



Department of
Higher Education



Choose  **Ohio**First
2017-2018
Annual Report

1





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), or STEMM education. The goal of the program is to advance the economic growth of each region in the state 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 education programs at these designated institutions receive scholarships and are provided a system of support.

In 2010, the 128th General Assembly established two new components of the Choose Ohio First program to focus on the health and well-being of Ohio residents. The new components added scholarships for medical students and advanced practice nurses committed to primary care in the patient-centered medical home model. These programs require participating scholars to serve in an Ohio medical practice that accepts Medicaid patients without restriction for not less than three years after completion of their training. The universities participating in these components of the program do not participate in the competitive process for awards.

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, determinations for awards include evaluation of how each proposal addresses:

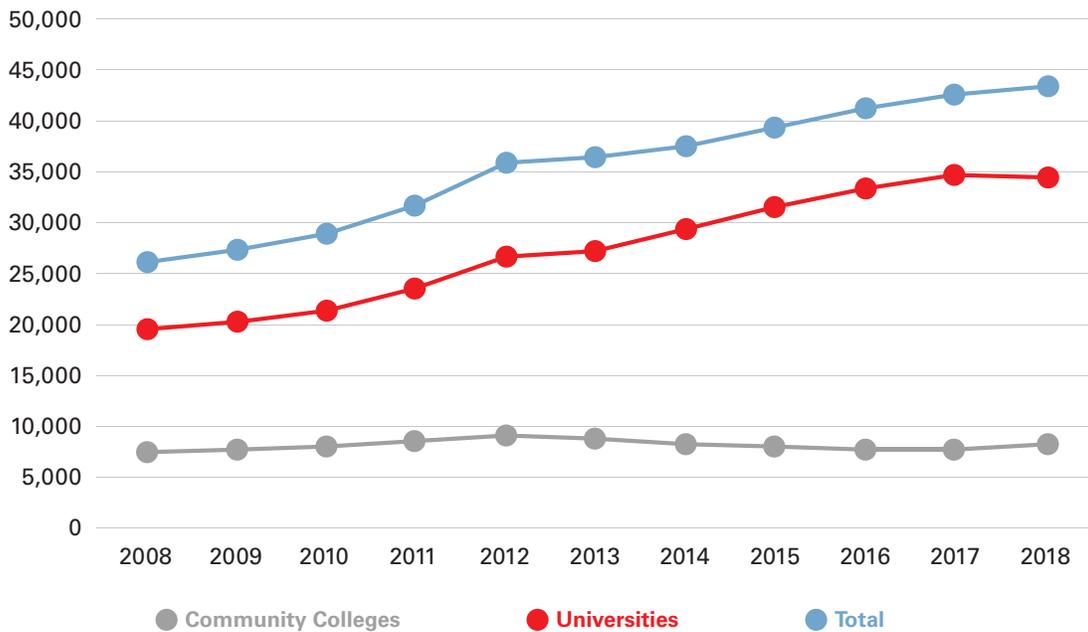
- state and regional economic and educational needs;
- recruitment into STEMM fields, including historically under-represented populations;
- systems of support for scholars;
- collaboration among colleges and universities;
- ease of two-year to four-year transfer for scholars;
- cost-effectiveness and 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 strengthened Ohio's workforce through growth in STEMM degrees; the number of STEMM degrees awarded at Ohio's public colleges and universities has increased from 26,644 total students in FY 2008 to 42,884 total students in FY 2018, representing a 61% increase. Growth has slowed over the last academic year, with a one percent increase in the number of STEMM degrees awarded at Ohio's public colleges and universities (from 42,495 to 42,884 degrees). The number of STEMM degrees awarded at Ohio's public universities dipped slightly (from 34,729 to 34,624 degrees); whereas, STEMM degrees produced at Ohio's community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges increased 6% from last year – the sector's first bump in growth since 2012.

STEMM Degrees Awarded at Ohio's Public Colleges and Universities
FY 2008 to FY 2018



Systems of Support for Scholars

Institutions with Choose Ohio First designation provide support specifically targeted to Choose Ohio First scholars that will help ensure student success. The form of this support varies among institutions. Support 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 specifically targeted for Choose Ohio First scholars;
- designated internships and co-op experiences; and
- cohort-based research projects and publications in STEMM areas.

These support systems are in place to increase retention and graduation rates for Choose Ohio First scholars. Many colleges and universities also offer career and post-graduation advising. Just this past year, Choose Ohio First schools reported 418 graduates of which 75% entered Ohio's workforce, graduate school in Ohio, or the military. Of those graduating scholars who entered Ohio's workforce, 92% found a position in a STEMM field.

Institutional Collaboration and Ease of Transfer

Most of the programs that submit requests to receive Choose Ohio First designation include structures of institutional collaboration. These collaborations involve articulation agreements between institutions so that students who move from a two-year degree to a four-year degree can transfer seamlessly. In many cases, students will be able to continue to receive the Choose Ohio First scholarship.

Cost Effectiveness and Facilitation of Low-Cost Completion

Most recent annual report data submitted by Ohio's public and private institutions show that overall, graduation rates for Choose Ohio First scholars are twice that of all first-time entering undergraduate students, including STEMM students not receiving a COF scholarship. According to the most recent graduate outcome data, 61% of Choose Ohio First scholars obtained a certificate or degree within four years, while 80% did so in five or six years. In comparison, only 32% of STEMM students (non-COF scholars) received a certificate or degree within four years. Through strong recruitment efforts and built-in systems of support, Ohio's public and private institutions are able to retain a majority of Choose Ohio First scholars through degree completion. On average, over the last six academic years, 85% of COF scholarship recipients have either earned a certificate or degree at their institution or are still enrolled.

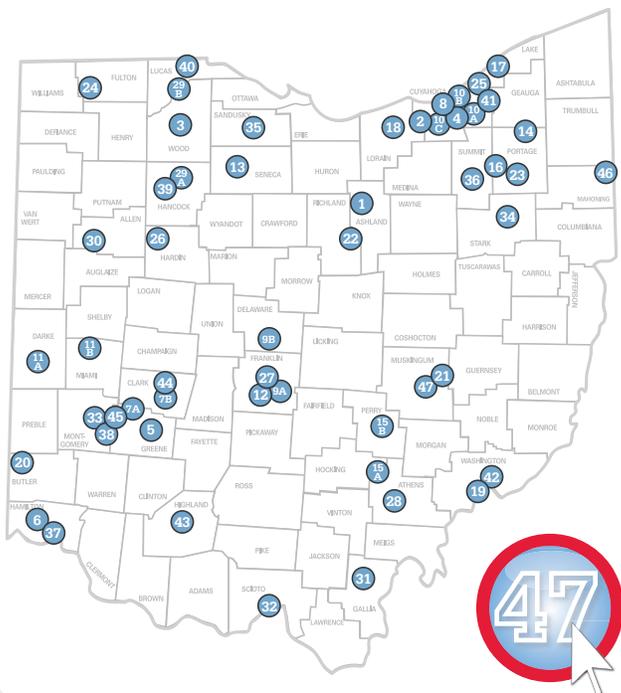
Matching Resources

In the 2017-2018 academic year, nearly \$12 million was awarded and disbursed to 2,544 Choose Ohio First scholars attending an Ohio college or university. The participating institutions reported matching contributions totaling \$29 million in cost-share through June 2018- doubling last year's match total of \$14 million. Matching funds are used to revise and develop new curricula in the STEMM 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 innovator. Nearly 75% (more than \$21 million) of the total institutional matching dollars was reported in the form of scholarship dollars. This equates to roughly \$8,400 per scholar in matching funds by Ohio's COF programs. Matching funds were also generated, as they are each year, by local and national competitive grant projects leveraged by many Choose Ohio First programs.

Geographic Distribution

To date, 47 public and private colleges and universities have received the Choose Ohio First designation.

Choose Ohio First Service



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. Rhodes State College
31. Rio Grande Community College/ University of Rio Grande
32. Shawnee State University
33. Sinclair Community College
34. Stark State College
35. Terra Community College
36. The University of Akron
37. University of Cincinnati
38. University of Dayton
39. University of Findlay
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



Conclusion

Ohio's 47 Choose Ohio First colleges and universities supported over 2,500 STEM students this past year. Just over 90% of this year's Choose Ohio First scholars who graduated entered Ohio's workforce in a STEM field. Retention and graduation rates were high as a result of strong wrap-around student support services and matching scholarship dollars from the Choose Ohio First programs.

Sarah Tipler, a Choose Ohio First scholar at Lorain County Community College, attested to the strength of Choose Ohio First when she said, "if I had not received a COF scholarship, I would not have been financially able to enroll. Thanks to the funds from Choose Ohio First, I am concluding my junior year and will be starting my third internship at NASA Glenn Research Center. Thank you for changing my life."

