

## **Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Grantees Meeting**

### **Theme – Sharing, Collaborating, & Succeeding**

Mon., Feb. 25, 2013  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts  
77 S. High St., Columbus, OH, 43215  
North Room, 31<sup>st</sup> Flr.

1. Stephanie Davidson, Interim Chancellor, made introductory remarks about the importance of co-ops and internships in attracting and retaining businesses in Ohio and congratulate the grantees for their success in obtaining an investment of state dollars in the first round RFP.
2. Brett Visger, Deputy Chancellor for Institutional Collaboration, began the discussion of the importance of co-ops and internships. He stated that one goal of Ohio is to have and create high quality internships throughout the state that are sustainable in the long run. In order to have a successful program, the state, institutions of higher education, and businesses need to work together. He highlighted the need for all institutions to gain information from each other, sharing best practices from each program.
3. All attendees introduced their programs and shared a brief description about their grant.
4. Brett Visger discussed some of the history and extensive process leading to the meeting - from the state obtaining casino licensing fees, seating an advisory panel, writing and releasing an RFP, and granting each institution their award.
5. John Magill, Assistant Deputy Chancellor for Economic Advancement, emphasized the importance the grants will have on the local and regional economies throughout Ohio.
6. Zach Waymer, Director of Experiential Learning and Outreach, introduced Dan Schoch, Chair of Cooperative Education and Internship Program Advisory Committee.

7. Dan Schoch began his presentation by briefly talking about graduation and retention rates across the state. He said there is global competition among his company and Ohio companies for the workforce in Ohio. Dan spoke about the “brain drain” and other reasons why Ohio has room for growth and improvement in the co-op and internship programs for various industry sectors. Dan also emphasized the need to introduce co-op and internship opportunities at a younger age, i.e. in high school or right after graduation.

Dan spoke about his 35 years of experience at Minster Machine, and the success their internship and co-op program has proven. Dan considers success a 95% graduation rate (in STEM) after a Minster Machine employment (co-op or internship).

Dan introduced the terms “talent receiver” and “talent investor” companies. Talent investor companies are those that invest money and resources into training the incoming workforce by preparing students for jobs in the future rather than just taking what comes out of the education pipeline without any involvement. Dan said that he wants to encourage more talent investor companies to help align business and education.

8. Dawn Gatterdam, Director of Fiscal & Capital Planning, provided an overview of the process to receive award monies from the state. She said the funds will take approximately five days to process after the agreements are fully executed by the Chancellor, and will be for the full award amount.
9. Zach Waymer gave an overview of metrics and reporting. The reporting will begin in March, and OBOR will work with grantees to decide what information will make sense to collect that early in the grant period. There will be three additional reporting periods, to be accessed online for a uniform reporting method.
10. John Magill presented the fiscal Excel Spreadsheets and reporting forms that grantees will be filling out.
11. Mark Birnbrich, Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation, gave a short presentation on the benefits of OhioMeansJobs.com and OhioMeansInternships.com. The websites have grassroots compatibility, but with a statewide approach.

Mark introduced the entirety of the workforce world, consisting of 91 programs, and 13 agencies. Much work surrounding all of these workforce programs is being driven by House Bill 1 and 2.

Mark discussed a \$12 Million DOL grant received to support OhioMeansJobs.com to enhance the site by building a virtual one-stop employment center.

The first phase of Governor Kasich's three goals was the forecasting process, understanding the business needs, which began on February 8, 2013. The next step will be aligning the opportunities with education and training in Ohio. The third and final step is to streamline the workforce programs.

Mark spoke about the Governor's goal to connect OhioMeansInternships with all institutions. Some concerns raised were the impact on close relationships with students at the campus level, relationships with businesses at the campus level, and the educational institution vs. system-wide approach to co-ops and internships. Mark stated that he is open to a discussion with institutions that will optimize the usage of the data from the websites and devise ways to share it with the institutions of higher education.

12. Facilitated Discussion- Tables broke into individual groups to discuss the following questions-

- a. What do you need to ensure your program success? What role can the state play in this?
- b. How best can we learn, share expertise, and collaborate between and among co-op and internship programs?
- c. What aspects of the work-integrated learning programs need to be addressed to ensure quality for students? For employers? For educators? For the state?
- d. What is needed to build long-term sustainability beyond the life of the grant?

Responses from the discussion:

- Data concerns were brought up- how do we ensure the opportunity portals (OhioMeansJobs.com/OhioMeansInternships.com) provide institutions with the information they need?
- Institutions would like to collaborate with each other and share their expert opinions as well as best practices. One way to do this is to have a shared list serve as well as a "consistent means of collaboration" set up, or a monthly conference call to share expertise. They would also like reports to be shared with all institutions.
- Grantees expressed that some students at two-year institutions do not feel the need to have an internship because they don't have time in a two year degree program. Also, credits are not guaranteed to carry over on their transcript. Institutions would like transferability of experience and credit.

- Grantees feel that the state could help facilitate links between employers, institutions, and the state- to provide best opportunities for all three entities, by assisting with marketing.
- OBOR would like “really great stories” to be reported from this grant.
- There were concerns expressed about the Third Frontier – creates distance from the college/university because the student and business interact directly.

13. Break for lunch.

14. Afternoon discussions.

- Suggested communication techniques were discussed; blog posts, webinars, conference calls, and regional and statewide meetings (where employers and practitioners are both invited). Institutions would also like feedback loops to be publically posted for viewing purposes.
- The meeting with Rhodes State College was focused around their collaboration with Honda. There is a shortage of qualified skilled workers, but they will be developing a pipeline through a coalition of colleges. They will also work with local high schools. By doing this, seed money is placed within the region by industry.
- Community colleges suggested continued outreach. They expressed the desire to seek additional assistance that provides them with the opportunity for discussion. They would like to arrange a conference call with possible topics-
  - Student tracking
  - Program administration
  - Employer development
  - Building partnerships
  - Promulgate good models
- Groups acknowledged that institutions in Northeast are monitoring growth of the regional IT sector and how to address the workforce needed by it.
- Magnet and OAI are available for outreach to small/medium enterprises. They reach out to businesses in the region for suppliers, and start with the large organizations creating a consortium for student experiences.
- In discussion, institutions expressed the need for their programs to be evaluated in connection to their learning objectives.