

**Quality and Value Discussion – Columbus State Community College
(Delaware Campus)
Monday, January 27, 2014**

A group representing nine colleges and universities (two-year and four-year, public and private) in the central Ohio area joined Chancellor John Carey and Dr. Gordon Gee for the fifth in a series of statewide meetings to discuss the new Quality and Value initiative.

After a brief welcome by Columbus State Community College President David Harrison, Chancellor Carey and Dr. Gee thanked everyone for contributing to the discussion and the work being done to bring better quality and value to higher education in Ohio. Chancellor Carey said they were seeking the group's ideas on "what we can do better ... what we can suggest to policymakers." After welcoming remarks, Chancellor Carey and Dr. Gee opened the floor to attendees to share comments and ideas during the discussion.

Dr. Harrison introduced two Columbus State students and asked them to share their stories with the group. Toby, a 17-year-old, said she will graduate from high school in June and from Columbus State in August. She will then go on to Ohio University to study film production. "I decided, with help from my guidance counselors, that postsecondary enrollment options were my best bet."

Nick is in his second year at Columbus State and will transfer to Ohio State in the fall. He said going to Columbus State to start his postsecondary education "has gotten me a lot of quality for the cost, and really helped me, especially financially." He said he is studying pre-med and may get into sports medicine surgery or orthopedic surgery.

Some of the other comments shared by those in attendance are as follows:

"I urge us to look at this from a systems perspective, and from the perspective of students and families."

"You have to be able to think outside the box. The semesters, the (four years to a degree) are places we have to consider. Why does it have to take four years? Why can't you put three-year programs out? We have to think of what it saves to have students in the three-year model."

Dr. Gee agreed, saying there will not just be one model. "We have to be accepting of the fact that there will be a number of models," he said. "We will have to have creativity and innovation."

Chancellor Carey said one of the other issues being talked about is globalization, "bringing more international students to Ohio to study and sending more of our students abroad."

"Experience abroad has been shown to be valuable for students in particular areas, and it increases retention and graduation rates and job placement once they leave. It also creates the opportunity to begin to think collaboratively, to look at ways in which Ohio colleges and universities might be able to market coming to Ohio."

“Students learn through study abroad, and through capstone experiences. We are working to deepen our commitment to those practices. We are also asking if there are ways in which we can develop shared infrastructures to reduce the costs. But in the name of reducing costs we run the risk of affecting meaningful programs.”

“It would be helpful if the state would consider a portal for international students apply to all schools around the state. Now there is no sharing of that data or the opportunity for us to communicate to the student.”

“The population I worry most about is the underserved students whose completion rate remains low.”

“With regard to shared services, some of the more administrative practices could be shared. There have to be more ways to administratively share across the state.”

“Maybe more collaboration needs to be done with publics and privates. There has to be a structure and some initiative/incentive.”

Jack Hershey, from Ohio State University’s office of government affairs, shared a story about a salt barn on the property of Wright State University. He said the university started to think about moving salt barn to the outskirts of campus, and had a conversation with all of the local communities that used the salt barn. The communities contributed some money toward the construction of a facility that met all of their needs. The project was cited as an example of collaboration across higher ed, state and local government.

Chancellor Carey then asked if there was anything that the state legislature or Board of Regents “should be doing that we are not?”

“I spent 10 years in Florida, which has operationalized the 2+2 model. We have the infrastructure in place (for this), but don't have all of the public policy lined up with regard to articulation agreements.”

“From an admissions perspective, we need to find a way to incentivize the top students to stay in the stat. Ohio leaks a lot of its top students into other states because there is no incentive to keep them in Ohio. We need to plug that hole.”

Chancellor Carey said “in Ohio now, our financial aid is generally based on income. That is one of the things we're going to have to discuss.”

“It takes a lot of communication and time for the relationships and trust to build. It’s nothing that will happen quickly. The leaders have to be engaged, but the people doing the collaboration also have to be part of the process. When leadership changes every few years, there seems to be a new idea (that comes along). Perhaps those of us in the trenches have to be more involved.”

Chancellor Carey said “The governor has tasked us with building that collaborative process. We have many good things going on in Ohio, but we know we can improve on what we are doing.”

“Many of our institutions have 3/2 relationships with engineering schools. I wonder if that model has potential with other schools. You go for three years at one school, two at another and you receive degrees from both.”

Chancellor Carey said “That is something our researchers can definitely look into.”

Chancellor Carey and Dr. Gee concluded the meeting by assuring attendees that the discussion will continue, and encouraged everyone to provide additional ideas as they have them.