



Department of
Higher Education



Choose  **Ohio** First
2018-2019
Annual Report







History and Overview

The General Assembly created the Choose Ohio First Program in 2007 to increase the number of Ohio residents completing postsecondary studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM), and STEMM education. Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted championed the passage of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program when serving as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and has taken an active role in the program ever since. The goals of the program are to advance the economic growth of each region in the state in STEMM-related fields and to support the success of program participants.

To be awarded Choose Ohio First designation, Ohio's public and nonpublic colleges and universities participate in a competitive process. Choose Ohio First scholars enrolled in designated STEMM and STEMM education programs at these selected institutions receive scholarships and are provided a system of support.

As required by [Ohio Revised Code 3333.041](#) (3), this report summarizes the Chancellor's strategies in assigning Choose Ohio First scholarships and describes how the awards are consistent with those strategies.

Chancellor's Strategy in Assigning Choose Ohio First Scholarships

In awarding Choose Ohio First Scholarships, the Chancellor conducts a competitive process for program awards. In evaluating proposals submitted by colleges and universities, award recipients are determined by how each proposal addresses state priorities, including:

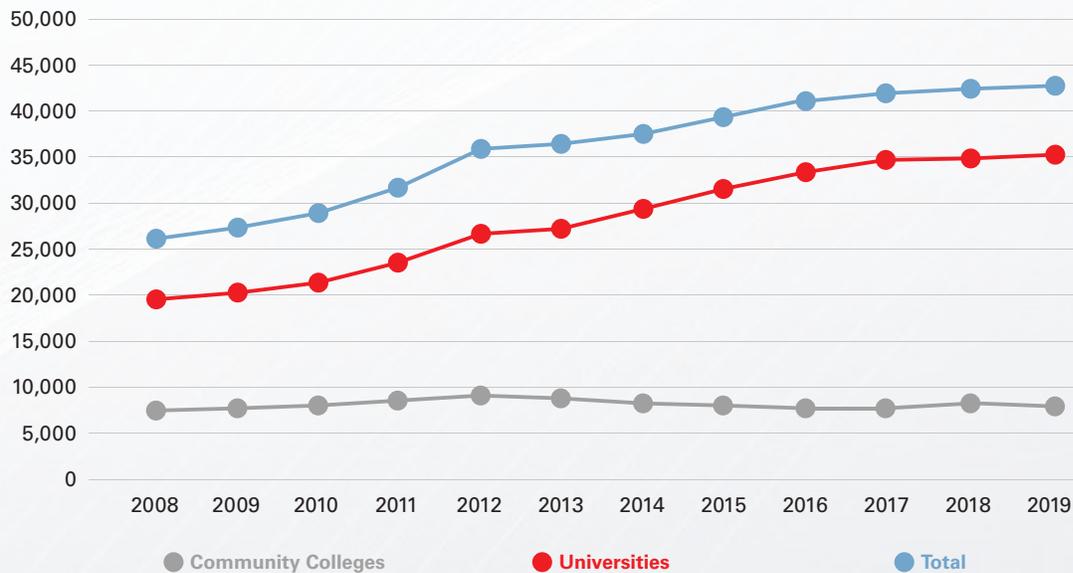
- State and regional economic and educational needs;
- Recruitment into STEMM fields, including historically under-represented populations;
- Systems of support for scholars;
- Collaboration among colleges and universities;
- Ease of two-year to four-year transfer for scholars;
- Cost-effectiveness and facilitation of low-cost completion;
- Ability to leverage matching resources; and
- Geographic distribution of awards across Ohio.

Award Alignment to Chancellor's Strategy

Recruitment and Enrollment into STEMM fields to Meet State and Regional Economic and Educational Needs

Since its inception, the Choose Ohio First Program has complemented the Chancellor's strategies to strengthen Ohio's workforce by recruiting and supporting students in STEMM degree fields. The number of STEMM degrees awarded at Ohio's public colleges and universities grew from 26,644 total students in FY 2008 to 42,786 total students in FY 2019, representing a 61% increase.

STEMM Degrees Awarded at Ohio's Public Colleges and Universities
FY 2008 to FY 2019



Systems of Support for Scholars

Institutions with a Choose Ohio First designation provide support to Choose Ohio First scholars designed to help them succeed. The forms of this support vary among institutions; systems provided by Choose Ohio First colleges and universities include:

- Summer bridge programs designed to affirm first-year student commitment and promote academic preparedness;
- Faculty mentoring;
- Designated internships and co-op experiences; and
- Cohort-based research projects and publications in STEMM areas.

These support systems are designed to increase the retention and graduation rates of Choose Ohio First scholars. Many colleges and universities also offer career and post-graduation advising, helping to connect Choose Ohio First graduates with Ohio employers. Ohio's Workforce Success Measures [website](#) reports that 70% of Choose Ohio First's public college and university completers, from Academic Years 2015 through 2017, were found to be employed six months and one year after graduation.

Institutional Collaboration and Ease of Transfer

Many of the programs that received Choose Ohio First awards included structures for institutional collaboration. These collaborations involve articulation agreements between institutions so that students can move from a two-year degree to a four-year degree with a seamless transfer. In many cases, students will be able to continue to receive the Choose Ohio First scholarship.

Cost Effectiveness and Facilitation of Low-cost Completion

Recent annual report data submitted by Ohio's public and nonpublic institutions show that overall, graduation rates for Choose Ohio First scholars are nearly twice that of all first-time entering undergraduate STEMM students not receiving a Choose Ohio First scholarship. According to the most recent

graduate outcome data, 68% of Choose Ohio First scholars obtained a certificate or degree within four years, while 86% did so in six years. In comparison, only 37% of STEM students who are non-Choose Ohio First scholars received a certificate or degree within four years; slightly more than half (53%) completed in six years. Through strong recruitment efforts and built-in systems of support, Ohio's public and nonpublic institutions are able to retain a majority of Choose Ohio First scholars through degree completion.

Matching Resources

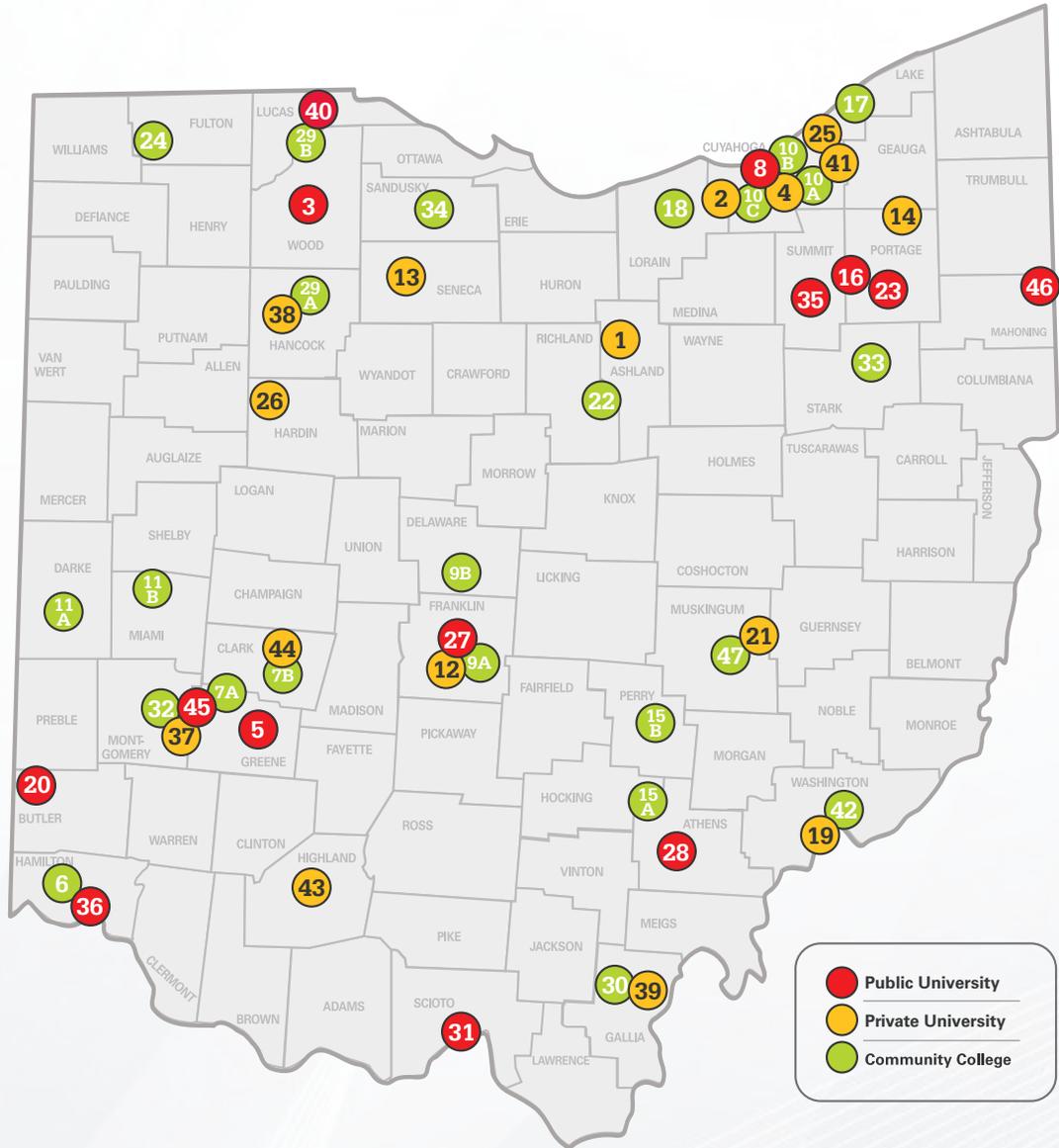
In the 2018-2019 academic year, \$13.3 million was awarded and disbursed to 3,051 Choose Ohio First scholars attending an Ohio college or university. It was reported that the participating institutions provided matching contributions totaling \$30 million in cost-share opportunities and programs helping to support Choose Ohio First scholars. Matching funds are used to revise and develop new curricula in the STEM disciplines awarded Choose Ohio First funds; supplement student travel to industry conferences and research symposia; and leverage the involvement of businesses in the professional development of Ohio's future innovation. Nearly 80% (approximately \$23.8 million) of the total institutional matching dollars was reported in the form of scholarship dollars.

Conclusion

Ohio's Choose Ohio First colleges and universities supported more than 3,000 STEM students this past year, of which 456 graduates were reported. Moreover, funding was awarded to 1,330 new Choose Ohio First scholars, many of whom (49%) were identified as past College Credit Plus students. Retention and graduation rates were high as a result of targeted recruitment, strong wrap-around student support services, and matching scholarship dollars from the Choose Ohio First programs.

Geographic Distribution

Since the program's launch, 47 public and nonpublic colleges and universities have received the Choose Ohio First designation with enrolled scholars receiving scholarship funds.



Choose hio First

Participating Colleges & Universities

1. Ashland University
2. Baldwin Wallace University
3. Bowling Green State University
4. Case Western Reserve University
5. Central State University
6. Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
7. Clark State Community College
8. Cleveland State University
9. Columbus State Community College
10. Cuyahoga Community College
11. Edison Community College
12. Franklin University
13. Heidelberg University
14. Hiram College
15. Hocking College
16. Kent State University
17. Lakeland Community College
18. Lorain County Community College
19. Marietta College
20. Miami University
21. Muskingum University
22. North Central State College
23. Northeast Ohio Medical University
24. Northwest State Community College
25. Notre Dame College
26. Ohio Northern University
27. The Ohio State University
28. Ohio University
29. Owens Community College
30. Rio Grande Community College
31. Shawnee State University
32. Sinclair Community College
33. Stark State College
34. Terra Community College
35. The University of Akron
36. University of Cincinnati
37. University of Dayton
38. University of Findlay
39. University of Rio Grande
40. The University of Toledo
41. Ursuline College
42. Washington State Community College
43. Wilmington College
44. Wittenberg University
45. Wright State University
46. Youngstown State University
47. Zane State College



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