<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Expanding Cincinnati State Co-op for Targeted Industries and Middletown (ECSCTIM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Location/s</td>
<td>Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Cincinnati/Middletown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Start Date</td>
<td>1/2/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interns/Co-ops Start Date</td>
<td>1/2/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Applicant – Must be public higher education agency</td>
<td>Cincinnati State Technical and Community College 3520 Central Parkway Cincinnati, OH 45223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Chief Contact | O’dell Moreno Owens, M.D., M.P.H.  
President  
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College 3520 Central Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45223  
513-569-1515 Phone  
513-569-1516 Fax  
odell.owens@cincinnatistate.edu |
| Project Director(s)- Key Personnel(s) | Monica J. Posey, Ed.D.  
Academic Vice President  
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College 3520 Central Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45223  
513-569-1511 Phone  
513-569-1516 Fax  
monica.posey@cincinnatistate.edu |
| Amount of state money requested | $316,440 |
| Match money committed | $720,400 |
| Number of internships/co-ops proposed | 75 |
| JobsOhio key industries impacted | BioHealth, Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace/Aviation, Financial Services, Information Technology, Consumer Products |
| Are any of the applicants represented by a member of the Advisory Committee? | No |
Legal Applicant
Name: Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Address: 3520 Central Parkway
City: Cincinnati, Ohio Zip: 45223
Phone: 513-569-1515 Fax: 513-569-1516
E-Mail: odell.owens@cincinnatistate.edu
Name: O’dell Moreno Owens, M.D., M.P.H.

1) Certification by Authorized Official:
To the best of my knowledge and belief, data contained in this application are true and correct. The document has been duly authorized to comply with the required assurances.

Signature of Authorized Official:
Typed Name and Title: Dr. O’dell Moreno Owens, President
Date: October 12, 2012

2) Administering Entity
Agency Name: Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Address: 3520 Central Parkway
City: Cincinnati, Ohio Zip: 45223
Phone: 513-569-1511 Fax: 513-569-1516
Contact Person: Dr. Monica J. Posey
Title: Academic Vice President
E-Mail: monica.posey@cincinnatistate.edu

3) Business Partners (please submit separate information for each partner)
Company Name: ADS Manufacturing Ohio, LLC
Address: 1701 Reinartz Blvd.
City: Middletown, OH Zip: 45042
Phone: 513-600-8185 Fax: 513-420-5657
Contact Person: Mark Booker
Title: President
E-Mail: mbooker@advancedds.ca

Company Name: Atrium Medical Center
Address: One Medical Center Drive
City: Middletown, OH Zip: 45005
Phone: 513-424-2111 Fax: 513-420-5657
Contact Person: Carol J. Turner
Title: President and CEO
E-Mail: kdjohnson@AtriumMedCenter.org
Company Name: Dickerson Distributing Co., Inc.
Address: 150 Lawton Avenue
City: Monroe, OH Zip: 45050
Phone: 513-539-8483 Fax: 513-539-8268
Contact Person: John E. Dickerson
Title: Chief Executive Officer
E-Mail: budbanners@aol.com

Company Name: Hi-Mark Construction Group
Address: 3577 Commerce Drive
City: Middletown, OH Zip: 45005
Phone: 513-727-1260 Fax: 513-423-5750
Contact Person: Stephen E. Hightower
Title: President and CEO
E-Mail: Dawn@HightowersPetroleum.com

Company Name: Hightower Petroleum Co.
Address: 3577 Commerce Drive
City: Middletown, OH Zip: 45005
Phone: 513-423-4272 Fax: 513-423-5750
Contact Person: Stephen E. Hightower
Title: President and CEO
E-Mail: Dawn@HightowersPetroleum.com

Company Name: Kleingers & Associates
Address: 6305 Centre Park Drive
City: West Chester, OH Zip: 45069
Phone: 513-573.4778
Contact Person: James B. Kleingers, PE, PS, LEED AP
Title: President
E-Mail: jim.kleingers@kleingers.com

Company Name: Makino
Address: 7680 Innovation Way
City: Mason, OH Zip: 45040
Phone: 513-779-7851 Fax: 513-779-7852
Contact Person: Elizabeth Glover
Title: Talent Acquisition Leader
E-Mail: Elizabeth.glover@makino.com

Company Name: Joe Morgan Honda
Address: 176 Garver Road
City: Monroe, OH Zip: 45050
Phone: 513-360-2700 Fax: 513-360-2701
Contact Person: Mike Thornton
Title: Service Manager
E-Mail: mikethornton@joemorganhonda.net
Company Name: The Procter and Gamble Company
Address: 2 Procter and Gamble Plaza
City: Cincinnati, OH Zip: 45202
Phone: 513-698-7260 Fax:
Contact Person: Brandi Ayers
Title: Sr. Recruiting Specialist, North American Talent Supply
E-Mail: ayers.bn@pg.com

5) Other Partners (please submit separate information for each partner)

Name: City of Middletown
Address: One Dunham Plaza
City: Middletown, OH Zip: 45042
Phone: 513-425-7942 Fax: 513-425-7792
Contact Person: Judith E. Gilliland
Title: City Manager
E-Mail: rachelh@cityofmiddletown.org

Name: Workforce One Investment Board of Southwest Ohio
Address: 756 Old State Route 74
City: Cincinnati, OH Zip: 45245
Phone: 513-943-3751 Fax: 513-943-3723
Contact Name: John R. Nelson
Title: Vice Chair

Name: Partners for a Competitive Workforce
Address: 2400 Reading Road
City: Cincinnati, OH Zip: 45202
Phone: 513-762-7170 Fax: 513-762-7138
Contact Person: Ross Meyer
Title: Executive Director
E-Mail: ross.meyer@uwgc.org

Name: Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board
Address: 300 Carew Tower, 441 Vine Street
City: Cincinnati, OH Zip: 45202
Phone: 513-579-3142 Fax: 513-762-3728
Contact Name: Sherry Kelley Marshall
Title: President/CEO
E-Mail: smarshall@cincinnatichamber.com

Name: Warren County Career Center
Address: 3529 N. State Route 48
City: Lebanon, OH Zip: 45036
Phone: 513-932-5677 Fax: 513-934-0121
Contact Name: Margaret A. Hess
Title: WCCC Superintendent
E-Mail: Maggie.hess@mywccc.org

Name: Butler Technology and Career Development Schools
Expanding Cincinnati State Co-op for Targeted Industries and Middletown (ECSCTIM)

Abstract

The overall goal of the ECSCTIM project is to boost Ohio’s competitiveness in the global economy. To achieve this end, the project has been carefully designed to achieve a number of objectives, to include:

- Creating 75 new or expanded co-op positions that will provide Cincinnati State students with meaningful work-based learning experiences in 6 JobsOhio key industries—Biohealth, Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace/Aviation Financial Services, Information Technology, and Consumer Products;
- Actively recruiting, orienting and supporting new co-op business partners in the region surrounding Cincinnati State’s new campus in the City of Middletown in Butler County, a fast-growing population area in the state where there has until now been little focus by area colleges on developing co-ops, yet where there are hundreds of small, medium and large potential business partners that could benefit immensely from establishing a co-op program that would help them reduce the cost of recruiting, training and retaining skilled talent;
- Enhancing Cincinnati State’s college-wide co-op website and database, to create a seamless co-op process for employers, students and educators that builds upon Cincinnati State’s deep experience with co-op programs and can serve as a model for other post-secondary co-op programs;
- Increasing the number of Cincinnati State students completing an associate’s degree by establishing a career pathway model that includes early contact with students for co-op preparation and planning, beginning from the point of admission, so that more students will complete a co-op within their first three terms, as data shows that this will more than double the likelihood they will earn a degree on time;
- Working closely with business partners throughout the region to align our curriculum to meet the needs of businesses and close the “skills gap” in our region and in the state;
- Building the recognition that completing a degree at Cincinnati State will lead to employment in a key industry, thereby increasing the attraction for non-Ohioans and former Ohioans to seeking an education, building a business, or finding a job in the state.

Funding requested from the state for the project totals $316,440, to support the establishment of three positions that will be integral to the project’s success, to provide for purchased services for the enhancement of the website/database, to support co-op learning events and printed materials for targeted business partners, and to establish a co-op office on the Middletown Campus. Cincinnati State will provide matching funds for personnel, and employers will provide salaries for the new and expanded co-op positions. The combination of matching funds from Cincinnati State and the employer-paid co-op salaries creates a 2.3:1 match for the proposed grant funding. A plan is in place for sustaining the program following the grant.

The project also includes a plan for various types of communication and feedback between employers, students and educators; the program will also gather, analyze and provide the state with the required data metrics that will also be used for continuous improvement of the project.

The project has received excellent support in the form of letters of commitment from, among others, business partners and influential entities in the Middletown/Butler County area. Said one of our business partners, the president of a Canadian-based company that recently opened an advanced manufacturing subsidiary in Middletown: “My education included co-op placements, and I think it was a benefit to the students and the company.”
Expanding Cincinnati State Co-op for Targeted Industries and Middletown
Program and Budget Narrative

Program Snapshot

<table>
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<th>JobsOhio Key Industries</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number co-ops/internships created</td>
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<td>Amount of match money obtained</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total match money obtained divided by number of co-ops &amp; internships created (in whole dollars)</td>
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<td>Total money (state plus match) divided by number of co-ops &amp; internships created (in whole dollars)</td>
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<td>Number of other partners</td>
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Programmatic Criteria

1) Business attraction & retention
Numerous surveys and reports show that a skilled workforce is key to attracting businesses to a region or state. The proposed project, Expanding Cincinnati State Co-op for Targeted Industries and Middletown (ECSCTIM) will help close the skills gap in our region within 6 key JobsOhio industries – BioHealth, Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace/Aviation Financial Services, Information Technology, and Consumer Products.

There is ample demand in the present and future in each of the key industries that this project is targeting. The 2020 Jobs Outlook Report for Greater Cincinnati forecasts 338,000 job openings in the next decade (106,000 new jobs and 232,000 replacement jobs) According to the report, “occupations related to healthcare, education, business, finance, and technology are the fastest growing and best paying.”

Cincinnati State has the infrastructure and co-op program expertise to successfully implement the project, and sustain it after the grant is complete. Cincinnati State is already a leader in providing work-based learning experiences for students with Ohio’s businesses. During the 2011-2012 academic year, Cincinnati State had 2,474 paid co-op placements, at an average wage of $10.37 per hour. The College’s success with its co-op program has been accomplished by carefully aligning curriculum with the needs of businesses, in part through the creation of professional advisory committees in each academic area.

Nevertheless, studies by Brookings (2011) and others have shown that there remains a skills gap in the region, especially in occupations requiring technical and decision-making skills, such as in many of the occupations in the key industries targeted by the ECSCTIM program. The good news is that these are core skills developed in 2-year degree programs delivered by Cincinnati State, and co-ops are an essential part of these curricula. The proposed ECSCTIM

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1 Source: Regional Indicators: 2020 Jobs Outlook Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky
project will accomplish three major goals: it will create and/or expand co-op positions in the 6
targeted industries; it will expand co-op possibilities for small, medium and large businesses in
the Middletown and fast-growing Butler County region; and it upgrade and enhance the
Cincinnati State co-op database and website, which will allow for better services for businesses
and students, and provide a model for other post-secondary institutions.

2) Student attraction/retention/completion
Students of all ages and backgrounds come to Cincinnati State because they want to improve
their future in the workplace. Two-thirds of the students coming to Cincinnati State qualify for
federal financial aid, so employment for many students is a necessity. The availability of paid
coop programs is key not only to attracting students to Cincinnati State, but also in retaining
students, because it provides income while the student is pursuing his or her degree. Co-ops
also provide students with the opportunity to learn valuable workplace skills while exploring
career options. Studies show that students in well-run co-op programs have higher retention
rates and increased ability to finance tuition.  

This is clearly the case at Cincinnati State, where co-ops have a profound effect on graduation
rates. Of students entering college in 2008, full-time, associate degree students who
participated in a co-op within their first three terms had a 3-year graduation rate of 61%, versus
a graduation rate of 23% for students who did not participate in an early co-op. Based on this
data, one of the goals of the ECSCTIM project will be to increase on-time graduation rates for
Cincinnati State students by developing a career pathway model that includes early contact with
students for co-op preparation and planning, beginning from the point of admission and
continuing until graduate placement.

In fall of 2012, Cincinnati State opened a new campus in Middletown, Ohio. The success of the
campus in attracting new students to higher education and also in providing more convenient
course options for residents of Butler County is evidenced by the enrollment results. Of 23
community colleges, Cincinnati State was one of the few with an enrollment increase in Fall
2012. For this enrollment growth to continue, we must be able to provide students attending the
Middletown campus with new and expanded co-op opportunities within in-demand occupations
in the region. This grant will make that possible.

3) Student post-credential employment
Cincinnati State is one of the institutions that leads the state in producing graduates with the
skills needed to obtain employment. In 2011-12, Cincinnati State had 433 students graduating in
academic programs associated with the targeted industries. Almost every Cincinnati State
degree student has the opportunity to participate in a co-op, which is key, because studies show
that when colleges have strong co-op programs, more than 50% of students participating in co-
ops receive job offers.  Surveys of Cincinnati State graduates have confirmed this finding. Most
Cincinnati State graduates stay and work in Ohio. Establishing new and expanded co-op
opportunities in the targeted industries and in Middletown will strengthen this outcome.

Each student in the proposed ECSCTIM project will work with the Pathway Job Coach and a
Co-op Coordinator. These professionals will prepare students for the co-op process by giving
them help as needed with interviewing techniques, resume writing, and professionalism. They

2 Source: Journal of Cooperative Education and Internship, Vol. 45, Issue 1, pg. 109
3 Source: Journal of Cooperative Education and Internship, Vol. 45, Issue 2, pg. 6
will also serve as liaisons between the student and the co-op employer. Co-op employers interview eligible students, evaluate student's performance, and provide feedback to the Co-op Coordinator. In addition Advisory Committees are formed for each targeted industry. Advisory Committees are made up of all constituents of the co-op process: students, graduates, co-op employers, graduate employers, faculty, and Program Chairs. They meet on an annual basis to discuss the relevancy of the curriculum, industry needs, and the success of our students in the workplace.

4) Plans & budgets for sustaining the program beyond state money
As detailed in Criteria 6 below, the proposed ECSCTIM project requests funding for 2.5 salaried personnel and operational expenses associated with co-op program enhancements. In FY2014, the College will be identifying new faculty positions, those needed to support the co-op expansion generated by the grant will be funded. The Business Developer position is a start-up role for Middletown. Once the co-op employer base is established, on-going placements will be handled by the co-op faculty. In addition, the College has a separate budget for the Middletown campus in which additional resources are planned as student enrollment grows. Co-op programs are an essential part of our growth plan for Middletown, and it is planned that the Middletown Campus budget will include funding for co-op coordinators and Pathway/Job coaches as demand warrants.

Website development, database support and office set-up are one-time expenses that will provide many years of return on investment. Funding for employer events and printed materials will become part of the budget of the College’s Main and Middletown Campuses.

5) Includes financial & performance metrics reporting system to Regents (see Section 9)
A system is already in place at Cincinnati State to report many of the metrics required by this grant. Data are collected from different sources:

Cincinnati State uses Colleague, a Datatel product. Because our co-op programs are for degree seeking students and the experience is for college credit, students complete all the personal and demographic data for admissions. As students register for a co-op course, data such as semester, number of credits, number of placements, etc. are collected. This information is reported to the Ohio Board of Regents through the Higher Educational Information System (HEI). In addition, the co-op agreement that students sign will be amended to include an agreement by the student to allow for tracking following graduation through self disclosure, databases such as the National Clearinghouse, and other sources.

A second data collection source is a co-op & employer database, Placepro. PlacePro is a specially designed software suite for cooperative education and career services. Students, coordinators, and employers use the system to: search for potential job opportunities, participate in on- and off-campus interview programs, submit online job applications, upload resumes, cover letters, letters of recommendation, and other documents necessary in various file formats to create a portfolio for distribution to potential employers. This grant request includes funds to upgrade PlacePro or replace it with another product that will provide additional functionality. This includes interfacing with Datatel and to provide more data collection capability as needed to track the appropriate metrics. Data including employer feedback and graduate job placement will be tracked, reported and evaluated from a central location.

6) Includes logical and prudent budget that provides high and immediate ROI and good use of public dollars
The proposed ECSCTIM project includes a logical budget that has a high matching component as well as an excellent return on investment for businesses, students and the state. The following direct and indirect expenses totaling $316,440 are requested:

**Program Director** – Funding of $49,000 (salary and benefits) is requested for a .5 FTE Program Director (an additional .5 FTE will be matched by Cincinnati State) who will be responsible for implementation and management of the grant. A Program Director has been identified who has over 20 years of co-op experience, worked with employers in many industries, served as President of the Ohio Cooperative Education Association, and holds a MPA degree. This person will lead the development of enhancements in the existing Cincinnati State co-op program through database, website, and process improvements, while also directing work of the Business Developer and Job Coach. The Program Director will manage the grant budget, hire and manage other grant-funded personnel, contract with partners for services, and complete grant reporting.

**Business Developer** - Funding of $85,000 (salary and benefits) is requested for a 1 FTE Business Developer. The primary responsibility will be working with employers and workforce organizations in targeted industries and in Middletown and surrounding communities to develop new co-op positions. Working in collaboration with Cincinnati State Co-op Coordinators, the Business Developer will also organize and deliver business training and other support needed to facilitate co-op hiring and graduate employment. Experience in business development will be required; knowledge of the targeted industries is preferred. The minimal educational requirement will be a bachelor's degree.

**Pathway/Job Coach** - Funding of $85,000 (salary and benefits) is requested for 1 FTE Pathway/Job Coach, who will implement strategies to increase the number of students in the targeted industry programs. Working with Cincinnati State Co-op Coordinators, the Pathway/Job Coach will prepare students for employment, with supplemental support in job readiness skills, resume writing and interviewing. In addition, the Pathway/Job Coach will track and facilitate co-op opportunities for all students admitted to degree programs at the Cincinnati State Middletown campus. This includes working closely with students from underrepresented populations, as well as students who are economically disadvantaged or with special needs. Experience in career counseling/advising is preferred. The minimal educational requirement is a bachelor’s degree.

**Website and Database development/enhancements** - Funding of $40,000 is requested to allow for contracted services for the development and enhancement of the Cincinnati State co-op website and integrated database, that will streamline and improve the co-op process for employers, students, co-op coordinators and administrators, as well as serve as a model that can be adapted by other colleges in Ohio with new or existing co-op programs. Services will be contracted for a period of time as needed to complete the project. Training of employers and students on the new and/or enhanced database will also be provided.

**Events** - Funding of $9,000 will support events to recruit and orient new employer partners to the ECSCTIM program, and facilitating the development of new co-op programs that align with employer needs. Events will be held at the CS Middletown campus and various community/business locations. Studies show that engaging new employers in understanding how the co-op experience integrates into the curriculum and the work experience enhances the benefits to employers and students. The supplies to promote and host these events are estimated at $1,000 per event. One event per month would be sponsored, starting in the third month of the grant (9 events total for the year).
**Printed Materials** - Funding $10,000 is requested for production of collateral materials designed and printed to promote co-op and support job development, career pathways and jobs in the targeted industries and in Middletown.

**Office Set-Up** – Funding of $15,000 is requested for office set-up including needed furniture and equipment for the 3 new personnel to be hired through this program.

**Indirect Costs** – Funding is requested for indirect costs at a rate of 8%

The proposed ECSCTIM project includes a high match ratio of 2.3:1. Local matching funds total $720,400 and will include:

**Program Director** – .5 FTE salary & benefits ($49,000) to be paid by the College

**Cooperative Education Coordinators** – The College will pay for .25 FTE for 9 coordinators, each with average $91,000 salary & benefits ($204,750 total). The co-op coordinators will work directly with grant personnel and businesses to expand co-op in targeted industries and Middletown. The co-op coordinators place the students in the positions, monitor work, and evaluate the learning experience and award credit.

**Employer Paid Co-op Wages** – Co-op positions created under this grant will receive wages from the co-op employers. The average co-op wage, based on current Cincinnati State data across all industries, is $10.37 per hour. Each new co-op position is estimated at a minimum of 1 semester (15 weeks), at 40 hours per week. With 75 new co-op positions created by the grant, the total match by employers will be $466,650 during the period of the grant. (75 co-ops X 10.37/hour X 40 hours/week X 15 weeks = $466,650)

The proposed ECSCTIM project includes a high and immediate return on investment for businesses and Ohio.

The ECSCTIM project will produce an immediate return on investment for businesses through productivity and decreased hiring costs. Studies show that interns are often as productive as regular employees, yet typically work at lower wages and benefit rates. In addition, co-ops allow businesses to “try out” a potential future employee without making a long-term commitment. The cost of a hiring a “wrong fit” can be up to 5 times the annual salary, according to national industry estimates. Meanwhile, a survey of Fortune 500 companies revealed that hiring co-op student to a full-time position saves the company more than $6,000 in cost per hire.4

The ECSCTIM project will generate employer-paid co-op wages in the first year alone that are nearly 1.5 times the amount of the grant. Not only will the wages contribute to the Ohio economy, the co-op positions will help close the skills gap and improve business attraction in Ohio, potentially leading to additional new jobs.

7) **Includes feedback loop among employers, educators & students**

   The ECSCTIM project will utilize a formal evaluation process that includes job visits, written feedback and evaluation forms, observation, discussion with supervisors, and surveys. Employers and supervisors are surveyed to determine: the quality of work and

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effectiveness of the training demonstrated by co-op students; the interaction with the co-op coordinator; and suggested improvements for the program. Students also complete a survey designed to determine: gaps in knowledge that should be corrected in the mandatory co-op training; job satisfaction; and satisfaction with the work experience. The feedback mechanism results in a pass/fail grade that is included in the students’ records.

There are multiple processes in place for gauging satisfaction of partnering organizations. The first is regular visits by Cincinnati State co-op coordinators to discuss progress toward objectives and identify areas that need improvement. Surveys are sent to partner organizations. In addition, co-op employers serve on Professional Advisory Boards for all Cincinnati State degree programs. Co-op coordinators also sponsor an annual Cooperative Education Employer Appreciation Celebration, which is preceded by advisory committee meetings. Valuable formal and informal feedback on each program is obtained through this process.

8) Demonstrates positive impact to key industry and the local, regional or state economy

The ECSCTIM program will have a positive impact on the five key industries and the regional and state economies. As previously noted, each of the key industries—BioHealth, Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace/Aviation, Financial Services, Information Technology, and Consumer Products—is expected to experience significant growth within the region during the next decade. The proposed grant will make it possible for Cincinnati State will build ECSCTIM program on a proven co-op infrastructure, that includes long-term co-op relationships with major employers that are headquartered in the region, including Procter & Gamble, GE Aircraft Engines, Great American Insurance Co., and Kroger Co. The co-op program enhancements made possible by the ECSCTIM project will in turn benefit all existing Cincinnati State co-op programs and the more than 400 regional employers that employ Cincinnati State co-op students.

**Employer Criteria**

1) Capacity: Businesses have capacity to meet proposed program requirements

Businesses in the region served by the proposed ECSCTIM project have ample capacity to meet program requirements for students and partners. As of October 2012, businesses in the region served by the ECSCTIM project listed more than 200 co-op and internship opportunities for students on OhioMeansJobs.com. These are only the listed positions. Currently, Cincinnati State works with over 400 area employers to develop and fill paid positions. As noted earlier in this proposal, during the 2011-2012 academic year, Cincinnati State had 2,474 paid co-op placements, at an average wage of $10.37 per hour.

While the ECSCTIM project has already received numerous letters of commitment from business partners (see cover sheet and appendix), a major focus of the ECSCTIM project will be to recruit, orient and support new business partners in the Middletown and Butler County region. In June 2012, Cincinnati State Co-op Coordinators gave a presentation in Middletown to businesses in partnership with The Chamber of Commerce serving Middletown, Monroe, and Trenton. About 50 business representatives attended and had interest in understanding the Cincinnati State co-op program. It will be relatively new to this area, as no other college has developed this market. To this end, the project has received a commitment of support from Workforce One in Butler County, the City of Middletown, and others in the Butler County area.

2) Provides substantial, meaningful work assignments

Cincinnati State has at least 20 associate degree majors that align with the 5 key JobsOhio industries targeted by this project (see list with descriptions in appendix). Co-ops are an integral
part of each of these degree programs, and it will be a goal of the project to create new and expanded co-op opportunities for students these disciplines. Co-op work assignments involve in-depth work assignments allowing students to develop professional skills. For example, a co-op in Healthcare Information Technology will develop skills in systems analysis, software development, database design, and core technical skills including .NET, Java, HL7, SQL, and SQL Server. Meanwhile, marketing majors will gain co-op experience in market research, market planning, new product and service development, customer behavior, branding, logistics, personal selling and sales management, direct marketing, retailing, advertising, promotion, public relations, pricing, distribution, and many other areas of marketing.

3) **Positions are paid**

All of the co-op positions in the *ECSCTIM* project will be paid positions. Based on Cincinnati State’s experience with 400 employers and nearly 2,500 co-op positions during the 2011-2012 academic year, the average wage is expected to be about $10.40 per hour. However, in many co-op positions in the targeted industries, the wage is likely to be higher, as in the chart below which shows placements for just one of five terms during the 2011-12 year:

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<th>Industry</th>
<th>Cincinnati State Program (Associate Degrees)</th>
<th># Co-op Placements SP 2012</th>
<th>Average Wage SP 2012</th>
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<td>Industrial Design Technology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4) **Includes positions in more than 1 functional area in the workplace**

Based upon past experience (see chart below) and incoming letters of commitment from business partners, we expect many business partners, especially larger employers, to create or add co-op positions in more than 1 functional area of the workplace.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Functional Areas of Co-ops (Majors)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMP Electric Vehicles</td>
<td>Automotive Service Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering Tech – Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAST-FAB Technologies, Inc.</td>
<td>Industrial Design Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Network Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CDI-Engineering Solutions-Aerospace Technologies  Mechanical Eng Tech – Design  Mechanical Eng Tech – Manufacturing  Industrial Design Tech  Network Administration
Cincinnati Incorporated  Business Information Systems  Network Administration  Mechanical Eng Tech – Manufacturing
Fifth Third Bank  Accounting  Business Financial Mgt  Associate of Arts
General Electric Aircraft Engines  Aviation Maintenance  Electronic Eng Tech  Electro Mechanical Eng Tech  Mechanical Engineering Tech  Power Systems
Great American Insurance  Business Information Systems  Computer Programming  PC Support Administration  Software Engineering Technology  Associate of Arts
Kroger  Aviation Maintenance Technology  Associate of Science  Computer Program & Database Management  Software Engineering

5) Demonstrates and documents demand for talent in industry
We spent more than a year studying the need for a Cincinnati State campus and expanded into Butler County (Middletown). This has included substantial time and investment in market analysis. Ohio Board of Regents representatives have been involved in meetings and discussions. The result of our study clearly indicates the educational need for the type of programming we are offering, of which co-op education is integral. Our research shows that many Butler county residents (1,795 students in 2009-10, a 25% increase over 2008-9) currently travel to Cincinnati for a community college education, and that there are hundreds of others who could benefit from what we offer now that we are located in Butler County. We have also concluded there is an industry need for degreed technicians, and interest for expanded co-op opportunities among businesses in the region. There are hundreds of businesses in the Cincinnati-Dayton corridor that support the aerospace and automobile industries alone. Many of these businesses are located near Middletown and Butler County and have not utilized co-ops as a business strategy. This project will focus on reaching those businesses and many others.

Institution/s of Higher Education Criteria

1) Capacity: Institution has capacity to meet proposed program requirements
As shown in the following chart, Cincinnati State has significant enrollment capacity in associate degree programs specifically designed to provide employees for Ohio’s fastest growing industry sectors. With the addition of the Middletown campus, enrollment is expected to increase.
2) Positions are transcripted or available for credit
All co-op positions at Cincinnati State are available for credit. Co-op is mandatory for the degrees associated with the ECSCTIM program. The co-op credit is a part of the graduation requirement. For most degrees, students complete two semesters of co-op for a total of 6 credits. The College has in place a series of courses to designate the department and amount of credit awarded. Following is an example of a course listing for a co-op:

291 Full-Time Cooperative Education 1: (2 semester credits) Students seeking an associate’s degree participate in their first full-time field learning experience related to their degree. Students must follow cooperative education policies and procedures to earn credit.

3) Includes outreach to populations traditionally underrepresented in the proposed area(s of co-op and internship program
Cincinnati State is an open access institution. We provide affordable tuition to individuals who would not normally pursue higher education. The college’s mission, vision and values refer to a student centered approach to teaching and learning, with a range of academic supports and developmental coursework to prepare students for their major of study. The access programs offered by the college allow students with special needs to balance life and school.

Cincinnati State has a diverse student population, including significant traditionally underrepresented populations. About 30% of Cincinnati State students are African American, and 4% are Hispanic/American Indian/Multi-Racial. Veterans represent 4% of Cincinnati State students. In addition, many students coming to Cincinnati State are “first generation college students,” meaning their natural or adopted parents did not complete a bachelor’s degree. Finally, about two-thirds of Cincinnati State students are economically challenged and qualify for federal aid for college. Without additional support, many students from these populations will have a difficult time adjusting to post-secondary education. As noted earlier, one of the goals of the ECSCTIM project will be to develop a career pathway model that includes early co-op
preparation and planning, and reaching out to traditionally underrepresented populations from the point of admission and continuing until graduate job placement.

4) Includes improvements to existing or creation of new high quality academic programs with a cooperative education or internship component

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and uses the AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Project) model for reaccreditation. Our work includes an AQIP Action Project on cooperative education. This project is focusing on external communication with employers and integration of internal communications across CS academic divisions and Workforce Development. This will enhance the work the ECSCTIM program.

The proposed ECSCTIM program will work closely with employers in the targeted industries and in the Middletown region to align curriculum with the future needs of the regional workforce. As such, we will look for opportunities to improve existing or create new high quality academic programs. An example of how this might occur was the development of Cincinnati State’s new Health Information Technologies (HIT) program, which was approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in 2012. The HIT program was brought about by extensive consultation with community, education, and healthcare industry leaders from throughout the region, and was strongly supported by the Health Careers Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, which includes an employer consortium representing over 50% of the region’s healthcare workforce.

5) Includes plan to connect employers and students via web, communications & marketing

The plan to connect employers and students in the ECSCTIM program will be multi-faceted. Major elements of the plan include:

- Establishing an enhanced Cincinnati State co-op website and database that will guide both groups – students and employers – through the co-op hiring process.
- Providing an interface with OhioMeansJobs.com
- Coordinating these enhancements with the Cincinnati State Pathway to Employment Center and the Workforce Development Center, and data and resources
- Providing co-op/internship information sessions and training programs for employers
- Supporting placement of students in new positions by coordinating details with employers such as start date, work hours, salary, etc.
- Preparing students for placement through professional development seminars and one-on-one assistance in resume writing, interviewing skills, etc.
- Print materials will be tailored to reach out to special populations of students and/or employers recruiting for specific majors

6) Program provides opportunities to students with small, mid-size and large business enterprises

Employers in Cincinnati State co-op programs range from Fortune 500 corporations to small companies who may only have one student per year, but have maintained the co-op programs for many years due the quality of the Cincinnati State co-op program and the work readiness of its students. At the June 2012 Cincinnati State session with The Chamber of Commerce serving Middletown, Monroe, and Trenton the attendees ranged from small business with the CEO’s present to larger companies with Human Resource managers. Employer surveys consistently show high levels of satisfaction with the quality of students’ work, and the knowledge that they bring to the experience. The quality of the program is further evidenced by the high percentage of co-op students hired by their co-op employers when they complete their degree.
### Expanding Cincinnati State Co-op for Targeted Industries and Middletown

**Project Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Regents Funds</th>
<th>Priv. Funds</th>
<th>Applicant Funds</th>
<th>Educ. Partners</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Other Public</th>
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(All non Regents funds must be supported by a signed commitment letter.)
Letters of Commitment

Business Partners

1) ADS Manufacturing Ohio LLC
2) Atrium Medical Center
3) Dickerson Distributing Co., Inc.
4) Hi-Mark Construction Group
5) Hightower Petroleum Co.
6) Kleingers & Associates
7) Makino
8) Joe Morgan Honda
9) The Procter and Gamble Company

Other Partners

1) City of Middletown
2) Workforce One Investment Board of Southwest Ohio
3) Partners for a Competitive Workforce
4) Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board
5) Warren County Career Center
6) Butler Technology and Career Development Schools
7) Middletown City Schools
October 11, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

Our company is in one of the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in our industry. We also see value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high quality source of current and future talent.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to develop new and/or expand existing co-op positions at our company. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with us to establish co-op positions that align with our needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Mark Booker
October 10, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

Atrium Medical Center is pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in our industry. We also see value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high quality source of current and future talent.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to develop new and/or expand existing co-op positions at our company. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with us to establish co-op positions that align with our needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. Atrium Medical Center is convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Carol J. Turner, FACCHI
President and CEO
10/5/2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

Our company is in one of the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in our industry. We also see value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high quality source of current and future talent.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to develop new and/or expand existing co-op positions, if possible within multiple areas at our company. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with us to establish co-op and internship positions that align with our needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Hightower
President & CEO
10/5/2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

Our company is in one of the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in our industry. We also see value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high quality source of current and future talent.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to develop new and/or expand existing co-op positions, if possible within multiple areas at our company. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with us to establish co-op and internship positions that align with our needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Hightower
President & CEO
October 8, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro:

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

Kleingers & Associates is a design firm that supports the key industries identified on JobsOhio.com. We currently employ over 60 engineers, surveyors, technicians and administrative personnel here in Ohio. Many of our surveyors and technicians are Cincinnati State graduates. There is a growing need for technically skilled workers in our industry and I see considerable value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions in our firm. The Cincinnati State co-op program presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high quality source of current and future talent.

Our firm has participated in the Cincinnati State co-op program for nearly 20 years and I have first-hand knowledge of the tremendous value of this program. Kleingers & Associates is committed to strengthening our partnership with Cincinnati State to develop additional co-op positions at our company. I understand that Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with us to establish new co-op positions that align with our needs, provide professional development for students, offer training for employers, and develop an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Sincerely,

KLEINGERS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

James B. Kleingers, PE, PS, LEED AP
President
October 12, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 Eas: Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College's proposal, "Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown," under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

Our company is in one of the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We concur with the projected growing need skilled workers in our industry. We also see value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high quality source of current and future talent.

To this end, we are committed to supporting Cincinnati State’s efforts to develop new and/or expand existing co-op positions, if possible within multiple areas at our company. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with employers to establish co-op and internship positions that align with our needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elizabeth A. Glover, PHR
Talent Acquisition Leader
Makino
Office: 513-573-4778
Mobile: 513-319-9748
elizabeth.glover@makino.com
From: Mike Thornton [mailto:mikethornton@joemorganhonda.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 1:42 PM
To: Posey, Monica
Subject: Cincinnati State Grant Support Letter

Joe Morgan Honda
176 Garver Rd.
Monroe, OH 45050

Date 10/09/12

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

Our company is in one of the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in our industry. We also see value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high quality source of current and future talent.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to develop new and/or expand existing co-op positions at our company. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with us to establish co-op positions that align with our needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Mike Thornton
Service Manager
Joe Morgan Honda
October 9, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro  
Ohio Board of Regents  
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We also see value in employers in our region hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while providing businesses with a high quality source of current and future talent that will help them better compete in the global economy.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to assist in developing new and/or expanded co-op positions at small, medium and large companies in our area. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with businesses to establish co-op positions that align with the businesses’ needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for student, businesses, and our region and state.

Sincerely,

Brandi Ayers  
The Procter and Gamble Company  
North America Talent Supply  
Sr. Recruiting Specialist
October 5, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College's proposal, "Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown," under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-op Program.

Our organization is one of the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We cannot live with the projected growing need for skilled workers in our industry. We also see value in hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this provides an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while at the same time providing us with a high-quality source of current and future talent.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to develop new and/or expand existing co-op positions at our company. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with us to establish co-op positions that align with our needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students and our company, while increasing our state’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Judith A. Gilfedder, City Manager
City of Middletown
One Donham Plaza
Middletown, Ohio 45042
October 11, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We also see value in employers in our region hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while providing businesses with a high quality source of current and future talent that will help them better compete in the global economy.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to assist in developing new and/or expanded co-op positions at small, medium and large companies in our area. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with businesses to establish co-op positions that align with the businesses’ needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students, businesses, and our region and state.

Sincerely,

John R. Nelson
Vice Chair
Workforce One Investment Board of Southwest Ohio

JRN/maw
Chancellor Jim Petro  
Ohio Board of Regents  
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro:

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We also see value in employers in our region hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while providing businesses with a high quality source of current and future talent that will help them better compete in the global economy.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to assist in developing new and/or expanded co-op positions at small, medium and large companies in our area. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with businesses to establish co-op positions that align with the businesses’ needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

Partners for a Competitive Workforce (PCW) is a partnership in the Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana tri-state region focused on meeting employer demand by growing the skills of our current and future workforce. Managed by United Way, PCW has more than 130 partners, including employers, chambers, education and training providers, workforce boards, and community organizations in the tri-state. PCW has implemented a sector-based strategy to develop the talent pipeline for the health care, construction and manufacturing industries. Our employer-driven partnerships work closely with employers to identify the current and future workforce needs of the industry, and build career pathways to prepare the current and future workforce for in-demand careers and provide employers with the skilled workers they need to compete. Cincinnati State has been an integral partner in our work, and we pledge to leverage our partnerships with 30+ area employers to assist Cincinnati State in developing new co-op opportunities.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are convinced that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for student, businesses, and our region and state.

Sincerely,

Ross Meyer  
Executive Director
October 8, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

The Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board is pleased to officially support Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

There is no doubt that we have a current and projected growing need for skilled workers in the key industries identified by JobsOhio for our region. We also see value in employers in our region hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin linking the rigor of their postsecondary education to the relevancy of the workplace, while providing businesses with a high quality source of current and future talent that will help them better compete in the global economy.

Therefore, we are committed to establishing a partnership with Cincinnati State to assist in developing new and/or expanded co-op positions at small, medium and large companies in our service area of Hamilton County. Cincinnati State’s plan for the program includes working directly with businesses to establish co-op positions that align with the businesses’ needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State approach. We are convinced the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students, businesses, our region and the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Sherry Kelley Marshall
President/CEO
Chancellor Jim Petro  
Ohio Board of Regents  
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College’s proposal, “Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown,” under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-ops Program.

We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We also see value in employers in our region hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while providing businesses with a high quality source of current and future talent that will help them better compete in the global economy.

We encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. As an Adult Education Full Service Center provider we have existing agreements with Cincinnati State that permit students in several of our adult education programs to be jointly enrolled and as a result anticipate these students will also benefit from this grant. We believe that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for student, businesses, and our region and state.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Hess  
WCCC Superintendent

Mission
To prepare youths and adults to make informed career choices and to successfully enter, compete, and advance in a changing world.

Vision
WCCC is the valued partner of choice within the educational and economic systems of our communities, by providing quality academic and career technical education. We pave the way for a future of opportunities unique to each of our learners.
Chancellor Jim Petro  
Ohio Board of Regents  
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chancellor Petro:

Butler Tech is pleased to submit this letter of support for Cincinnati State Technical and Community College's proposal, "Expanding Cincinnati State Co-ops to Benefit Targeted Industries and Middletown," under the Ohio Means Internships & Co-op Programs.

We concur with the projected growing need for skilled workers in the key industries identified on Jobs-Ohio.com. We also see value in employers in our region hiring Cincinnati State students for co-op positions, as this presents an excellent opportunity for students to begin forging a link between academics and the workplace, while providing businesses with a high quality source of current and future talent that will help them better compete in the global economy.

To this end, we are committed to establishing a formal partnership with Cincinnati State to assist in developing new and/or expanded co-op positions at small, medium, and large companies in our area. Cincinnati State's plan for the program includes working directly with businesses to establish co-op positions that align with the businesses' needs, providing professional development for students, offering training for employers, and developing an enhanced database and website to streamline the co-op process.

On behalf of Butler Tech's staff and students we encourage your investment in the proposed Cincinnati State program. We are confident that the Cincinnati State plan will make for a strong, efficient, and sustainable co-op program that will return lasting benefits for students, businesses, and our region and state.

Sincerely,

Laura J. Sage, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent, Instruction & Learning  
Butler Technology and Career Development Schools

LJS:rl
October 8, 2012

Chancellor Jim Petro
Ohio Board of Regents
30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Sincerely,

[Signature]
Greg Rasmussen
Superintendent
Additional Items

1) Cincinnati State Associate Degrees in Targeted Industries
2) Co-op Guidelines Sample
3) Co-op Learning Contract Sample
4) Co-op Employer Assessment Sample
5) Co-op Student Assessment Sample
6) Sample of News Coverage for Cincinnati State Middletown
Cincinnati State Associate Degrees – Targeted Key Industries

BioHealth

Bioscience Technology
Student in this program learn to be bioscience technicians. They perform procedures in chemical and biotechnology laboratories, pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities, and research laboratories. Advanced skills in biology and chemistry, microbiology, and laboratory skills are developed.

Associate of Science
The Associate of Science degree provides the first two years toward a bachelor’s degree in program fields such as biology and chemistry. Some students will co-op in the biohealth industry as technicians. They also complete degree programs to meet the general and programmatic requirements for a bachelor’s degree in various science disciplines.

Aerospace & Aviation

Aviation Maintenance Technology
The Aviation Maintenance Technology program at Cincinnati State allows students to earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in conjunction with federal licensing. Coursework is devoted to learning airframe, powerplant, and avionics. Co-op work involves helping inspect aircraft systems, overhaul aircraft systems, repair aircraft components, and service aircraft systems.

Financial/Accounting

Accounting
The Accounting degree program provides students with an understanding of accounting skills and knowledge of business fundamentals. In co-op students are exposed to facets of the accounting profession, including intermediate accounting, tax accounting, cost accounting, computerized accounting, and auditing.

Business Financial Services
The Business Financial Services associate’s degree provides a combination of sound financial business training with on-the-job experience. Courses covering basic corporate financial concepts, investment concepts, personal financial, and insurance planning prepare students for life and a business finance career. Students apply these skills in co-op.

Advanced Manufacturing

Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology
A major focus for Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology Degree students is industrial automation. Students are involved in controlling systems, linking software and hardware together, maintaining systems, and improving machines and systems. Cincinnati State’s Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology Degree program is the largest of its kind in Ohio.

Mechanical Engineering Technology - Design major
The Mechanical Engineering Technology Design major teaches students to use the latest technology to design and manufacture devices and systems for use in consumer products, machine tools, and the automotive and aerospace industries. The curriculum prepares students
for solving real-world problems using logical thinking, problem solving, and computer software. Co-op employment normally involves computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided engineering (CAE) work.

**Mechanical Engineering Technology - Manufacturing major**

Students learn how to manage a high-tech, modern production facility. The curriculum includes hands-on manufacturing processes and state-of-the-art computer-aided drafting and computer-aided machining (CAD/CAM) integrated with plastics and modern materials and quality control analysis using statistical process control (SPC). Work may involve developing quality control programs, production and manufacturing operations, programming CNC machines or using CAD/CAM systems.

**Information Technology**

**Computer Programming and Database Management**

Utilizing state-of-the-art programming languages and database technologies, the Computer Programming and Database Management degree program prepares students to design, program, and administer e-business and e-commerce systems on the Internet. The software and programming languages used throughout this curriculum include C# and Visual Basic on the .NET platform, Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal Reports, HTML, PHP and MySQL, Classic ASP, JavaScript, and XML.

**HIT - Healthcare Informatics Major**

Students in the Healthcare Informatics major gain skills needed to assist organizations with meaningful and efficient use of healthcare data by incorporating information technologies and information management techniques. Co-op students will help collect, manage, use, and share information to support delivery of healthcare and to promote health.

**HIT- Healthcare Programming and Systems Analysis Major**

Students in the Healthcare Programming and Systems Analysis major gain the knowledge and skills required to fulfill an essential information technology role in healthcare, either as a developer who designs, implements, and maintains health-based software applications, or as an analyst supporting current health-care related applications. Co-op develop skills in systems analysis, software development, database design, and core technical skills including .NET, Java, HL7, SQL, and SQL Server.

**Business Network Administration Technology**

Students in the Network Administration Technology program at Cincinnati State learn to plan, implement, analyze, and administer local, metropolitan, and wide area networks. They develop expertise in using network operating systems, security systems, network hardware, and messaging tools. Co-ops work with server setup and configuration, server administration, network security measures, messaging, network wiring, and network help desk operations in preparation for graduate employment in these areas.

**Computer Network Engineering Technology**

In this program emphasis is placed on design, installation, and support of an organization’s local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), network segment, Internet, or intranet system. Co-op prepares graduates of the program provide day-to-day, on-site administrative support for a variety of work environments, including professional offices, small businesses, schools, government agencies, and large corporations. They maintain and troubleshoot network hardware and software, analyze problems, and monitor the network to ensure its availability to
system users. They are responsible for gathering data to identify customer needs and then using the information to identify, interpret, and evaluate system and network requirements. They also plan, coordinate, and implement network security measures, as well as implement Virtual Private Networks (VPN) and deploy emerging technologies such as Voice over IP (VoIP) business communication systems.

**PC Support and Administration**

In Cincinnati State’s PC Support and Administration program, students learn to install, set up, troubleshoot, and maintain hardware and software for microcomputers. Coursework subjects include operating systems, data communications, networking, and support center management. Computer support specialists provide technical assistance, support, and advice to customers and users. They may work as Help Desk Techs, Level I Technician, or PC Support.

**Software Engineering Technology**

The Software Engineering Technology program focuses on the design, development, implementation, and maintenance of software used in industry. Along with core math and science classes, the curriculum covers computer operating systems and software development using various programming languages. The Software Engineering Technology degree program develops skilled computer programmers and systems integrators involved in internet programming, database design, such as SQL and Oracle, programming using Visual C++ and Visual BASIC, working with microprocessor systems and utilizing digital logic.

**Consumer Products**

**Associate of Arts**

Students in the Associate of Arts degree can pre-major in Communications, International Affairs, Psychology or other areas to prepare for employment in consumer products. Students participate co-op and prepare for baccalaureate-level degree programs.

**Industrial Design**

The Industrial Design Technology program at Cincinnati State combines the analytical and technical computer skills developed in a mechanical program with the visual and artistic skills from a computer graphics program. The IDT program deals with the form and function of manufactured goods. Co-op students may do CAD work or experience the task of a Junior Industrial Designer.

**Marketing**

The Marketing Management curriculum develops a student’s capability to bring to the marketplace products and services that solve people’s problems and make them feel good. Students gain co-op experience in market research, market planning, new product and service development, customer behavior, branding, logistics, personal selling and sales management, direct marketing, retailing, advertising, promotion, public relations, pricing, distribution, and many other areas of marketing.
Congratulations on your Co-op/Internship placement! I hope you take the opportunity to gain as much knowledge and experience possible for this semester.

Below is a list of the requirements for completing the semester. Please contact your co-op coordinator by phone or email at least twice during the semester to let them know how your co-op/Internship is going. Contact your co-op coordinator during the third week of the semester to schedule a site visit during which the coordinator will get a chance to meet your supervisor and see you in action. Contact us immediately if you have any questions, problems or concerns during your co-op/Internship.

**Step 1:** Students must register for their Co-op/Internship. The choices are:
- HUM 191 or HUM 192 = Part time Co-op-1 credit, (paid, 15-20 hours per week)
- HUM 291 or 292 = Full time Co-op-2 credits, (paid, 30+ hours per week)
- HUM 294 = Part time Internship-2 credits, (unpaid, 200 hours per semester)

**Step 2:** Students will complete and submit the following forms the second week of the semester:
- Co-op/Internship Agreement
- Co-op/Internship Learning Contract (should be completed with your supervisor)

**Step 3:** Students will submit the following forms and assignments during the last full week of the semester:
- Student journal and summary
- Assessment by Employer
- Assessment by Student
- Career Exploration Assignment

Have a wonderful semester!

Jayne Martin Dressing, Co-op/Internship Coordinator
(513) 569-4778 (direct)
(513) 569-4686 (fax)
jayne.dressing@cincinnatistate.edu

Susan Munn, Co-op/Internship Coordinator
(513) 569-4990 (direct)
(513) 569-4686 (fax)
susan.munn@cincinnatistate.edu
Cooperative Education Information Form
and Learning Contract

Please Print

Student Name: ________________________________
Major(s): ____________________________________
Major: ________________________________ Student ID #: ________________________________
Cell Phone #: ________________________________ E-mail: ________________________________
Student's Position Title: ________________________________
Pay Rate: ________________________________ Full Time □ Part Time □
Hours: ________________________________ Semester: Fall □ Spring □ Summer □
Company Name: ________________________________
Supervisor: ________________________________ Title: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________ E-mail: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City, State and Zip: ________________________________

Cooperative Education is based on learning from experience. This Learning Contract represents a joint effort between the student, the co-op supervisor, and the co-op coordinator to document what and how the student will learn from this work experience.

I. Learning Outcome: (what the student plans to learn)
   To utilize oral and written skills to communicate as individuals and to function effectively as a team member.

   Activities to accomplish the objectives:
   Suggestions: participation in department or client meetings, keeping documentation, use of technology, follow instructions and provide written feedback, journaling, networking opportunities, customer interaction

   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

   Continued on other side >
Co-op/Internship Assessment by Employer

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Date: __________________

Coordinator: ___________________________ Program: __________________

Company Name: ___________________________

Company Address: ___________________________

Supervisor: ___________________________ Title: __________________

Email: __________________

Student’s Title/Duties: ___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance, Punctuality, Personal Appearance</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reports to work when scheduled</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Arranges for lateness or time off in advance</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is appropriately dressed</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge of Job</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grasps instructions quickly</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Demonstrates appropriate technical knowledge</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Desires to increase knowledge of job</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Is willing to ask questions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality of Work</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Produces work that is accurate and neat</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Shows thoroughness in work</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Produces the expected volume of work</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Is efficient in use of time</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Demonstrates ability to set priorities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shows initiative</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Is enthusiastic about work</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is willing to work with and for others</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Accepts suggestions/criticism during coaching</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Asks for additional work when tasks are complete</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judgment, Reliability, Adaptability</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Is able to think independently</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Makes good decisions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is able to work under pressure</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Meets deadlines</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Is adaptable to changes in the work environment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Co-op/Internship Assessment by Student

Name: ___________________________ Major: ___________________________

Company Name: ________________________ Term: ___________________________

This questionnaire has been developed to help us assess the learning and personal growth you experienced on your most recent co-op/ internship assignment. Please consider each of the following statements and indicate how helpful your position was in expanding your knowledge and experience.

性别: M ☐ F ☐ 学期: Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Extremely Helpful</th>
<th>Very Helpful</th>
<th>Generally Helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat Helpful</th>
<th>Not Helpful</th>
<th>Not At all Helpful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Opportunity for learning.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Realizing my own strengths and weaknesses.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Gaining practical experience related to my degree program.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Developing professional and technical skills.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Gaining self-confidence and assuming responsibility.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Learning how to work with supervisors.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Learning how to work effectively with colleagues and teams.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Developing my ability to communicate orally.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Developing my ability to communicate in writing.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Learning about leadership.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Developing my ability to work with people from diverse age groups, racial and cultural backgrounds.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Practicing ethical behavior.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Learning about my area of specialization.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Learning about technology related to my field of study.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Understanding business systems.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Learning how to acquire, organize and interpret information.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Developing my ability to evaluate other people’s point of view in reaching my own conclusions.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Practicing troubleshooting, problem solving and decision-making.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Learning how to manage resources such as time, money, materials and people.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Learning how to assess and exceed internal and/or external customer expectations.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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MIDDLETOWN — A few years ago, former State Sen. Gary Cates told Cincinnati State officials that if they wanted to be a “player” in the eyes of the state legislature, they needed to open a downtown Middletown campus.

At the grand opening celebration Wednesday morning for Cincinnati State Middletown — which opened for classes Aug. 29 — Cincinnati State Technical & Community College President Dr. O’dell Owens told a crowd of a few hundred, “Today, we’re a player.”

“We’re here. Yes,” Cincinnati State Board of Trustees Chairwoman Cathy Crain said with a slight fist pump to the crowded lobby at Cincinnati State Middletown.

She said the celebration Wednesday recognized what the campus means to Middletown, but she said the campus is strategically important to the college.

“Our research shows that there is a significant demand for the programming we offer,” Crain said. “In other words, Middletown will help us grow.”

And Owens said it’s already has an impact. He said only two higher education institutions in the state have showed growth: Ohio University and Cincinnati State.

The campus, Crain said, helps the school tap into the northern Cincinnati and southern Dayton markets.

“Middletown gives us a basis for an eventual expansion of our wonderful nursing programs and other health care offerings,” Crain said. “Certainly that’s important for our growth and Middletown’s.

“Until the campus opened last month, Butler County was the largest county in Ohio to not have a community college, according to Cates, who is now the Ohio Board of Regents Senior Vice Chancellor.

“This is the eighth largest county in the state of Ohio, 365,000 people, and we’re continuing grow, and for a long time we’ve had our higher education assets underutilized, under appreciated and unnoticed,” he said.

But with Miami University in Oxford and its branch campuses in Middletown, Hamilton and West Chester Twp., and the career tech center at Butler Tech, Cincinnati State can fill the “missing piece of the puzzle.”

Anyone who needs a GED to a Ph.D. does not have to go outside the county’s borders to get it,” Cates said. “Whatever you need, we have it.”

Cincinnati State and Middletown both took risks in committing to the project, school and city officials said.

Cincinnati State’s board of trustees told Owens he could open a branch campus in Middletown, but allowed him to spend none of the college’s capital dollars and to have it open in six months.

The city purchased multiple buildings downtown before Cincinnati State officials decided on the plan in Middletown.

And after years of planning, negotiating and waiting, two contracts were signed in April to consummate the deal that would give Middletown the county’s first community college. In early April, Middletown sold the building at 1 N. Main St. and donated the former senior center to Boston-based Higher Education Partners for $202,000. Then a week later, and after months of review by the Ohio Attorney General, the contract was signed between Cincinnati State and Higher Education Partners, the project’s developer and financier.

The school has brought in hundreds of students, people that normally wouldn’t have a reason to be in downtown Middletown. And school officials have said in five years they believe the downtown campus could have thousands of students.