty mentored undergraduate student research programs. Our biology and chemistry programs, including biochemistry and toxicology, have been well integrated for decades, providing our scholars with opportunities for interdisciplinary training that positions them well for future STEMM careers. Our academic and peer advising, career support and guest speaker programming has contributed to strong graduation rates. For example, we graduated 91% of our Fall 2014 cohort within four years, and eight of our scholars have graduated in less than four years since 2017.

Our programs proposed for continued support educate students in STEMM areas of strong demand in Ohio. Job opportunities are expected to grow faster than average in at least seven occupations defined by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics that are typical employment locations for graduates of our included programs of study. The non-profit BioOhio provides annual data indicating the strong and positive impact of the Bioscience industry on our State, and lists our business partner Charles River Laboratory as a notable growing bioscience company. Charles River and another of our business partners, Lubrizol, note the special training of our undergraduate toxicology majors, while also employing our biology, biochemistry and chemistry majors.
Baldwin Wallace University - Executive Summary

Baldwin Wallace University requests $248,750 from Choose Ohio First to close out the 2016 COF award (refer to Budget and Budget Narrative). The total request will fund students recruited under the 2016 award to graduation.

The academic programs highlighted in the 2016 proposal and award were as follows:

I. Associate to Baccalaureate Completion in High-demand STEMM Majors (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Software Engineering, Computer Science, Cybersecurity Analyst, Neuroscience)

II. Pathways to Careers in Primary Care Medicine (Public Health)

Baldwin Wallace University (BW) has strong STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine) programs and a history of excellent performance with Choose Ohio First (COF) in terms of student retention and completion. More than 300 students have participated in the BW COF STEMM Scholars program since its inception in 2008. Of particular note is BW’s success at recruiting, educating, and graduating students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Beyond the generous financial support afforded to students through BW scholarship awards and COF funding, the BW Choose Ohio First STEMM Scholars program embraces the BW core values of intentional excellence, extraordinary engagement, holistic support, and of course, inclusion. Living these values as a program and as an institution ensures an environment that engenders student success. The University supports all BW students in a plethora of ways. Exemplars of this support include:

- An early alert (week 4 of each semester) and mid-term (week 8) warning system that identifies student concerns. A faculty fellow works directly with students to assist them to get back on track. The student’s academic advisor (a full-time faculty member of the student’s major department) is also notified and follows-up with the student.
- The BW Learning Center offers free tutoring services and a menu of additional academic support resources for students at all levels. Students identified by the early alert system are advised to engage Learning Center resources for support.
- The BW Health Center offers free counseling services to students in need of assistance. Those services have been expanded for the upcoming semester in the form of tele-counseling services.

The BW COF STEMM Scholars program provides additional wrap-around services for students.

- Each STEMM Scholar is assigned to a professional STEMM Success Coach. The BW COF STEMM Scholars success coaching model blends Dr. Vincent Tinto’s student success model with Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques.
- The BW COF STEMM Scholars Program provides students (additional examples and more detailed descriptions can be found in the section titled “Student Support”) academic support and career-related events, peer mentoring, STEMM "Major Meet-ups" (affinity groups by academic major), dedicated spaces for program staff and students, and social activities that engender connectedness and support.
Bowling Green State University - Executive Summary

**Amount Requested and Rationale.** Bowling Green State University (BGSU) requests $3,252,628 in Choose Ohio First (COF) Scholarship funding to support 297 current COF scholars, in five programs (described below), to enable them to complete their programs and graduate. A summary of funds requested per year and per program is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>2021-2022 Requested Amount</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>2022-2023 Requested Amount</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>2023-2024 Requested Amount</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>2024-2025 Requested Amount</th>
<th>Total Requested</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOSEF</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$62,156</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$38,486</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$25,180</td>
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<td>$8,312</td>
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<td>FORENSICS</td>
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<td>$143,977</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$97,307</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$31,716</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$273,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>$356,535</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>$157,194</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDNURA</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$39,612</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$22,056</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>TECH WORKS</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>$749,173</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>$625,808</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>$437,177</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$154,336</td>
<td>$1,966,494</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COF overview highlighting selected academic programs.**

- **Building Ohio’s Sustainable Energy Futures (BOSEF)** focuses on preparing students in an array of STEM degree programs for careers that strengthen the sustainability of Ohio’s economy in the rapidly growing fields of renewable energy, green engineering, green chemistry, and the environmental sciences.
- The **FORENSICS** program recruits Ohio resident students to BGSU’s burgeoning Forensic Science program and to prepare them for highly successful careers to meet increasing workforce demand in forensic science, and strengthen Ohio’s position in this critical field.
- **Science and Math Education in ACTION (ACTION)** targets Ohio’s most talented high school graduates considering a career in STEM Education – more specifically, in teaching Middle Childhood Mathematics or Science or Secondary Science or Mathematics.
- **Meeting Essential Doctor Needs in Urban and Rural Areas (MEDNURA)** is focused on supporting students who are interested in becoming primary care physicians in Ohio’s urban or rural areas.
- **TECH WORKS** is a program for students in the BGSU College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering, focused on helping students acquire skills and increase their marketability in pursuing jobs in Ohio’s growing technology workforce.

Importantly, both BOSEF and MEDNURA scholars are part of the BGSU Academic Investment in Math & Science (AIMS) program, a program specifically for women identified and students of color who pursue an undergraduate degree from BGSU with majors in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM).

**Synopsis of the plan to assist students to complete on time.** All BGSU students, including COF scholars, receive personalized academic advising from an Academic Advisor or faculty member who specializes in their selected major(s), and have access to a wide array of academic support services (e.g., academic coaching, tutoring, writing consultations, etc.) from the BGSU Learning Commons. All BGSU students also can access the BGSU Career Center for assistance with finding internship and co-op experiences. Additionally, COF scholars receive specialized support services within their respective programs, including but not limited to the following:

- **ACTION**: a residence hall theme community; individualized support from the program Director;
- **BOSEF and MEDNURA**: a residence hall theme community; monthly peer group meetings; a specially designated resource room; individualized support from the AIMS program director;
- **FORENSICS**: a Forensic Science Learning community and specialized laboratory; faculty mentoring;
- **TECH WORKS**: an accredited Co-op program integrating classroom study with work experiences.
The Choose Ohio First (COF) program, through the award received in 2016, currently supports three separate academic tracks at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU): Supporting STEMM Success; Nursing Research Education and Practice; and Data Science and Informatics.

Supporting STEMM Success (SSS) is designed for any STEMM major who needs additional support to be successful; the program targets students who have identified interest in STEMM majors but have math scores below some of their peers. Through mentorship, additional instruction and other activities, such as poster conferences with peer groups at Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Cuyahoga Community College and Youngstown State University, students in the SSS program are given the knowledge base needed to persist in their STEMM career goals. The Nursing Research Education and Practice program supports students seeking careers in the high-demand nursing field. Choose Ohio First nursing scholars receive academic support, mentorship, and help with resume writing and interviewing skills from the CWRU Office of Post-Graduate Planning and Experiential Education. The Choose Ohio First program in Data Science and Informatics is designed to encourage students to pursue careers in data science and informatics – an emergent interdisciplinary field that combines computing, data engineering, mathematics, statistics and other disciplines. CWRU launched its applied data science minor in 2014 in response to feedback and guidance from the Business Higher Education Forum (BHEF), a consortium of higher education and business leaders working to meet current and future workforce needs. BHEF deemed the CWRU data science minor a “national model” for higher education, and CWRU added an undergraduate major in applied data science in 2016.

There are currently an equivalent of 93 full-time Choose Ohio First Scholars studying at CWRU. By the 2024/25 academic year, this number will decrease to an estimated 10 full-time scholars. Each full-time equivalent scholar receives an annual scholarship of $4,600, resulting in our budget request of $1,053,400 over the next four years to see these scholars through to their graduation.

To assist the COF Scholars in their efforts to complete their studies on time, CWRU has created a comprehensive support system. Academically, peer tutoring (for individuals and small groups) and supplemental instruction sessions are available across disciplines including sciences, engineering, nursing, mathematics, and statistics. The university’s office for post-graduate planning and experiential learning offers workshops and individual consultations. It helps to connect students to internships, co-ops, undergraduate research experiences, and entrepreneurial opportunities. While these programs regularly offer workshops to the wider campus community, they have given targeted presentations to Choose Ohio First cohorts on campus.

The different programs also offer individualized support tailored to the needs of their scholars. For example, the School of Engineering has a dedicated office for co-operative learning. Data Science & Informatics offers a lecture-based course that highlights potential co-op and internship opportunities that are available. Additionally, students are added to a slack channel in which the staff posts known opportunities.
Central State University - Executive Summary

The goal of the Broadening Ohio’s Workforce in Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics” (BOW STEM-AG) continuation application is to enable 22 current Choose Ohio First (COF) scholarship recipients who will continue their studies beyond this academic year to attain their undergraduate degrees. Central State University (CSU) hereby requests $275,808 over the next four academic years for the scholars to complete their studies at Central State University. Fifteen scholars are expected to graduate in 2022, three in 2023, three in 2024 and the last student is expected to complete their studies in 2025. Each scholar will receive $8,112 scholarship per academic year. Central State awards the maximum scholarship amount to lessen the financial burden of COF scholars. 80% of CSU students are classified as low income, therefore scholarships are critical for students to avoid working while in school. See Table 1 below for annual scholarship requested.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>2021/2022</th>
<th>2022/2023</th>
<th>2023/2024</th>
<th>2024/2025</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholars</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Amount</td>
<td>($8,112)</td>
<td>$178,464</td>
<td>$64,896</td>
<td>$24,336</td>
<td>$8,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$178,464</td>
<td>$64,896</td>
<td>$24,336</td>
<td>$8,112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Central State University’s selected academic programs under the BOW STEM-AG RW agriculture education, biology, chemistry, computer science, environmental engineering, industrial technology, manufacturing engineering, mathematics, sustainable agriculture, water resources management and STEM education. The Choose Ohio First scholarships are part of a comprehensive suite of academic and non-academic support services to facilitate success for scholarship recipients. The BOW STEM-AG program employs a wraparound strategy that has resulted in the retention, persistence, and graduation of COF scholars. The BOW STEM-AG program has advanced CSU’s mission by enrolling 36 high-quality students. Twenty-seven students are still enrolled and are on track to graduate and one student graduated two years ahead of schedule. Brook Foster, a member of the 17/18 cohort earned distinction as the 2020 senior class scholar with a 4.0 GPA. The wraparound services are provided by all CSU’s offices geared to promote student success. Central State also provides institutional financial aid, in addition to the Ohio Department of Higher Education funded scholarships. Central State’s non-financial support services include tutoring, personal counseling, and professional development including internships, undergraduate research, mentoring, and academic advising. Central State University’s financial commitment ratio, at 1 to 1.9 is well above the equal match minimum required for COF support.
Executive Summary: Choose Ohio First 16.15: Viking Leaders of Tomorrow, is a Choose Ohio First (COF) Program at Cleveland State University (CSU) initially funded through the FY16 grant cycle. Since Fall 2017 it has supported numerous students with scholarships and programming. It currently supports nearly 300 scholars from Freshmen to Seniors across a diverse spectrum of STEMM majors. The requested $2.6 million will allow us to support the current scholars through graduation.

The programming is divided into three lower divisions (first two years) and five upper divisions (final two years). The lower divisions focus on cohort building and preparing students for work-based experiences through cohort meetings and group projects. The upper divisions provide students opportunities for direct work-based experiences through co-op, internships, and/or research.

As designed, this program will continue to fulfill existing and emerging statewide needs by supporting students in STEMM degree programs offered by the College of Engineering, the College of Science and Health Professions, and the School of Nursing who can fill in-demand jobs in Ohio upon graduation. Students in the following disciplines will be eligible to participate in our COF Program: Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Computer Science, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Biology, Health Sciences, Pharmaceutical Science, Speech & Hearing, Pre-Professional programs, and Nursing.

Our programming aids our scholars in finding clarity in their educational and career goals. Underclassman will continue to participate in one of the three lower divisions they were placed in based upon their enrolled major. Programming at this level provides scholars with access and information as they begin exploring their degree pathways. These scholars attend regularly scheduled weekly cohort meetings where they hear presentations from industry affiliates, faculty members, and other applicable resources on campus. Numerous sessions are dedicated to students learning about the scientific research process as they work towards effectively creating and presenting a group research project. Social activities will be infused to aid in building rapport amongst peers. Upperclassman scholars participate in one of five upper division tracks that is best aligned for their individual pursuits: co-op, internship, research, nursing, or grand challenges. Each of these divisions ensures that students participate in a required work-based learning experience to learn valuable transferrable skills. To facilitate these efforts and ensure compliance and forward progress, these COF scholars are required to attend check-in meetings with COF faculty and staff as well as complete work-based learning experiences. Finally, prior to graduation students present their activity either as a poster or oral presentation.

There will be continued support for our COF efforts from CSU administration from both a financial and programming standpoint. Matching funds surpassing the 1:1 requirement have been identified, including substantial support for student programming. Commitments from various departments on campus, including Career Services and the Center for Engineering Experiential Learning (CEEL), mean that COF scholars will have streamlined support for more technical and specialized needs. External support from various industry partners will continue in the form of guest speakers, site location tours, work-based learning opportunities, etc.

We aim to provide our undergraduate scholars with the tools needed to successfully graduate from CSU within a four year-time frame prepared for either additional educational pursuits or for direct entrance into the Ohio workforce.
Rationale for the Amount Requested

Columbus State Community College is requesting $126,000 in continuation funding for Choose Ohio First (FY16). We plan that this funding will be spent over the next two years, or three semesters from Autumn 2021 to Autumn 2022. The amount supports 46 current Choose Ohio First students to degree completion. We also anticipate that students may need a small amount of additional time to complete due to COVID-related interruptions in education.

Selected Academic Programs

The College proposes to continue using the following pre-approved CIP list from the 2016 proposal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30104</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110701</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140102</td>
<td>Pre-Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260101</td>
<td>Biology/Biological Sciences, General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>261501</td>
<td>Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270101</td>
<td>Mathematics, General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400501</td>
<td>Chemistry, General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400801</td>
<td>Physics, General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>511101</td>
<td>Pre-Dentistry Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>511102</td>
<td>Pre-Medicine/Pre-Medical Studies</td>
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<td>511103</td>
<td>Pre-Pharmacy Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>511104</td>
<td>Pre-Veterinary Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>511199</td>
<td>Health/Medical Preparatory Programs, Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>513199</td>
<td>Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition Services, Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plan to Assist Students to Complete On Time

While at CSCC, these scholars are part of a cohort group that progresses through curriculum together, receives specific advising from a dedicated STEM Advisor, and has access to myriad established resources throughout the college. COF Scholars also attend mandatory STEM Club activities, where they meet professionals in STEM fields and tour STEM facilities. In addition, COF Scholars are presented with opportunities to connect with faculty at four-year colleges, including Ohio State, where they may apply to work on research projects and gain experience in scientific problem solving while still at CSCC.

COF scholars benefit from CSCC’s continuing emphasis on building accessible, supported paths to baccalaureate STEM degrees. The program integrates instruction, research and student support. Scholarship recipients will have access to many resource offices that have long been part of the College’s internal budget, among them Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Advising, Career Services, Counseling, Disability Services, Diversity, Fitness, IT Support, Student Employment, Student Engagement, Veterans Services, and Tutoring. They also have access to Columbus State’s STEM Room, a place exclusively for group study, faculty tutoring and STEM advising.
Cuyahoga Community College - Executive Summary

Cuyahoga Community College has requested $158,500 to support up to 79 Tri-C Choose Ohio First scholars who are pursuing degrees and credentials in STEMM. Over the next four academic years, existing COFS scholars (initially funded under #16.55) will continue to be supported with financial assistance for instructional and general fees, book vouchers and meal plans to see them through to completion.

The current COFS scholars represent 16 CIP codes. Remaining scholars are enrolled in program areas of automotive technology (19), associate of science (18), nursing (18), allied health (16), and Engineering and IT (6). These industries offer in-demand occupations with excellent job outlook. Of the remaining scholars, 14 petitioned to graduate in fall 2020, 27 have more than 40 credit hours earned and are approximately two semesters away from graduation and 31 of the scholars have ten or more credits earned and are approximately four semesters away from graduation. There are about seven students who may not return in spring 2021 as COFS scholars due to poor grades or stopping out of higher education. Should these students reengage with Tri-C, they will be considered for other scholarship opportunities and support services. The remaining COFS scholars are academically focused and career minded.

The Choose Ohio First Director will take leadership in monitoring the scholars as a cohort and has the authority to connect scholars with institutional and external resources that offer wrap-around services, address basic needs and remove barriers to retention and success. She will collaborate with program managers where academic interventions may be needed. Most of the scholars have already taken advantage of some form of work-based learning because of the program pathways they are in. The Choose Ohio First Director will confirm scholars work-based learning experiences and connect scholars who have yet to participate in work-based learning to Career Services. Career Services has the capacity to connect these students to opportunities that support their preparation for STEMM careers. The interventions provided to the scholars are successful as COF scholars have higher completion rates (37.1%) than the institution’s IPEDS graduation rate (23.7%).

Cuyahoga Community College has been pleased to provide Choose Ohio First scholarship opportunities to Tri-C students since its inception in 2008. We are committed to the completion of those awarded under the FY16 grant cycle and value Ohio Department of Higher Education’s partnership in the care of these scholars and future workers.
Edison State’s Completion Grant Application will request $60,000 to assist nine students currently enrolled in Choose Ohio First programs in the FY16 cohort. This reasonable amount will provide financial support for the seven currently enrolled students and will allow for at least 2 more to potentially enroll for the 2021 Spring semester. This amount is based on the current varying awards of $750-$1,500 per academic semester to be awarded through August of 2022 for the majority of the current participants. The current economic environment in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic has put a financial strain on the majority of Edison State students. Businesses in our region are less able to afford the costs of paying for employees’ schooling, and Edison State’s ability to provide assistance is only on a last dollar basis. These nine enrolled students are participating in programs that are important in our area and can lead to outstanding careers. All of our COF students are enrolled in Computer Information Systems, Electronics Engineering, or Mechanical Engineering Technology degree programs. This request for the continuation of grant funds will allow us to support them toward completion by providing advising, career services, tutoring, workforce development, co-ops and internships.

Edison State implemented the Guided Pathways Advising Model two years ago in order to assist all students to identify their educational pathway, stay on that path and complete their program successfully. Students are assisted immediately with identifying a career interest or transfer goal and are assigned a Pathway Advisor after they apply. The advisor is proactive in reaching out to the student, assisting with the enrollment process and creating an academic plan for the student to follow. A faculty advisor in the student’s pathway area is also assigned. Working together, both advisors continuously reach out to the student to support their educational needs, recommending support services, helping facilitate meetings with key stakeholders on campus and keep that student on the path to a timely completion.

In addition to proactive advising, the student receives regular communication from our career services area including access to the local job board, career counseling, resume writing assistance and career planning tools and advice. Many of our COF programs require or highly recommend an internship or co-op. The director of Apprenticeships and Work-Based Learning works in concert with our career services staff to build relationships with local partners that provide the locations for these co-ops and internships.

This additional grant money will allow these students to focus on their programs of study without the strain of finances slowing their progress to completion. By providing this financial support, Edison State can assist these students by supporting their educational needs rather than helping the student find more financial aid or reduce their credit hour enrollment due to needing to work more to fund their education.
Franklin University - Executive Summary

Franklin University, founded in 1902, is an accredited private non-profit institution located in downtown Columbus serving the needs of multiple demographics of students, but most significantly, working adult learners who are looking to complete their education, reskill, upskill, or change their careers. Because of this, Franklin is uniquely positioned to provide education and opportunities to non-traditional students who make up the majority of the central Ohio workforce, and who are invested in their Ohio communities.

Franklin University is looking to continue its current COF award 11.05 to cover two continuing students to graduation. The university is requesting a total of $15,600 to continue providing scholarships to two Choose Ohio First Scholars as they complete their degrees. These two students are both part of the Cybersecurity undergraduate degree program (CIP Code 111003).

In support of the COF initiative, Franklin University has established educational partnerships, and pathways with community college partners (Ohio and surrounding states), industry and regional employers, and high schools (College Credit Plus). Each of these populations provides a robust opportunity to recruit students for COF opportunities. With our community college partners, Franklin has established articulation agreements with 23 unique 2-year schools in Ohio, and an additional 9 schools in Indiana and Pennsylvania. We have also created educational partnerships with more than 70 regional employers allowing their employees to maximize their tuition benefits and reduce the cost of a college degree. Finally, our CCP program allows us to engage high school students early in their educational journeys by providing opportunities to earn industry-aligned credentials that correspond to COF disciplines. This also provides opportunities to promote additional pathways in these high-demand fields.

As a private non-profit, Franklin University is able to respond quickly to meet the needs of industry and employers. This is demonstrated, not only by the partnerships above, but our ability to quickly implement high quality undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs in numerous fields, many that are not only applied, but align to COF disciplines. Franklin has been able to create new programs in informatics, analytics, cybersecurity, information technology, nursing, and healthcare, all of which directly benefit our community and their workforce development needs, especially in this current environment. Our programmatic advisory boards populated with industry professionals help to guide and shape our offerings and curriculum so that our graduates immediately meet the needs of employers in the region. Further our centers of Academic Excellence provide a vehicle for incorporating applied experiential learning opportunities that prepare students for immediate employment and deliver additional training and opportunities to the community.
Hiram College - Executive Summary

Northeast Ohio continues to vigorously work on re-defining itself as The Medical Capital. This aim aligns directly with Hiram College’s enduring strength in life sciences, enriched by a first of its kind interdisciplinary approach that includes literature and the arts to prepare students for bioethical issues. Hiram’s first Choose Ohio First grant introduced STEMM students to Ohio’s burgeoning biotech industry, as the rebirth of the region on the back of bioscience and a world class health system depends upon technology transfer that is seeded by research. With the rapid spread of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past 12 months, this academic focus and need for research now is more important than ever. This proposal expands that effort via a series of novel academic partnerships (including articulation agreements with four regional community colleges) intended to provide a more diverse set of students clear paths to pursue their passion for life sciences and healthcare. This COF request for $292,500 in scholarships will support a minimum of 21 STEMM students seeking bachelor’s degrees in Biology, Biochemistry, Biomedical Humanities, Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Nursing, Neuroscience, Public Health and Integrated Exercise Science. Most of Ohio’s first-time college students have a very superficial understanding of the State’s in-demand jobs, and even less grasp of the key industries Ohio’s economic regions are working to expand. Hiram COF scholars, who are recipients of COF funds and are already enrolled in these majors, will continue to receive exposure to NE Ohio’s burgeoning health and biotech industries and will be tasked with completing their established goals for academic and work experiences that connect to them. It is this connection to industry that is the heart of our Hiram Connect initiative which requires students to stop and pause and consider factors that influence their choice of major, and provides the mentoring needed for them to tackle multiple, hands-on opportunities as undergraduates, which might include community health projects (especially during the Covid-19 outbreak), basic biomedical research, and internships with biomedical and biotech industry partners. Through our recent initiative, Hiram Health, the college is poised to provide COF scholars with not only powerful academic experience and exposure to STEMM Careers, but a learning environment intentionally designed to teach all students to live well for a lifetime. Hiram College will identify its COF recipients in two wholly different ways. The College will continue to work with a well-established system of Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC) high school pre-health clubs, to attract and support COF scholars, with a particular focus upon attracting Ohio’s rural students. Additionally, Hiram will work with its Community College Partners (Cuyahoga Community College, Lorain County Community College, Lakeland Community College and Stark State Community College) to continue to support students who have entered Hiram to work on a baccalaureate degree in COF-supported majors. Upon matriculation, COF graduates can then take advantage of Hiram’s post-baccalaureate with NEOMED (in Medicine and Pharmacy), with Case Western Reserve University (in Dental Medicine, Bioengineering and Social Work) or seek employment in NE Ohio’s biotech industry.
**Rationale for amount requested:**
We are requesting $203,840 to support our current Choose Ohio First (COF) scholars funded by grant 16-79, as they complete their STEMM programs at John Carroll University (JCU). We currently have four cohorts funded by this grant. All scholars in our senior cohort either have graduated early or will graduate in May 2021, and therefore, we are not requesting support for these scholars. For our additional three cohorts, we are requesting funds to support an annual scholarship for each student of $3,640. We have seven scholars in our junior cohort. All are on track for on-time completion, and therefore, we are requesting one additional year of support for these students ($25,480). Our sophomore cohort has eight students; all are on track for on-time completion. We are requesting two years of additional support for these scholars ($58,240). We also have eleven scholars in our first year cohort. Given our success in helping students stay on-track for timely degree completion, we are requesting an additional three years of funding for each of these scholars ($120,120).

**COF overview:**
To meet the growing demand for a STEMM-trained workforce, JCU has developed a mission-informed program that helps scholars develop their identity as STEMM professionals, through academic, personal, and professional development. Our program begins with scholar outreach prior to matriculation, cohorting of students in common academic courses during the first semester, a STEMM Living Learning Community in the first year, a course introducing students to research during their first year, as well as a cohort advising course throughout their time at JCU. These opportunities support students academically--JCU COF students have higher STEMM retention rates than non-COF students, much higher STEMM retention rates than national rates, and very high GPAs (cumulative GPA among our cohorts is over 3.8). Furthermore, our scholars engage in experiential learning through internship, coop, work study, and research opportunities, and our senior cohort has had two students already matriculate to graduate and professional school and an additional student graduate a semester early (she is currently preparing her application for medical school). An additional two students already have permanent positions in STEMM and in Ohio following graduation, and one student has received multiple acceptances to PhD programs in Chemistry (including a fellowship offer at the Ohio State University). These outcomes emphasize the success of our program in preparing our scholars for the world of work, particularly the STEMM workforce. Lastly, our emphasis on mentorship--through peers, staff, and faculty--has been extremely successful in helping our scholars feel supported and aid in not only their retention in the program but also in their thriving as STEMM scholars and future professionals.

**Synopsis of plan to help students complete on time:**
On-time completion of JCU COF scholars is supported through academic planning, goal-setting, and mentoring. By the end of their first semester, each scholar must complete an academic plan, which outlines how they will complete their intended major in four years. This plan is revisited and updated each semester, serving as a benchmark of progress. Second, each semester, scholars are asked to set personal and academic goals for themselves, and they are asked to reflect on their progress throughout the semester. Third, all scholars receive peer, staff, and faculty mentoring throughout their time in the program through cohort advising. These sessions provide touchpoints for scholars and mentors, as well as opportunities to discuss challenges and successes. Fourth, at the end of each semester, the program director runs a grade report for all scholars. Any scholars whose STEMM or overall GPA has fallen below a 3.0 for the semester receives additional mentoring from their faculty and staff advisors. Few scholars have needed this additional support, but those who have received it have shown improved performance in the following semester. Together, these suite of supports have helped our current scholars stay on-track and graduate on-time (or even early).
Kent State - Executive Summary

Kent State has been fortunate to receive generous support from Choose Ohio First in 2016 for 6 programs in the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Public Health, and Nursing at the Kent and Stark campuses. In the current proposal, we request the funds needed to continue to support the students currently enrolled in these programs, which include SSMCMC 16-23 (Careers in Mathematics & Computer Sciences), SSMCPH 16-24 (Public Health), SSMCLS 16-26 (Career Pathways in STEM-Life Sciences), SSMCWT 16-28 (Workforce Training for Ohio’s STEMM Industries), SSMCNB 16-29 (Nursing), SSMCST 16-30 (Mathematics & Life Sciences at Stark Campus).

Requested funds are for 203 students with an estimated time to completion based on their progress in the majors thus far.

Students will continue to be supported by teams of dedicated advisors in college and campus offices, Academic Program Leaders and faculty in their majors. In addition, events are organized to engage the students as a community and further strengthen their professional skills and preparedness for employment.

A key goal of the Choose Ohio First Program at Kent State University is to retain our credentialed graduates by connecting them to full-time employment in our state via work-based learning experiences and internships. Therefore, we implement university-wide career exploration services and aim for participation of all students in work-based learning experiences such as internships with our many business partners and research lab experiences. Our programs prepare graduates for in-demand occupations in many occupation groups that are predicted to have substantial growth and need in Ohio.

In conclusion, Choose Ohio First resources will continue to greatly enhance STEMM education at Kent State University for a diverse population of Ohio students with the goal to provide them with affordable higher education and career opportunities in Ohio and fill the statewide need of STEMM-trained professionals.
Lakeland Community College - Executive Summary

Lakeland Community College requests $147,500 over the next two years to continue funding twenty-five Choose Ohio First scholars to completion of their degrees or certificates under award 16-31. In the first year, $114,500 will provide tuition, general fees and books for two degree programs and four certificate pathways. In the second year, $33,000 will support degree pathway students to complete their program of study. These scholars have been recruited into high-growth, high-demand occupations in the bioscience and health technology sectors. Continued support will help retain these high achieving students into fields with critical workforce shortages.

Choose Ohio First award 16-31 began as a Biotechnology Science program specific award to recruit and retain scientist for laboratory positions in both industry and academic research. Lakeland has successfully used this grant to attract and retain a diverse population of scholars into its Biotechnology Science program. Upon graduation, 96% of students obtain jobs or immediately matriculate to a 4-year degree. The program is well-respected among both the academic and corporate biotech communities.

The current COVID 19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for workers in the biotechnology and healthcare sector. In spring, 2021, ODHE approved a request by Lakeland to expand this grant award to include cohorts in nursing, medical coding, paramedic, dental assisting, and state tested nursing assistant certificates.

Lakeland’s Biotechnology Science program includes a mandatory internship program during the last eight weeks of the student’s degree work. The internship is essentially a capstone enabling students to obtain real world experience and explore on-the-job responsibilities while obtaining professional references. The internships are unpaid and set up by the college with consideration of the student's internship preferences. Internship supervisors evaluate the students for both technical skills and soft skills.

Lakeland’s health programs typically model the workplace in the classroom. They also integrate clinical experiences with local healthcare providers into degree pathway. Lakeland will develop a work-based experiential internship course "Leadership and InterProfessional Education Experience: Building the Necessary Skills to be Successful in an Employment Setting." All COF scholars will be required to take this 4-6-week course.

As the budget reflects, Lakeland will graduate the COF scholars on time. One student in the Biotechnology program will potentially go into the third year and all others will remain on track. Lakeland has numerous support systems and resources to keep student focused and moving forward in their chosen pathway. Starting with the creation of an academic plan in the Freshman Experience course during their first semester, students have a clear vision of their academic journey. Lakeland’s class sizes are small and students interact with their professors, who are also often their chief academic advisors, many times per week. Faculty hold ten in-person office hours each week; COF scholars are monitored closely. Lakeland offers numerous services to help students stay on track and achieve their academic goals including tutoring, a Writing Center, Men’s Center, Women’s Center, Counseling Center, and the Student Service Center. Career Services and faculty networks help students prepare for and identify employment opportunities.
Marietta College - Executive Summary

Marietta College is a small, private institution located in Southeast Ohio. The college provides a strong foundation for a lifetime of leadership, critical thinking, and problem solving. We achieve this mission by offering undergraduates a contemporary liberal arts education and graduate students an education grounded in advanced knowledge and professional practice. Our goal is to prepare students for the world of work particularly in key in-demand industries in Ohio.

Marietta College has been the recipient of Choose Ohio First (COF) funds since 2011. The dollars have allowed us to provide scholarships for over 260 students in our Petroleum Engineering, Geology and Physician Assistant programs. During this time, Marietta College has always exceeded the 1:1 dollar required match. The past few years our match has been in excess of 3:1. This has helped us to maintain students in their chosen program and successfully help them reach completion of their degrees.

Marietta College is budgeting completion funding for 20 COF scholars currently enrolled in the three programs listed above: 5 freshman, 6 sophomores, 7 juniors and 2 physician assistant candidates in the first year of their two-year program. At a scholarship award of $7,956 per-student per-year the total funds needed to help these students complete their degree is $286,416.

The three academic programs requesting completion funds have a long history of excellent retention and completion rates and also prepare our students for in-demand high-paying STEM careers. Marietta’s Petroleum Engineering program is one of the top of its kind in the country and has a history of graduating its COF scholars with 100% job placement rate (prior to COVID). COF funds have helped us to achieve an overall program retention rate of 84.5% and graduate rate of 60.4%. Our Geology program offers the opportunity to learn from an experienced and highly qualified faculty in a personal, student-centered, small college setting with one of the longest continuous histories of teaching Geology. We have particular strengths in Petroleum Geology, Engineering/Environmental Geology, and Paleontology. COF funds have helped us to reach an overall retention rate of 83.3% and graduation rate of 53.8%. Currently 66% of our geology graduates are continuing their education and 34% are working. Choose Ohio First funds have helped the Marietta College PA program achieve an overall 98.6% graduation rate and an overall 99.7% Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) pass rate. For the past five years, 94% of Marietta College PA program graduates are employed as PAs within six months of graduation. Approximately a third of students secure positions with physicians or hospitals where they completed clinical rotations.

Marietta College will ensure that students in the COF completion program graduate on time by employing the following tactics:

- Financial Aid will work with each student to maximize the aid they qualify for.
- Completion students will be treated as a cohort therefore making it easier to communicate about support services, financial aid, deadlines, and exclusive COF events.
- The Academic Resource Center at Marietta College will provide COF scholars with a variety of academic services including subject tutoring support, writing tutoring, individual advising and academic coaching sessions, study tables, workshops for students and faculty, and support and accommodations for students with disabilities.
- Academic Advisors will individually monitor each student’s progress to ensure that they are on track for graduation, ensure they are meeting all academic requirements and monitoring grades.
- Department heads and the Career Services staff will work to ensure that all COF students have work-based learning opportunities.
- Career Services will work with students to prepare them for internships and finding permanent employment.
Miami University - Executive Summary

Bioinformatics is a rapidly growing area that bridges molecular biology, computer science and statistics. It plays a critical role in many genetic engineering, biotech and biomedical applications, including biofuel generation, sustainable agriculture, human disease diagnosis and personalized medicine. A recent search on ohiomeansjobs.com shows strong evidence of growing demand for bioinformatics workers at the regional and state levels. Unfortunately, there are limited opportunities for formal training in bioinformatics in Ohio. Current statewide educational capacity for bioinformatics falls far short of meeting the growing demand for bioinformatics skills in the state job markets. Therefore, growing the bioinformatics programs in Ohio is vital to meeting this demand.

COF has awarded Miami University $30,000-$60,000 each year from 2008 to 2021 to support bioinformatics scholars. With COF funding, up to date, Miami University has given 162 awards to over 80 undergraduate students selected for being COF Bioinformatics Scholarship recipients. This program has greatly facilitated the bioinformatics education and research at Miami University, and enabled us to attract more students into the bioinformatics field and create a new bioinformatics minor in 2014. So far, 40 students already received the bioinformatics minor while 38 students are pursuing the minor. Among them, there are 42 female students and 17 minority students.

Because of the COF support for the award #16-34, currently we have two scholars who receive the COF scholarship starting in 2019, four in 2020, and five in 2021. In this renewal proposal, we request a total of $105,000 for the 3-year period of 2021-2024 to support all eleven COF scholars to finish their 4-year programs of study in Miami University. This additional support would allow us to grow our bioinformatics minor and educate/transform a new generation of the Ohio workforce working in bioinformatics. We commit to continuing to match any new state funds with tuition waivers and university scholarship dollars for these COF scholars. All scholars are individually mentored. They will take bioinformatics-related courses, join individual labs to engage in bioinformatics-related research and participate in tri-weekly bioinformatics seminars. Miami University has established partnerships with many bioscience and biomedical companies, through which scholars have opportunities to work with their professors on funded research and to participate in internships. The high academic quality of our undergraduate students and the excellent learning environment we provide contribute greatly to the success of COF Bioinformatics Scholarship program in Miami University. Clearly, additional state funds to support COF Bioinformatics scholars will be leveraged and augmented by resources that Miami University has and will continue to commit to high-quality undergraduate education. We will strive to help these students finish their 4-year programs of study successfully.
Muskingum University - Executive Summary

Muskingum University is requesting $315,900 in Choose Ohio First (COF) scholarship funding to provide support for an anticipated 48 (25 Traditional UG students and 23 nontraditional MAP) students to work on applied projects, explore careers through field placements, and experience the transformative power of on-site learning through internships as they progress to graduation. Our rationale is based on the economic conditions of the surrounding area, our knowledge of student needs, and the input received from our current COF scholars.

Muskingum University’s Choose Ohio First (COF) initiative has been designed as part of the institution’s Impact 2025 Strategic Action Plan to leverage the university’s capabilities for serving the educational and career development needs of our COF scholars with great effectiveness. This is a continuation of our successful 2016 COF grant program.

Populations for COF Recruitment: The university serves a region in east central and southeastern Ohio composed largely of Appalachian counties where much of the population is socioeconomically disadvantaged. A significant gap exists between the projected workforce need for the southeastern Ohio region and the educational attainment of the population in this area, where on average only 12.7% of adults hold a bachelor’s degree with just 4.5% being in a STEMM area. Over 51% of full-time undergraduate students currently enrolled at Muskingum University are from Appalachia, while 45% of undergraduate students are eligible for the Pell Grant (2018-2020), and 38% are first-generation college students.

Academic Programs for COF Initiative: As the only comprehensive four-year institution within a 35-mile radius of New Concord and Zanesville, Muskingum University offers 18 COF-eligible STEMM majors including biology, chemistry, computer science, conservation science, environmental science, general engineering, geology, mathematics, molecular biology, neuroscience, nursing, and physics, as well as programs in the areas of health science, information systems, medical laboratory studies, and nursing. These majors are drawn from the CIP codes identified as regional workforce needs. Choose Ohio First funds will also support candidates for STEMM teacher licensure, a teaching area in critical demand in local school districts and across the state. To best meet the educational and workforce needs of our region, the university will build on the successful program model of our current Choose Ohio First program (2008 – present) that spans the STEMM academic disciplines for both our more traditional students as well as our non-traditional students enrolled through our Muskingum Adult Program (MAP). The programs were selected in part for their relevance to STEMM, the alignment with the institutional plan, and the resources and personnel available to implement a high-quality program.

Plan to Address Regional and Statewide Economic Strengths and Needs: The innovative student supports described in this proposal are designed to meet the diverse needs of all undergraduate students at Muskingum University to help them overcome the challenges they face. University leadership and STEMM faculty continue to leverage and expand relationships with regional business and industry leaders to strengthen partnerships supporting the workforce initiatives proposed. Letters of commitment and support from institutional and business partners document several of these ongoing partnerships while highlighting the institutional and regional support for this COF initiative at Muskingum. Funds from this completion grant will enable the 48 students to complete their education and join the STEMM workforce, thus improving the quality of life for their families and the economy of our Ohio communities.
North Central State College - Executive Summary

First Completion Grant Total Request - $727,012

Rationale for the amount requested

North Central State College (NCSC) has 176 COF Scholars that have not petitioned to graduate (1/22/21 spring deadline). Based on a batch degree evaluation analysis of each scholar, these scholars are estimated to graduate in staggered terms from Fall 2021 until Spring 2025. Time frames for non-lockstep programs were calculated based off of remaining program credits to complete, with an estimated 9 credits completed each term given the large number of part-time students at the college. Registered nursing programs were estimated off the standard two-year cohort completion cycle, with some newer “pre-nursing” students given an additional estimated year at the pre-program level.

The college has calculated an average award amount for each of the estimated graduation term cohorts. Per ODHE direction, the average award was derived from the actual 2020-21 COF awards for these scholars. Scholars in their second and third years in 2020-21 received larger awards, which are reflected in the averages.

Overview of selected program and counts of continuing students into 2021-22

Targeted programs include Networking (16); Cybersecurity (10); Graphic Design (11); Integrated Engineering (3); Bioscience (5); Mechanical Engineering Technology (9 associate’s and 28 bachelor’s); Pre-Health Registered Nursing (60) and Registered Nursing (34). Data from the Program of Study section show that compared to the college as a whole, these targeted programs have higher retention, graduation and often earnings following graduation. A wage-matching study of graduates from 2016-17 to 2018-19 showed the COF-eligible group had an average quarterly wage of $9,600 six months after graduation, compared to a college-wide average of $7,900.

Further, these programs offer unique contextual benefits such as a Bioscience program linked to a National Science Foundation Grant, a Graphic Design program offering a STEAM pathway for students with an artistic bent, and Ohio’s only community college applied bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Plan to assist student completion

Nearly 30 COF Scholars have petitioned for spring graduation, and many more will earn auto-award certificates. The college, through its COF Steering Committee, has developed numerous strategies and tactics along the Progress and Completion phase of guided pathways. These include:

- Intensive and intrusive academic support when warning signs arise during the term. Further, slightly higher GPA standards will push students toward higher achievement.
- Staff and faculty advisors for continuing students housed in the academic building.
- NCSC will connect all scholars with its campus-based Internship Office, including heath science majors to supplement clinical work. Numerous employer partners who hire both interns and graduates have voiced support for this COF effort.
- The COF program will provide a rich co-curricular experience to supplement classroom learning. This will include targeted engagement activities, honors opportunities and student-related clubs.
Notre Dame College - Executive Summary

Notre Dame College (NDC) wishes to share our continued gratitude to the Ohio Department of Higher Education for your support of the Choose Ohio First STEMM @NDC program since its inception in 2011. Please accept the following documentation as justification for the continuation of the 16.37 Award as we endeavor together to develop STEMM professions to fill our regional and statewide economic needs.

This application seeks funds to complete the educational journey of students recruited to NDC through the COF STEMM @NDC program. In the spirit of the mission of Notre Dame College, these students come from a variety of backgrounds, races, and ethnicities. The funding supplied by this program helps to make the college experience more affordable and as such will set these students up for improved financial stability post-graduation. The estimate for necessary funds provided in the following documentation seeks to see all students through their successful graduation. We intend to use these funds to incentivize the completion of each student's academic program by modifying their awards based on their academic performance or changes in their financial need.

The COF STEMM @NDC program is focused on preparing students in Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science to be personally, professionally, and globally responsible. Each program is designed to give students the scientific foundations expected by professionals in their field but more importantly prepares students to continue learning once they leave our classrooms. Interactive learning is a principle of our programs as faculty work with our students to develop strong lab skills and even to begin the discovery process through independent research projects. Field experiences are mandatory for all students seeking Bachelor of Arts degrees and research/internship experiences are strongly recommended for all students in Bachelor of Science programs. Over the life the program at NDC, >80% of graduates have gone on to further study or employment in a STEMM Field

Over the last several years, we have seen a noticeable uptick in the retention of COF STEMM Scholars at NDC. Included in this is our largest graduating class of five expected this spring. We believe this is due to the personal attention that each of our students receive. To support the remaining students in completing their degrees, we plan to continue to leverage the faculty student relationship. Each student meets multiple times a semester with the Program Coordinator and with a faculty academic advisor in their area of study. We will continue to offer career-based programming to remind students of their goals and to bring in experts that can attest to the preparation that the students need to succeed. We also find it important to continue to innovate and reach students where they need the help. As such, we have developed strategies to support students even in the socially distanced environment. Incorporation of Microsoft Teams as a communication tool and presentation tool will allow students increased access to their instructors and advisors outside of the academic buildings of our campus. Furthermore, the advancement of video conferencing has made it easier than ever to bring in a wide variety of professionals that might not have been possible in a “live-only” setting.

A NDC education changes not only a student, but his or her family and community, when a student earns their degree. We wish to once again share our appreciation for the continued support of the Choose Ohio First Program by the Ohio Department of Education. The funds made possible through this program do indeed help to change the lives of those in this program.
Ohio Northern University (ONU) has served the state of Ohio by providing quality undergraduate education that has integrated practice with theory for 150 years. The Choose Ohio First (COF) scholarship will allow ONU in this, its sesquicentennial year, to allow students to continue their education and complete their degrees into high demand STEM professions. The purpose of this present proposal is to allow the continuation of the current scholarships so that these students in STEM-related fields can continue to prepare themselves to be professionals for in-demand health care, STEM education and STEM related occupations in Ohio. Providing them with these scholarship funds is critical so they can complete their degrees. We are requesting funding in the amount of $1,613,550. This will enable all students currently in the Choose Ohio First Scholars program to complete their current degrees by 2025.

The opportunity presented by scholarships through Choose Ohio First will allow Ohio Northern University to continue to provide meaningful education and work-based experiences for Ohio students, creating a qualified and job-ready workforce for meeting our state’s challenges. Since graduates who participate in these kinds of hands-on experiences will settle, on average, within 25 miles of their college work experience, ONU students will serve Ohio’s rural population of 2,347,371 residents well upon degree completion.

Ohio Northern University has a rich tradition of working with COF to bring students to campus, helping them successfully move through the college experience to graduation, and on to the workplace. Current COF grants at ONU have been for Engineering Education, STEM Education and the Health Sciences majors, and Computer Science and Computer Engineering. Ohio Northern works well with the State of Ohio to benefit high school students, the University’s students, and ultimately the general population. This is an opportunity to allow these current students to complete their degrees with the help of the COF scholarship program increasing the number of students in STEM education and health profession fields who will ultimately be prepared to serve this great state.

The goals of the present proposal are well aligned with the contemporary needs of the state of Ohio. ONU will strategically use COF scholarships to support the continuation of the current students utilizing COF funding and retention of students in health care, STEM education and STEM related fields. ONU’s typically high retention and completion rates are built into this model. Prior COF STEM-Education and COF Health Professions scholarships have demonstrated success in enrollment in the University’s programs. The university has a strong program in place to ensure that students complete their programs on time and stay on track with their educational goals. Faculty and staff are strong proponents to enabling students to fulfill their goals and graduate on schedule with their degrees.
Ohio State University - Executive Summary

The Ohio State University (OSU) in partnership with Columbus State Community College (CSCC) proposes "Engineering and Science Innovators (ESI) and Nursing as a Choose Ohio First scholarship (COFS) program for students at the forefront of advances in chemistry, biology, materials, manufacturing and medicine. Recent Ohio labor market information indicates that private hospitals are projected to add the largest number of new jobs by 2022 and healthcare related industries comprise 7 of the top 14 projected industries for job growth. The demand for primary care physicians will increase 8% (nearly 700 jobs) by 2030. While healthcare related jobs are increasing quickly due to an aging population, manufacturing jobs overall are expected to remain steady or slightly decrease. Several sub-sectors in manufacturing related to the transportation industry and its supply chain are bright spots with projected growth of over 7000 jobs by 2022. In particular, Ohio has a long history of polymer, plastic and resin production which along with basic metals provides the foundation for advanced materials driving innovation in all transportation sectors. The State of Ohio remains today one of the most important locations for polymer know-how and polymers continue to be one of Ohio’s largest industries with more than 2400 polymer and advanced material companies located in the state. The US Bureau of Census shows that factories in Ohio rank first in manufacturing both plastic and rubber products. Furthermore, 54 percent of workers in the polymers and chemicals industry cluster in the state are over 45 years old and even with a stable number of jobs, the replenishment of the work force will require a significant number of graduates ready for the polymer field. Consistent with these projections, the occupation categories of “Healthcare Practitioners and Technical” “Life, Physical and Social Sciences”.

Our primary goal is to continue to support academically talented students in the following degree programs: Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Biology, Biochemistry and Chemistry. Ohio industries and healthcare organizations have increasing needs requiring the expertise of these majors. Based on the excellent retention and graduation rates of our previous Choose Ohio First Scholarship program (OHSE-COFS and FSO-COFS), the ESI program provides particular focus on improving the diversity within in these majors. Building on a long-standing partnership between the College of Arts & Sciences at CSCC, with the OSU Colleges of Arts & Sciences and the Engineering, this program promotes growth, student success and economic access to several of the most challenging and rewarding disciplines offered by Ohio State. We plan to provide an industry internship, co-op, or research internships to every ESI scholarship student. With the experience from these opportunities, we further expect our students to be among the most “job-ready” students in the state.
Rhodes State College - Executive Summary

The dollar total amount requested by Rhodes State College for the Choose Ohio First Completion (COF) Grant is $42,425. The College’s Financial Aid Director has determined that twelve (12) current COF scholarship recipients will require COF scholarship funding and support after 6/30/2021 and has estimated (based on past financial need and graduation date) the estimated total scholarship amount for each student. This total includes all estimated instructional Fees (tuition), general fees, and book vouchers in accordance with the Choose Ohio First grant regulations and guidelines.

The twelve (12) students are enrolled in these six (6) academic programs (from the current COF agreement 16-50):

<table>
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<th>Program Name</th>
<th>CIP Code</th>
<th># Students</th>
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<td>Respiratory Therapy Technician/Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Page, Digital/Multimedia and Information Resources Design</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In order to assist to students to complete on time, the College will change the approach to scholar support by incorporating a strength-based approach (an effective tool in retaining student scholars and promoting on-time completion) will improve the engagement of the twelve FY 16 scholars. By moving to a strengths-based approach of support, RSC seeks to help our participating scholars recognize and build on their academic and professional skills. The improvements will incorporate program chairs, faculty, and student services leaders as important guides for the scholars along their educational journey and will engage scholars in building their professional skills such as communication, teamwork, responsibility, and planning. COF scholars will continue to have the opportunity for a cohort experience outside the classroom through structured socialization, which has a documented positive impact on the retention of high-achieving students. Socialization opportunities will be balanced between structured conversations around central topics such as goal setting and transfer planning, and unstructured conversations which allow students to connect and socialize on an informal level. RSC understands the importance of supporting all students academically and developmentally. The College offers access to a variety of support services designed to address course /program completion and success, career development, and socialization needs. COF scholars will be connected with industry representatives to learn about the potential advancement opportunities in their chosen career field. Academic advisors will meet individually with each scholar under a 3.0 GPA to provide an individuated Academic Recovery Plan (ARP) to identify how challenges to academic success can be successfully addressed.
Shawnee State University - Executive Summary

Shawnee State University (SSU) is focused on making a difference in Appalachia Ohio. SSU offers a variety of degrees focused on the future, from traditional degrees in arts and sciences, to healthcare, plastics engineering technology, and digital simulation and gaming. SSU's Digital Simulation and Gaming degree is currently ranked ninth nationally by Princeton Review. The diversity among students pursuing the degree has improved as a direct result of the previous Choose Ohio First program, and SSU would like to be able to continue to provide opportunities for the students already in the program through to graduation.

The gaming programs at Shawnee State University are recognized as a Center of Excellence in Immersive Technology. The gaming programs consist of two distinct but coordinated programs in digital simulation and gaming. The Bachelor of Science in Digital Simulation and Gaming Engineering Technology emphasizes software development – turning ideas, art, sound, animation, and music into games and simulations that work. It focuses on computer science, programming, and graphics programming with additional courses in arts, design, math, and physics. The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Gaming and Simulation emphasizes preproduction and game design/development. It focuses on the study of art and its application to the disciplines of games and simulation by providing foundation in the history of art and aesthetics. Finally, the program provides practical experience through joint senior project with the Game Engineering program, having responsibilities which include game design, art asset development, animation, and motion capture.

The Choose Ohio First program under request for renewal is available only to students in the Bachelor of Science in Digital Simulation and Gaming Engineering Technology program. The program began as a mixture of Choose Ohio First scholarships, reconfigured institutional scholarships, a modest summer bridge program, dedicated student support from the academic support services, and roles as STEMM ambassadors to potential students. The program has evolved to include additional opportunities to improve specific technical, workplace, and interpersonal skills.

The grant extension would be used to continue to provide support for the 34 scholars currently in the program through to graduation. Of these, two are currently in their third year in the program, two are in their second year, and the remainder are completing the second semester of their first year.

Choose Ohio First Scholars currently in the program graduated from an urban high school, are an underrepresented minority student, or qualify for a Pell grant. Many of the current scholars qualify for the full Choose Ohio First funding amount, which is matched in many cases by a corresponding institutional scholarship. Once tuition expenses are fully funded, the remaining funds are used to pay other appropriate campus expenses. COF Scholars will continue to be expected to participate in monthly activities to ensure appropriate progress toward graduation and future employment. Additionally, access to the other campus-based student resources will ensure gains are reinforced.
Three strategic priorities – alignment, growth and equity – guide all policies and practices at Sinclair Community College. As a political subdivision of the state of Ohio, responsible to local, regional and statewide stakeholders, Sinclair serves citizens, communities and businesses with educational programs and services aligned to the economy and social needs of the region. Alignment means focusing on increasing both student enrollment and student success and connecting with more businesses and community organizations. Intrinsic to that alignment and growth is the commitment that Sinclair’s student body, faculty, and staff reflect the holistic diversity of the region and that every effort is made to eliminate achievement gaps between groups.

1. Rationale for Selected Populations for Recruitment

To strengthen the regional and statewide economy, Sinclair will seek to recruit talented first-time degree-seeking or certificate-seeking students from high schools around the Dayton region to the Choose Ohio First scholarship program, with an emphasis on reaching students disadvantaged due to race or socioeconomic status. In addition, Sinclair will promote the selected Choose Ohio First certificates and degrees to existing students as well as incumbent workers to encourage them to pursue careers in the selected in-demand jobs.

2. Overview and Rationale for the Selected Academic Programs

There is a high demand by employers for graduates with certificates and degrees in Engineering Technology, Industrial and Manufacturing Technology, Mechanic and Repair Technology, Aviation, Dentistry, Nursing and Allied Health occupations. To meet this demand and assist Ohio employers in finding the STEMM talent they need to stay competitive and grow, Sinclair Community College will promote a Choose Ohio First (COF) scholarship program for talented students pursuing credentials in these areas.

3. Synopsis of the Plan to Address Regional and Statewide Economic Strengths and Need

All COF programs to be offered were chosen because their graduates are in high demand by employers in the Dayton region. When COF scholars complete their programs, both the graduates and the employers benefit due to the close alignment between student and company needs. The highly-skilled graduates will be the solution to employers’ workforce skill gaps. Graduates will benefit from entering middle skill jobs\(^1\) with a career pathway leading to increasing salaries and wages that support their families and allow them to support the communities where they reside.
Stark State College - Executive Summary

Stark State College (SSC) proposes the following program in response to the Ohio Department of Higher Education’s recent Choose Ohio First (COF) FY16 Completion Grant request for proposals. Through this program, SSC is seeking funding to support existing Choose Ohio First scholars who have been awarded scholarships through the College’s FY16 COF awards (16.30 and 16.54) through to successful program completion.

Rationale for amount requested
Stark State College is requesting an estimated $51,200 in funding over the four-year grant project period, which will begin June 1, 2021 and continue through June 30, 2025.

This requested total is based on the current number of Stark State College Choose Ohio First FY16 award scholars who were enrolled before the end of Spring 2020 and who are expected to complete their programs after Spring 21. More specifically, the College has identified one 16.30-award scholar who is on track to finish her nursing degree in Spring 2022 and 11 16.54-award scholars who are on track to complete their programs between Fall 2021 and Spring 2023. A table showing more details on these scholars’ (current rank, expected graduation date, etc.) is included in the budget section of this proposal.

When possible and appropriate, the intent is to use Choose Ohio First FY16 Completion funding to fully cover COF scholars’ instructional costs, general fees and book costs, to the extent allowable, in accordance with Choose Ohio First guidelines. As such, the average per-student scholarship amount is estimated at $3,200 annually.

Overview highlighting the selected academic programs
For this proposal, Stark State has identified 10 total programs corresponding to 8 different CIP codes. Three CIPs correspond to three programs within the College’s Business and Information Technology Division; Two CIPs correspond to four programs within the Engineering Technologies Division; Two CIPs correspond to two programs within the Arts and Sciences Division; and one CIP corresponds to a program within the Health and Public Services Division. For the full list of proposed CIPs and program names, please see Attachment A.

Synopsis of plan to assist students to complete on time
Aiding students with retention and completion is part of Stark State College’s mission and one of the pillars of the institution’s strategic plan. The College offers a wide variety of support services to all students, including COF scholars, in an effort to best facilitate student success. Choose Ohio First scholars will be encouraged to take advantage of these student support services, which they will learn about through various informational channels, including, but not limited to, their academic advisors, general College communications, and targeted emails specifically sent (through the College’s CRM) to COF scholars.

Available services to assist scholars in completing their programs on time include Career Services, Gateway Student Services, the College’s math and science learning centers, library resources, student advising, student organizations, counseling/intervention services, tutoring services, and the College’s Writing Center, among other supports.
University of Akron - Executive Summary

I. Award Request Rationale

The University of Akron (UA) is a comprehensive urban research institution of higher learning dedicated to student success through support and engagement. Training undergraduate students in STEMM areas that directly affect the economic competitiveness of Ohio is one of our strengths.

In the Choose Ohio First FY16 proposal (16-56), UA committed to preparing and graduating 200 scholars by 2023. Current projections indicate that we are set to meet that goal. As a model program for retention, supplemental funding and support from ODHE will allow UA to exceed the proposed number and graduate more than 400 students from the FY16 grant by 2026. Economic hardships families are facing due to the onset of the COVID-19 virus will make it difficult for Scholars to finish course work within a 4-5 year time frame. Students have already begun to move home to help parents get through financial crises. As all scholars currently awarded will be sophomore level or higher in the new funding cycle, it is imperative that scholarship dollars are available to reduce their need to work. UA is requesting $6,287,820 for FY22-FY26 to get current Scholarship to completion in the next 5 years.

The Choose Ohio First Program at The University of Akron serves the following populations:

- Students who would normally go out of state for a STEMM degree
- Students interested in STEMM but who choose a different major
- Non-traditional students seeking to enhance or change their career
- Former military personnel
- Students underrepresented in STEMM fields
- Other populations underserved by limited access to higher education
- Students who would not normally undertake STEMM degrees

II. COF Overview & Programs

The selected majors were chosen to increase the number of skilled employees for Ohio’s workforce. Advancements within the medical and science fields, as well as the use of social media have created opportunity for science and technology to become more compatible with business and consumers, which will be needed as the country emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. The current program covers all engineering and engineering technology fields at UA, biology, math, chemistry, physics, pre-med, nursing, computer science, and STEMM education.

III. Completion Plan

To ensure students complete their prospective degrees on time the program is providing individualized support for each Scholar. Scholars are monitored on their progress and create plans to ensure steady progression to graduate within the time frame available for COF financial support. UA will be expanding the mentoring component to include professionals that will assist students in their career paths and understanding what is needed and options available for their achievement. Program coordinators will work with Scholars in learning about career opportunities and how to move closer to graduation each semester. Review of academic work at the conclusion of the semester will set up adjustments if Scholars struggle in course work required for degree completion. By providing resources and other support Scholars will adjust their paths to continue towards completion.
University of Cincinnati - Executive Summary

The goal of the completion grant program is to retain and graduate the underrepresented, ethnic economically disadvantaged, and first-generation students participating in the existing Choose Ohio First programs at the University of Cincinnati (UC). UC will maintain the current levels of academic and financial support that have been consistent within existing grants 16-59, 16-63 and 16-66. Seventy-five (75) current COF Scholars will be continuing in their academic programs through graduation. These 75 students will require $666,665 dollars through the spring semester of 2025 to maintain their existing funding levels.

These 75 COF Scholars are currently enrolled in bachelor’s degree programs through our College of Nursing, Lindner College of Business, College of Arts & Sciences, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and our College of Allied Health. Specific academic programs include Nursing, Actuarial Science, Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Neuroscience, Exercise and Movement Science, Behavior and Occupational Studies, Pre-Medicine, Electrical Engineering, Construction Management, Computer Science, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

UC’s COF Scholars will continue to participate in learning communities emphasizing a community of peer support, dedicated academic advising support and one-on-one faculty and staff mentors. Scholars are closely monitored and advised, and take advantage of targeted courses and study aids to prepare for academic and career challenges. As COF Scholars progress through their academic programs, they will benefit from service-learning, internship, and/or practicum experiences that provide opportunities which are located both locally and across the state. These programs provide an exceptionally supportive, yet rigorous, academic experience for our scholars. All support structures are focused on enabling our COF Scholars to graduate on time and prepared for their professional futures.
University of Findlay - Executive Summary

The University of Findlay (UF) stands as the largest private four-year institution in Northwest Ohio purposefully partnering with government, economic development, non-profit, and regional industry sectors to reduce the region’s STEMM workforce gap by strengthening a relevant talent pipeline. UF wants its students to both graduate with a degree and readily attain employment in their desired career and for regional employers to gain access to top talent. UF’s Choose Ohio First (COF) initiative continues to be critical to retaining and graduating students that meet the workforce needs in the region. Based upon UF’s past record of success in the COF program ($2.51 million awarded to 286 students), the University aims to use its previous experience to inform and shape future programming that will enhance the educational outcomes for its currently-enrolled COF scholars.

Under the 2016 COF grant, UF recruited and funded students in three programs: computer science; STEM education; and environment, health, safety and sustainability (EHSS). From this cohort, one Scholar successfully completed his EHSS degree and is now employed in the region at Marathon Petroleum Corporation, and a computer science Scholar is on track to graduate in spring 2021. 26 Scholars who currently receive COF scholarship aid ranging from $2,750 to $4,964 per academic year are on track to graduate within the next three years. The University seeks to retain and continue supporting these students as they persist to timely degree completion by distributing a maximum of $173,025 in COF scholarship aid, along with institutional merit-based awards (averaging $15,000 per year), provided Scholars meet certain expectations related to continued academic and co-curricular success.

Employers in the region consistently contact UF for students and graduates as the University has a national reputation for providing quality, distinctive academic programs and student experiences. The three academic majors in UF’s COF program each have their own areas of excellence that enable them to fill both unmet and under-met regional educational needs. First, UF’s computer science program, designated as a Program of Innovation by the state of Ohio, offers six emphasis areas, uniquely preparing students for a range of computer science careers. Its active advisory board consults with faculty on curriculum design and internship opportunities, ensuring that UF’s graduates remain at the cutting edge of this rapidly-evolving field. Second, UF’s STEM education program meets Ohio’s long-term teacher shortages in math and science educators by training aspiring middle childhood and adolescent young adult teachers. UF’s STEM education program offers one-on-one attention and work-based experiences with excellent school districts beginning freshman year. Lastly, UF’s EHSS program is the only four-year program of its kind in Northwest Ohio, the only program in the state accredited by two entities (ABET and EHAC), the sole program in the state connecting its students with the nationally recognized All Hazards Training Center. Its high-level training results in 100% job placement for graduates.

COF scholars will receive unique support and resources to encourage their persistence to degree completion, including academic advising, a COF-designated community of practice, industry and university mentorship, retention tracking and support, and exclusive instruction. Scholars will also receive numerous opportunities to foster their soft skills and knowledge base via special networking sessions with regional industry and business representatives, off-campus service learning experiences, social events, and research and scholarship presentations.

During this three-year COF completion grant period, UF will:

1. Provide Scholars with financial, academic, and co-curricular support that will enable 100% to persist to degree completion with minimal financial burden.
2. Provide networking and experiential opportunities to prepare them with the academic and soft skills required to become productive professionals who excel in their chosen career, further enriching the region and state.
University of Rio Grande - Executive Summary

The University of Rio Grande (URG) and Rio Grande Community College (RGCC) exists as a unique private/public institution of higher education, dedicated to providing high-quality educational opportunities both on URG’s main campus, and through its off-site locations (Jackson Center, Meigs Center, and McArthur Center). As part of URG/RGCC’s vision, the institution also seeks to educate and train students for employment in growing job fields, and has established numerous affiliations and partnerships with businesses, industries, agencies and non-governmental organizations in the region and across the state. To this end, the URG COF STEMM Scholarship program aligns with the goals of the institution, enabling URG/RGCC to recruit and retain student in the STEMM fields, and create start-to-finish career arcs that keep trained talent in Ohio (and the region).

URG/RGCC services the Appalachian counties of Ohio, including RGCC’s service district (Gallia, Jackson, Vinton, and Meigs, as well as Lawrence, Scioto, Pike, Ross, Hocking and Athens counties. Roughly 90% of URG/RGCC’s students are from Ohio, and over 60% are from within RGCC’s service district. Classified within Appalachia, this region has historically lagged behind state and national averages across many important social and economic measures. Moreover, the region has also experienced a net loss in population, including working-age citizens. The URG COF STEMM Scholarship program leverages against these patterns, by helping to attract local and regional students to STEMM-based academic programs, and increasing their chances of completing a degree or certificate, and finding employment in STEMM fields. Over the past three academic years, females have made up 73% of the students receiving scholarships through the URG COF STEMM Scholarship program, and 93% of recipients are either 1st generation students and/or are considered low-income.

For the last year of the COF STEMM Grant Award #16.51, Rio worked with COF leadership at ODHE to amend the agreement and add additional programs (see Table 1. Rio Programs Included In COF Scholarship Award 16.51). These programs were selected because they closely match areas of economic expansion in the region. Industries related to Nursing, Allied Health, Scientific Research, Technical Consulting, and Automated Manufacturing are all expecting double-digit growth in the region over the next decade. The selected academic programs also offer extensive hands-on training and research opportunities, and maintain robust internship, work- and clinical-training affiliations. Many of these programs offer “stackable” 2 + 2 Associate’s and Bachelor’s degrees (as well as certificates), which allows students to pursue certificate and AS degrees at community college rates, while completing the first two years of a BS degree, substantially reducing the cost-to-completion for students.

Thus, the Choose Ohio First STEMM program is an integral part of URG/RGCC’s strategy for advancing the institution and effectively serving regional industry and workforce needs by producing well-prepared STEMM graduates.

There are 32 students currently receiving COF Scholarships who should complete their degree/certificate after the spring 2021 term when award 16.51 ends. The estimated total cost to support those COF scholars through completion of their program is $199,000.
University of Toledo - Executive Summary

With Ohio’s support and investment through the Choose Ohio First (COF) Scholarship program, The University of Toledo is able to recruit, support, and graduate students into high-demand careers while preparing them through work-based learning along the way. The COF scholars enter into established and competitive degree programs. These scholars, along with all UToldeo students, are supported both academically and personally through a variety of services. The institution is committed to succeeding students and has prioritized student success and retention through our academic colleges as well as institution-wide. UToldeo and its' Choose Ohio First programs are able to provide matching funds through many sources; institutional aid, paid co-op experiences, funded research, and more. At times, this surpasses the amount of Choose Ohio First funds. We are excited to enter into the next Choose Ohio First chapter with the most recent grant submission, but we are equally invested and excited about graduating our current Choose Ohio First scholars.

In order to graduate our 167 current COF students, the institution will require $2,409,877.00, detailed in the Budget Table & Narrative. As shown within the budget narrative section within the comprehensive report, you will see that UToldeo will continue providing matching funds to all of the Choose Ohio First scholars through their graduation. The six current Choose Ohio First programs are contributing to our region and state with well-prepared graduates entering the workforce. Particularly moving is an internship evaluation of a current COF scholar and her contribution to their business, detailed within the Work-Based Learning section of the Project Narrative—an excerpt; “I would like to thank the University of Toledo for preparing COF Student to achieve success in her internship with our firm. She has tremendous skills no doubt taught by your professors. You should be very proud of the student you help to develop; she was a joy to work with.”

Within the following pages are overall assessments of institution-wide contributions, supporting documentation and program-specific content that relates to the section. COF scholars have access to institutional-services as well as program and/or college-specific services. These include, but are not limited to, pre-professional advising, career services, the University Writing Center, tutoring services, peer mentorship, faculty-led advising and many more. Specific and unique student service examples are listed within the Project Narrative, Student Support section. One testimonial, also included within the Student Success portion of the Project Narrative shows just how important this opportunity has been, “I credit a large portion of my success to the Choose Ohio First program. The program opened many doors for me and helped me even land a terrific internship… As the internship comes to an end, I can honestly say it has exceeded all my expectations. Going forward, I hope to receive a full-time offer from Nationwide after I graduate in 2021.”

UToldeo is equally appreciative for all of the opportunities Choose Ohio First has afforded in the past and excited for the unique opportunity of the more recent CODE3ES application. We look forward to the opportunity to take effective practices of the past and incorporate best practices in the future. To summarize, we are thankful for the commitment to furthering STEMM education within the state of Ohio and specifically The University of Toledo. We value the responsibility and investment that has been entrusted to UToldeo through the Choose Ohio First program and look forward to continuing this great partnership in the future. The Northwest Ohio region has been significantly strengthened with this investment and its' ability to retain top-talent within STEMM fields.
Wright State University - Executive Summary

Wright State Choose Ohio First Scholars Program, Continuation Grant

Wright State University supports the Ohio Department of Higher Education's (ODHE) goal of expanding opportunities for students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medical (STEMM) fields and recognizes the importance of higher education revitalizing the regional and state economies.

Wright State's proposed Choose Ohio First Scholars program supports the economic growth of Dayton, the Miami Valley, and Southwest Ohio regions by enhancing the production of graduates in the critical Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM) areas needed by these industries.

Wright State has participated in the Choose Ohio First Scholarship program since its inception through scholarship programs and has developed a number of support services for Choose Ohio First Scholars including academic support and career-related services. The Choose Ohio First program is supporting 177 continuing students majoring in STEMM programs.

The Wright State Choose Ohio First (COF) Scholars program will continue to support students in the engineering, science, information science, and health disciplines that have been identified by Ohio Means Jobs as in-demand occupations or by JobsOhio as key industries for the State of Ohio. These occupations include engineering disciplines, biology, chemistry, mathematics & statistics, neuroscience, physics, information systems, medical lab science, public health, supply chain management, and nursing.

Programs of Study

The STEMM programs and disciplines in the Wright State COF Scholars program align with one of the nine key JobsOhio industries (Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace & Aviation, Automotive, Energy & Chemicals, Financial Services, Healthcare, Food & Agribusiness, Logistics & Distribution, and Military & Federal) or are designated as in-demand or critical occupations for Southwest Ohio by the Ohio Means Jobs criteria (https://topjobs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/indemand/top-jobs-list). The participating Wright State programs and related in-demand occupations are given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIP</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>In-Demand Occupations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>140501</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering BSBE</td>
<td>Biomedical, Industrial, and Human Factors Engineering</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineers, Industrial Engineers, Health Safety Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>141301</td>
<td>Industrial + Systems Egr BSISE</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149999</td>
<td>Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship UG Cert</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>110101</td>
<td>Computer Science BACS/BSCS</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111003</td>
<td>Info Tech &amp; Cybersecurity BSITC &amp; Cyber Security Analytics Cert</td>
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<tr>
<td>151201</td>
<td>Electrical &amp; Computer Egr Tech BSECET</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>Electrical Engineers, Electronics Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>141001</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering BSEE</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>141201</td>
<td>Engineering Physics BSEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Rankings:</td>
<td>Materials Science + Egr BSMSE</td>
<td>Mechanical &amp; Materials Engineering</td>
<td>Materials Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Aerospace Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>141801</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering BSME</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
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<tr>
<td>141901</td>
<td>Biochemistry + Molecular Biology BS</td>
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<td>Biochemists</td>
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<td>260210</td>
<td>Biological Sciences BA/BS/AS</td>
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<tr>
<td>260101</td>
<td>Medical Lab Science BS/Cert</td>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
<td>Natural Sciences Managers, Biological Scientists</td>
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<td>513801</td>
<td>Public Health BA/BS</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>400501</td>
<td>Earth + Environmental Sci BA/BS/AS</td>
<td>Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>Geoscientists</td>
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<tr>
<td>400601</td>
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<td>Mathematics &amp; Statistics</td>
<td>Operations Research Analysts, Actuaries</td>
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<td>Natural Sciences Managers, Biological Scientists</td>
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<td>511102</td>
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<td>Integrated Science Studies BS</td>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Natural Sciences Managers, General Operations Managers, Industrial Production Managers</td>
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<tr>
<td>150000</td>
<td>Technical Study ATS</td>
<td>Lake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program Rankings: Our well-qualified faculty and modern facilities provide for a high-quality education in our STEMM programs. In September 2020, U.S. News & World Report named Wright State's Bachelor of Science in Computer Science among the best in the nation (https://webaapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/2020/09/14/wright-states-undergraduate-computer-science-program-ranked-by-u-s-news/). Also, The National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security have designated Wright State University as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education (https://www.wright.edu/node/395506). The Wright State College of Nursing and Health was named one of the nation’s top nursing schools by Nursing Schools Almanac, ranking number 16 in Ohio and number 80 in the entire Great Lakes Region for 2019. Only 20% of the 3,000 institutions made the list of the best nursing schools in each geographic region (https://www.wright.edu/node/382056). And, the College of Engineering and Computer was named among the nation’s academic leaders in inclusive excellence by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). Receiving a Bronze Level Award, the highest honor given in the inaugural ASEE Diversity Recognition Program, demonstrates that the college has "established baseline support for groups underrepresented in engineering and has quantifiably analyzed and assessed unit composition, policies, culture and climate related to all underrepresented groups."
The Wright State COF program consists of three complementary components that combine to attract and enroll students, provide work-based experience that facilitates career selection, and support students' academic progress. The COF Scholars program is comprised of students recruited from direct-from-high-school, as well as transfer populations. Financial support is provided to a variety of students and also helps ensure a focus on academic progress and degree attainment. Additionally, the COF Scholars Program introduces students to career opportunities across a spectrum of STEMM areas. Finally, COF Scholars have a dedicated advisor to facilitate career development and academic support in the Student Success Center.
Overview The YSU-COFSP 2021 proposal, Student Completion in STEMM (SCS), is a legacy program that funds to degree completion students currently supported by YSU-COFSP programs 16-66/16-77, programs in their last academic year of implementation; it will continue the successes and best practices of 16-66/16-77. SCS requests $645,956 over four program years to fund the seventy-one YSU-COF 16-66/16-77 students who will be enrolled at YSU as of the Fall 2021 term, and YSU pledges total institutional match of $1,682,201 to SCS. Majors in the College of STEM (CSTEM) currently supported by 16-66/16-77 will be supported by SCS, including five special focus areas listed below. Dovetailing with the newly proposed Student Success in STEMM Careers (SSSC), SCS will have increased emphasis on work-based learning and filling high demand STEMM jobs with a trained STEMM Ohio workforce: it will mine relationships built with business partners through co-ops, internships, and precepting, developed in part by OMIC and federal DOL grants and regional health care networking.

I. SCS Supported Student Populations
(1) Students supported by SCS are STEMM-talented, come from STEMM-underrepresented populations—rural, urban, financially-disadvantaged, first-generation groups, URMs, and females—throughout the Youngstown-Warren MSA and YSU central mission area, and comprise an underutilized talent pool.
(2) The YSU central mission area and the Youngstown-Warren MSA has one of the lowest post-secondary education rates in the state and country and has borne the brunt of recent and current recessions.
(3) SCS students completing their academic programs and entering the professional workforce reflect the original 2007 COF legislation and will help NE Ohio realize its unfulfilled economic potential.
(4) SCS supports students financially via scholarship monies from ODHE and provides wrap-around student services support, unprecedented research opportunities under faculty/professional mentors, collaborative institutional student research conferences and shared actuarial science seminars, and expanded transcribed work experiences with many business and health care partners.

II. SCS Supported Academic Programs
(1) Broad Academic Emphasis & Rationales
(a) The broad academic scope of SCS maintains that of 16-66/16-77 and includes many majors housed in CSTEM (see cipcodes attachment).
(b) CSTEM was founded in 2007, and YSU-COF grants have played a significant role in its establishment; YSU-COF programs have been extremely successful by many metrics—four-year graduation rates (86%–92%), student satisfaction, and student placement in high-demand STEMM careers. Broadly supporting CSTEM is an institutional priority, as is CSTEM’s anchoring of the special focus areas listed below.
(2) Specific Academic Emphases & Rationales
(a) Five academic areas receive special focus: (1) advanced and digital manufacturing; (2) biohealth and biomedical technology; (3) STEMM integrated education; (4) YSU-BaccMed Consortium (premier integrated premed/med primary care program); and (5) actuarial science and financial mathematics.
(b) Rationales for these focus areas reflect university priorities in CSTEM, program quality, and regional/state imperatives.

III. SCS Connections Between Regional/State Strengths and Targeted Academic Programs
(1) Broad Academic Emphasis. All STEMM programs tagged by SCS cipcodes are strongly linked to the NE Ohio region and work-based learning: even in recession, many regional STEMM positions go unfilled as indicated by feedback from employers and students.
(2) Specific Academic Emphases. These are consistent with regional and state priorities, some newly emerging: GM-LG Ultium battery plant on GM Lordstown properties; Lordstown Motors (electric work vehicles); America Makes; shortage of primary care health providers; need for STEMM educators; Air Force ADMETE initiative; insurance actuarial needs.
(3) The SCS completion program will strengthen the bridge between regional and state companies and STEMM higher education, and, together with on-campus enrichment components, significantly increase YSU STEMM graduates in economically vital careers in the state of Ohio.