



Department of  
Higher Education



## The State of Ohio Higher Education

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January 14, 2020



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## A Message from the Chancellor

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It's hard to believe a full year has gone by since the DeWine-Husted Administration was sworn in to lead Ohio. We have worked hard to embark on an agenda that invests in priorities that can truly make a difference toward a strong and bright future for our state.

We've only just begun.

**To Ohio's higher education leadership**, we will continue to work collaboratively with you and support your efforts to provide Ohioans with the best higher education value possible.

**To Ohio's college students**, we strive to continue to make a college degree as affordable and accessible as possible with restraints on tuition, support for more need-based financial aid, strategic academic scholarships, and enhanced student support services so that every student can reach their God-given potential.

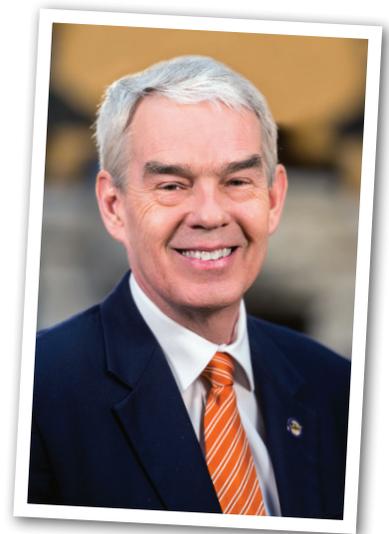
**To families planning for the future**, we will develop even more ways to help, through positive savings plans, College Credit Plus opportunities, and continued support of an "all of the above" approach that includes a diversity of options for college and workforce preparation. No state offers more opportunity, from our adult and career technical education centers to our 61 public campuses and more than 50 independent colleges and universities. We're all in this together.

**To Ohio's employers**, we know your success directly corresponds to a healthy economic future for Ohio and its citizens. We will continue to listen and support investments in workforce preparation strategies that prepare Ohio's future workers while concurrently supporting education reforms to meet the constantly-changing demands of today and tomorrow.

We look forward to more progress on Ohio's promise in 2020.



Randy Gardner  
Chancellor



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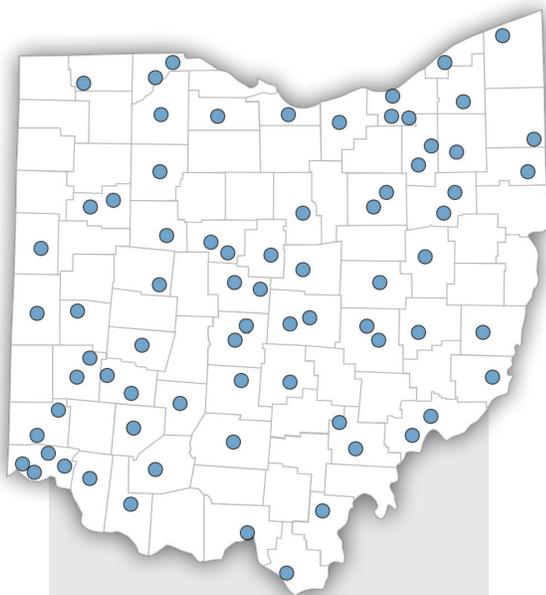
## A New Governor

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On January 14, 2019, Mike DeWine was sworn in as Ohio's 70th governor. Jon Husted joined Governor DeWine and received the oath of office as Ohio's Lieutenant Governor. From the very beginning, Governor DeWine requested that his Cabinet listen carefully to the people of the state and then proceed to act with a sense of urgency to change Ohio. This document provides a brief summary of what the DeWine-Husted Administration, working with the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), accomplished in its first year.



Almost immediately, Governor DeWine and Chancellor Randy Gardner began an unprecedented outreach effort to listen to students, higher education leaders, faculty, members of college and university boards of trustees, and Ohio's business community. Chancellor Gardner visited a total of 74 college and university campuses in addition to a number of Ohio Technical Centers and career centers throughout 2019.



*Chancellor Gardner made more than 100 visits to 74 colleges and universities around Ohio in 2019.*



*One of Governor DeWine's first visits was to Central State University to meet with students.*

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## A New Student-Focused State Budget

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The DeWine-Husted Administration’s focus on student success was reinforced with the signing of the biennial operating budget in July. Chancellor Gardner testified in committee hearings in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate in March and April, where he called House Bill 166 “the most student-focused budget” he’s seen in his 33 years in the General Assembly.

The budget proved to be the first time in four years where increased support for state basic aid (State Share of Instruction) combined with modest tuition flexibility to enhance quality. The funding increase specifically focused new dollars in areas clearly identified as DeWine-Husted Administration priorities – need-based student financial aid, student counseling and support services, and workforce preparation. Upon introduction on March 15, major education stakeholder organizations praised the DeWine-Husted budget for elevating Ohio higher education and workforce development.



**Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC)** – *“Governor DeWine’s additional investment in student financial aid is vital to helping more students gain access to higher education in Ohio.”*



**Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC)** – *“Gov. Mike DeWine’s biennial budget proposal has the potential to be one of the most dynamic in Ohio history for the students we serve. We are delighted that Ohio’s community colleges are a priority in this state budget.”*



**Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio (AICUO)** – *“Ohio’s independent colleges are very pleased and supportive of Governor DeWine’s Executive Budget and his emphasis on the value of higher education in our state.”*



**Ohio Technical Centers (OTCs)** – *“Governor Mike DeWine’s biennial budget proposal is one of the strongest we have seen in nearly two decades as it relates to the adult education/training taking place across the state.”*



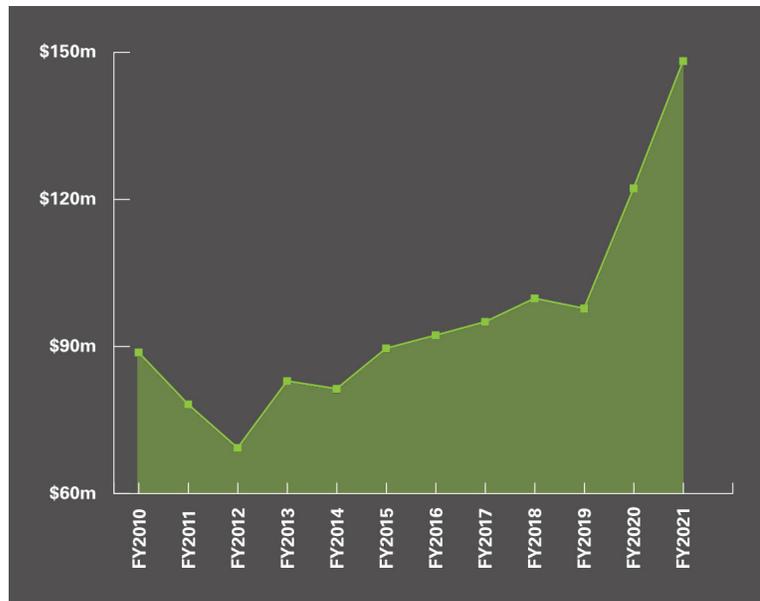
**Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education (Ohio ACTE)** – *“Governor DeWine’s proposed biennial budget demonstrates a strong and clear commitment to expanding the diverse array of educational opportunities available for all Ohioans.”*

## DeWine-Husted Higher Education Budget Priorities

| FUND | LINE ITEM | LINE ITEM NAME                 | FY19            | FY20            | FY21            |
|------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GRF  | 235438    | Choose Ohio First Scholarship  | \$12,381,711    | \$28,169,310    | \$40,177,613    |
| GRF  | 235443    | Aspire Adult Education         | \$7,083,344     | \$8,083,344     | \$8,083,344     |
| GRF  | 235444    | Ohio Technical Centers         | \$16,640,913    | \$19,669,559    | \$23,250,000    |
| GRF  | 235501    | State Share of Instruction     | \$1,977,370,954 | \$2,019,202,822 | \$2,039,394,850 |
| GRF  | 235504    | War Orphans Scholarship        | \$8,226,012     | \$11,163,333    | \$12,502,933    |
| GRF  | 235511    | Cooperative Extension Service  | \$24,110,186    | \$25,110,186    | \$25,110,186    |
| GRF  | 235563    | Ohio College Opportunity Grant | \$97,758,480    | \$122,260,500   | \$148,200,000   |
| GRF  | 235599    | National Guard Scholarship     | \$19,005,244    | \$20,604,000    | \$21,222,120    |

### Ohio College Opportunity Grant

Governor DeWine proposed the largest year-over-year funding increase in Ohio history for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, the state's primary needs-based scholarship that benefits students at public and independent colleges and universities. The OCOG scholarship increased student aid by an additional \$1,000 above the 2018-19 collegiate year for students in the fall of 2020.



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## Choose Ohio First Scholarship

Ohio's efforts to increase students graduating in STEMM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) were bolstered with a significant boost in funding for Choose

Ohio First scholarships, from actual spending of \$12 million in FY 19 to \$40 million in the 20-21 collegiate year. As part of creating additional opportunities for more STEMM students,

Lieutenant Governor Husted and Chancellor Gardner announced the launch of a new Choose Ohio First scholarship in computer science and related fields. The new scholarship, announced at a December event at the University of Dayton, demonstrates a strong commitment to enhancing Ohio's computer science

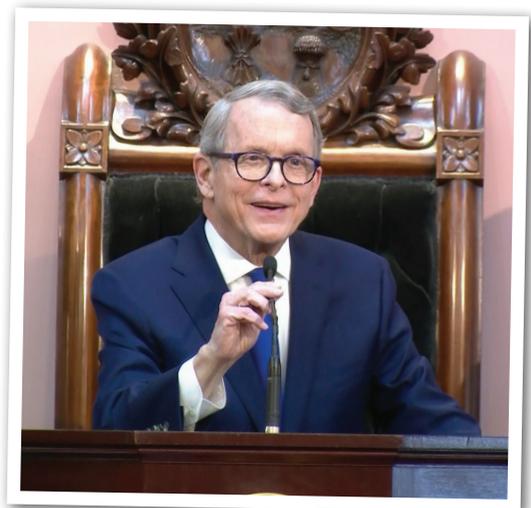
workforce with well-educated graduates by investing more than \$20.5 million in direct aid to Choose Ohio First scholars. It was Husted's leadership as Speaker of the House of Representatives in 2007 that established the Choose Ohio First program.



*Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Kent State University President Todd Diacon, and Chancellor Randy Gardner at a December 2019 University of Dayton event announcing a new Choose Ohio First scholarship.*

## Affordability and Transparency for Students and Families

In Governor DeWine's first State of the State address, he called for enhanced tuition transparency and predictability for Ohio's college students and their families. Our public universities responded to this challenge, and the state budget incorporated a tuition guarantee at all public universities that keeps costs the same for students throughout their four years on campus. Now, all 13 Ohio public undergraduate universities have a tuition guarantee, giving Ohioans perhaps the strongest, most transparent and universal price guarantee in the nation. Thanks to the guarantee and Ohio's commitment to affordability, an estimated 72



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## Undergraduate Tuition Guarantee Programs



**BGSU**



*Central  
State  
University*



**OHIO  
UNIVERSITY**



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TOLEDO**



**WRIGHT STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**CLEVELAND  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**Shawnee State  
UNIVERSITY**



**KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**MIAMI UNIVERSITY**  
OXFORD, OH • EST. 1809



**The  
University  
of Akron**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
Cincinnati**



**Youngstown  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

percent of Ohio sophomores, juniors, and seniors had no tuition increase this school year, and next year 80 percent or more of continuing students will see no increase in tuition costs.

In recent years, few states have worked as diligently as Ohio to hold down the cost of attending its public colleges and universities. State policy decisions and strategic efforts at Ohio's colleges and universities have resulted in a significant reduction in the growth rates of tuition and fees. For example, using both College Board and ODHE data, Ohio's average enrollment-weighted tuition among four-year public universities has increased at a rate among the slowest in the nation. ODHE reports indicate that tuition and fees edged up by just 0.3% above inflation since 2010-11. In addition, over the same period, Ohio's community and technical colleges placed Ohio among the top 10 states nationally in terms of low rates of growth in tuition and fees, and second-best in the Midwest. Knowing more progress on college affordability must be achieved, the DeWine-Husted budget has continued cost restraint initiatives that will help Ohio students and families attain a college degree.

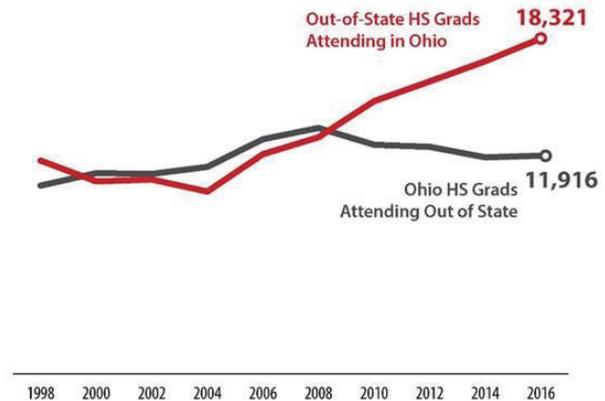
While the cost of education and student loan debt continues to be a concern, new federal loan originations have declined for seven consecutive years nationally, and the dollar amount of new loans has been trending lower. College Board data shows the average annual amount borrowed by undergraduate students declined from \$5,830 in 2010 to \$4,510 per student in 2017-18. The average debt per bachelor's degree recipient, including borrowers and those who did not borrow, for both public and nonprofit sectors combined, was \$16,800 in 2017-18 and the average was \$15,400 for four-year public institutions. Additional Ohio focus on tuition restraint, and investment in financial aid support and student support services to help students achieve a degree or credential in a timely manner, can all contribute to more progress on reducing student debt.

## Ohio Now a Destination State for Education

Not long ago, Ohio lost many of its high school graduates to other states and found fewer students coming to Ohio for college. Now, Ohio retains more students annually while attracting 6,405 more recent high school graduates to Ohio than it loses to other states. This statistic speaks to Ohio's affordability and quality in equal measure. As Ohio continues to emphasize both affordability and quality, this trend can be continued and expanded, and the Buckeye State will have the opportunity to retain more talent to be part of Ohio's economy.

## Ohio Colleges Are Net Importers of Students

A recent phenomenon: Import surplus of 6,000+ has grown only in this decade



## RAPIDS Grants Support Workforce Preparation

The budget also included an additional \$8 million for the state's RAPIDS program. RAPIDS, which stands for Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills, is a collaboration between higher education institutions and Ohio businesses where funding is awarded to purchase equipment to train students and upskill incumbent workers. The year 2019 marked the first time when a capital budget allocation for the RAPIDS program was included within the state operating budget, effectively doubling the state's investment in this critical workforce training program. Chancellor Gardner proposed this idea after seeing the benefits of the RAPIDS program during a February visit to Lorain County Community College.



In an effort to reinforce the important role that Ohio Technical Centers play in educating the state's workforce, the budget provided a significant increase in funding of 39.7% for the state's OTC partners, from \$16 million in FY 19 to more than \$23 million in FY 21. And in a show of support for those serving our country, the budget increased funding to the National Guard and War Orphan scholarships to cover 100 percent of student tuition and fees.

## Helping Families With the Cost of Education

Helping families save on the cost of college is the primary focus of the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority, the agency under the ODHE's purview that celebrated the 30th anniversary of its CollegeAdvantage 529 savings plan in 2019.

Ohio's CollegeAdvantage Direct 529 Savings Plan is one of the top-rated 529 plans in the country, having earned the number-one rating in investment performance in the one-, five-, and 10-year categories by [SavingforCollege.com](http://SavingforCollege.com).

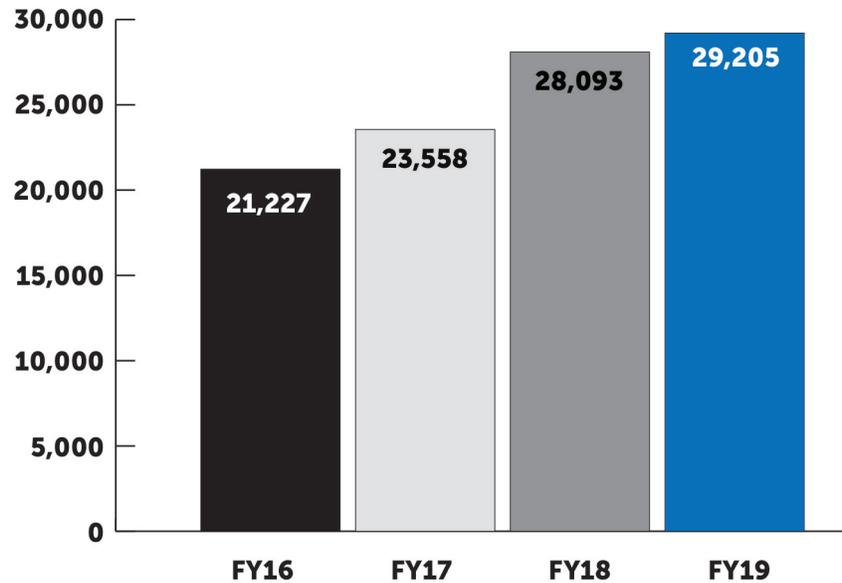
Students were also encouraged to save on the cost of college in 2019 by completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid – or FAFSA – form. Ohio ranked 15th in the nation in 2019 in FAFSA completion rates with efforts to improve in 2020. Still, it is

estimated that 39 percent of eligible students do not complete the FAFSA, leaving an estimated \$72 million in unused financial aid that could have been used to benefit eligible students. Governor DeWine officially declared October to be FAFSA Completion month in Ohio. October also kicked off the second year of ODHE's 3 to Get Ready program, designed to help Ohio high school students prepare for postsecondary education by focusing on three important steps – FAFSA completion, College Application Month, and College Signing Day.

Another way ODHE works to make higher education more accessible and affordable for students is through collaboration with other state agencies. ODHE continues to collaborate with the Ohio Department of Education, led by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria, on the College Credit Plus dual enrollment program, which celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2019. The program, which provides students the opportunity to earn high school and college credits at the same time by taking courses



CollegeAdvantage savings plan new enrollments



New enrollments in the CollegeAdvantage savings plan grew by 37.6% from FY16 to FY19.

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from the state's colleges and universities, has saved students and their families more than \$569 million on the cost of tuition in the past four years.

Ohio's Aspire program works to reduce the estimated number of 800,000 Ohio adults without a high school diploma. The Aspire Program provides grants for the development and administration of courses with instruction in basic literacy, workplace literacy, family literacy, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), and preparation for high school equivalency tests.

## Ohio's Independent Non-Profit Colleges and Universities

Ohio is home to more than 70 four-year non-profit institutions, 51 of which are members of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio. Independent institutions add to Ohio's diversity of opportunity available to Ohio students and out-of-state students looking to make Ohio their education home. Many of them participate in key statewide programs such as College Credit Plus, the Choose Ohio First Scholarship, and the Ohio College Opportunity Grant. Every year a growing number of public-private partnerships emerge to help provide more student options and enhance affordability, especially between community colleges and independent schools. Examples include the Oiler Express and Gray Wolf Express dual admissions programs between Owens Community College and the University of Findlay and Lourdes University, respectively; the UD/Sinclair Academy (University of Dayton and Sinclair Community College partnership); and the WSCC2MC dual admission transfer pathway between Washington State Community College and Marietta College.

A total of 230 Proprietary Career Colleges in Ohio are regulated primarily by the Ohio State Board of Career Colleges and Schools.



*Chancellor Gardner at the University of Findlay arch for the first of 31 campus visits to independent colleges and universities in 2019.*

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## Community College Acceleration Program

The budget enabled ODHE, with assistance from the Department of Job and Family Services, led by Director Kim Hall, to establish the Community College Acceleration Program to enhance financial, academic, and personal support services to students in need of support from local social service agencies. Services include comprehensive and personalized advisement, career counseling, tutoring, tuition waivers, and financial assistance to defray the costs of transportation and textbooks. The goal of the program, modeled upon the City University of New York's successful Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs (ASAP), is to ensure eligible community college students have access to wrap-around services and, thus, improve college retention and degree completion rates.

## Supporting Students With Disabilities

An exciting new collaborative program between higher education and the Office of Ohioans with Disabilities was included in the budget and led by OOD Director Kevin Miller. The College2Careers program, which provides for a full-time rehabilitation vocation counselor at 15 of Ohio's public colleges and universities, ensures that students with disabilities have the support they need to complete their degree or credential and succeed in the workforce.



## A Stronger Focus on Mental Health

A spring event hosted by ODHE highlighted a partnership with Recovery Ohio (Director Alisha Nelson) and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (Director Lori Criss). The Forum on Mental Health and Substance Abuse convened representatives from Ohio campuses at Governor DeWine's invitation to learn how to address challenges pertaining to mental health and substance abuse issues among students.

## Supporting Ohio Employers in a New Economy

ODHE and the Development Services Agency, led by Director Lydia Mihalik, partnered with Lt. Governor Husted to establish TechCred, a program designed to upskill the incumbent workforce and qualify them for new jobs in the technology-infused economy. The budget provided \$15 million per year to support grants to employers to fulfill a commitment made by Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted to fund the completion of 10,000 microcredentials each year in order to aid in closing the skills gap for growing

technology jobs. The process for employers to apply for grants that reimburse them for worker training continues in 2020. Those interested may visit [TechCred.Ohio.gov](https://TechCred.Ohio.gov) for more information or to apply.



A stronger Ohio economy is tied to Ohio’s ability to produce a talented workforce and make progress on increasing education attainment. With more than 11,000 fewer students projected to graduate from Ohio high schools in the next 10 years, increasing the number of Ohioans with a college degree or credential will be challenging. There is some positive news. Ohio’s education attainment rate has increased by 6.1 percent, above the national average with the 4th best attainment gains in the Midwest. Aiding Ohio in this effort are enrollment numbers in 2019 that are better than the national and Midwest averages coupled with one of the best articulation and transfer systems in the U.S., allowing students to transfer credits from one postsecondary institution or training center to another. Making gains in education attainment provides documented value to Ohioans, often leading to enhanced lifetime earnings and a stronger tax base to support Ohio communities.

Ohio’s performance-based funding formula is known to be the best in America in terms of encouraging positive outcomes. In fact, 100% of state support for undergraduate student instruction is paid based on student outcomes such as course, certificate, and degree

completion. The formula also recognizes the need to incentivize access to education for first-generation and minority students. Connecting students to engaging and rewarding careers should be the mission of every college and university. In this spirit, Governor DeWine has requested that a new study be undertaken to consider additional incentives in Ohio’s funding system to measure post-graduation employment outcomes at each public college and university. A special task force of community college and university leadership is under way to make recommendations by July, 2020.

**Median weekly earnings (in dollars) and unemployment rate (in percent) by educational attainment, 2018**

| Educational attainment          | Median usual weekly earnings | Ratio to overall median | Unemployment rate |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Doctoral degree                 | \$1,825                      | 1.96                    | 1.6%              |
| Professional degree             | \$1,884                      | 2.02                    | 1.5%              |
| Master's degree                 | \$1,434                      | 1.54                    | 2.1%              |
| Bachelor's degree               | \$1,198                      | 1.29                    | 2.2%              |
| Associate degree                | \$862                        | 0.92                    | 2.8%              |
| Some college, no degree         | \$802                        | 0.86                    | 3.7%              |
| High school diploma, no college | \$730                        | 0.78                    | 4.1%              |
| Less than a high school diploma | \$553                        | 0.59                    | 5.6%              |

Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

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## Higher Education Leadership with the Third Frontier

ODHE traditionally oversees \$8 million per year in Third Frontier research incentive projects, with funding allocated to universities to research and recommend action on key issues affecting Ohio, including algal bloom research, opioid addiction, and infant mortality. A new initiative, spinal cord injury research, was included in the most recent budget bill with up to \$3 million available in the next two years to assist in striving to improve the lives of those with spinal cord injuries.

## A Record-Breaking State College Trustees Conference

Expressing a clear priority in working with colleges and universities, Governor DeWine attended three separate events at the 2019 State Trustees Conference at Columbus State Community College in October. His involvement included a keynote address where 34 of Ohio's college presidents and more than 200 trustees heard his vision for Ohio's future. The number of college and university administrators, trustees, and student trustees attending the two-day conference was an all-time Ohio record.



*left: Governor DeWine addresses the crowd on Day 2 of the 2019 Trustees Conference.*



*right: Ohio Business Roundtable President and former U.S. Congressman Pat Tiberi served as keynote speaker on Day 1.*

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## Close Collaboration with Ohio's Technology Consortium

The Department worked closely with all members of Ohio's technology consortium (OH-TECH) in 2019, including OARnet, OhioLINK, and the Ohio Supercomputer Center.

In May, at the Ohio Public Sector CIO Academy conference, Lt. Governor Husted and State CIO Ervan Rodgers presented OARnet, OH-TECH, and ODHE with an award for their collaborative business approach with entities around the state.

In September, Husted visited Ohio State to dedicate the Artificially Intelligent Manufacturing Systems Lab, also known as AIMS, which relies on OARnet to provide the necessary bandwidth to carry out the advanced functionality of the lab's equipment.

Lastly, in December, Chancellor Gardner officially hired Pankaj Shah to serve as OARnet's next executive director. Director Shah, who most recently served as president and CEO of the Lonestar Research and Education Network in Austin, Texas, is a recognized national leader in broadband network operations who will bring innovative new approaches to OARnet's operations in 2020.

# OH·TECH

## Ohio Technology Consortium

A Division of the Ohio Department of Higher Education



*The Ohio Supercomputer Center's Owens Cluster is named for Olympic legend and Ohio native Jesse Owens.*

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## Award-Winning Staff at the Department

Finally in 2019, at least three ODHE staff members were recognized regionally and nationally for their work.

**Dr. Stephanie Davidson**, ODHE's vice chancellor for academic affairs, received the Midwestern Higher Education Compact's Phillip Sirotkin Award in November. The award is named for the Higher Education Compact's founder and is given to a candidate who demonstrates exemplary leadership, has a passion for postsecondary education, and offers innovative ideas to advance collaboration in education.



In July, **Dr. Paula Compton**, associate vice chancellor for articulation and transfer, was awarded the David L. Wright Memorial Award from the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. SHEEO recognized Paula for embodying an exceptional commitment to higher education and making outstanding contributions to her agency.

The Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators gave its Appreciation Award to **Tamika Braswell**, director of ODHE's office of financial aid. She was honored in October for her ongoing dedication to and support of the financial aid profession, as well as her leadership in state, regional, and national associations.



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## Higher Education Senior Leadership Team

Chancellor – Randy Gardner  
Chief of Staff – Jim Bennett  
Senior Vice Chancellor – Mike Duffey  
Senior Vice Chancellor – Gary Cates  
Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs – Dr. Stephanie Davidson  
Vice Chancellor, Finance and Data Management – Fred Church  
Vice Chancellor, External Relations and Education Technology – Charles See  
Vice Chancellor, Higher Education Workforce Alignment – Dr. Cheri Rice  
General Counsel – Michelle Chavanne  
Director, Communications – Jeff Robinson  
Director, Legislative Affairs – Nick Derksen  
Director, Human Resources – Drew White

## Report Acknowledgments

Jeff Robinson – Director, Communications  
Joel Husenits – Creative Director  
Kevin Holtsberry – Associate Director, Communications

## In Conclusion

As we turn our attention to 2020, ODHE invites suggestions and questions from students, parents, faculty, staff, administrators and all Ohioans who seek to strengthen higher education and workforce preparation. Please visit our website at [ohiohighered.org](http://ohiohighered.org) or you are welcome to email Chancellor Gardner directly at [rgardner@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:rgardner@highered.ohio.gov).

