

## **Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program**

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program will support undergraduate and/or graduate education for Ohio residents in STEM fields, medicine, and STEM education. The scholarship program was funded at the level of \$100 million (\$50 million per year of the biennium) by House Bill 119 with broad political support from the legislature, the Governor, and the Chancellor. This program aims to strengthen significantly the ability of the state and its citizens to compete in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as in medical fields and STEM education.

The program is open to both public and private institutions. Individual colleges and universities may receive up to \$10 million per institutional award to be used strictly to fund individual tuition scholarships to Ohio students in the range of \$1500 to \$4700 per year to each student. Scholarship recipients must be residents of Ohio. Partnerships between institutions are highly encouraged in the development of proposals for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. AI: 1 match is required so that each dollar of state support must be matched locally by a dollar. The match may include scholarships, funds spent for STEM related programs, and even capital investments in the STEM areas.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Source: *Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Fiscal Year 2008 Request for Proposals (RFP)* issued on September 26, 2007 by the Ohio Board of Regents

**Office of the  
President**

940 Second Street  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662  
740.351.3208  
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**Shawnee State University**

November 5, 2007

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor  
Ohio Board of Regents  
30 East Broad Street - 36<sup>th</sup> floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Attention: Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

Dear Chancellor Fingerhut:

The following letter of interest represents a collaborative proposal for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program from south central Ohio. The collaborating partner institutions are confident that this plan will serve the students in the region as well as the state of Ohio in promoting higher education in science, technology, engineering technology, mathematics, medicine, and the STEM related teaching areas.

We look forward to your positive response and eagerly await the development of the full proposal.

Sincerely,



Rita Rice Morris  
President

**Choose Ohio First Scholarship Proposal to Meet the STEM Education Needs of South  
Central Ohio**

Lead Institution: Shawnee State

Partner Institutions and Organization:

Shawnee State University, in partnership with Rio Grande Community College, Southern State Community College, and Washington State Community College proposes a Choose Ohio First Scholarship program that will serve the needs of the south central Ohio region of Ohio by awarding COF scholarships to students entering or transferring to programs in science, computer technology, engineering technology, mathematics, medicine and STEM education. Shawnee State will work with the Registrars, Financial Aid Officers, and

Bursars at all the participating institutions to assure that Choose Ohio First is identified as the scholarship funding source on each student's financial aid summary.

Focus of Proposal:

Students in southern Ohio are often place bound and have a vision of their future limited by their experiences, families that do not place high importance on post-secondary education, and a regional culture that does not value education. This limited vision results in students seeing high school graduation or the completion of an associate's degree as the end of their educational journey. This proposal aims to broaden the vision of the area's young people by providing additional opportunities immediately following high school and at the end of an associate degree program to continue their education in the areas of science, technology, engineering technology, mathematics, medicine and STEM related teaching. Transfer from two year institutions and programs after the completion of an associate degree will be facilitated by this proposal. Shawnee State University and its partner community colleges have identified a number of associate degree programs that can lead to four year degrees at Shawnee State. These include:

- Registered Nurse associate degrees entering a BSN completion program
- Associate degrees in engineering and industrial technology entering programs in plastics and environmental engineering technology
- Associate degree programs in computer technology entering a computer science engineering technology program
- Associate degree programs in digital and simulation technology entering a digital simulation and gaming engineering technology program
- Associate of science degrees entering STEM discipline teacher preparation
- Associate of science degrees entering a premedical education program

This southern Ohio collaboration will serve the dual needs of educational access for the region's young people who are often first generation college attendees and assist the economic development of the region by preparing a STEM skilled work force, especially in the allied medical fields, computer and engineering technology, and STEM teaching fields. The southern Ohio Appalachian region of Ohio has an even lower percentage of the adult population with bachelor's degrees (10%) than the larger Appalachian Region. As workforce needs change, it is critical that the region increase the educational level of its citizens to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. Our goal is to increase the college going rate and percentage of graduates in the region.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Percent Completed HS</b>	<b>Percent Completed College</b>
United States	80.4	24.4
Ohio	83.0	21.1
Ohio Appalachian Counties	78.2	12.3
Southern Ohio Appalachian Counties	75.3	10.4

Another significant goal of this proposal is to assist students in the transitions from high school to community colleges to four-year degree programs to professional education. With

scholarships that move with the student from one institution to another in the region, transfer from one campus to another will be facilitated and the incentive to develop clear articulation paths will be enhanced. The three community colleges in this proposal have specific associate degree programs that articulate well with baccalaureate programs at Shawnee State University. Of particular need in the region are high technology skills like the Associate Degree in Simulation and Game Technology at Washington State Community College which transitions nicely into the Digital Simulation and Gaming Engineering Technology Bachelor of Science at Shawnee State. Another example is the associate degree Registered Nurse program at all three community colleges and Shawnee that naturally transitions to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at SSU. A third specific example is the need for STEM teachers in the region and the associate of science degrees at all three community colleges that articulate well into the teacher preparation and licensure programs at Shawnee in the STEM areas.

Number of Scholarships:

Scholarships will be available to a selected number of entering freshman at all institutions. The design of this proposal will encourage and facilitate the movement from the community colleges to Shawnee State as students complete associate degrees. Two scholarships will be available to STEM students pursuing professional education in the Occupational Therapy program at Shawnee State. The distribution of scholarships for the first year of this proposal will be:

Associate Degree and Entering Freshman	Upper Division and Transfer Students	Graduate and Professional
<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>	2

The maximum rate of \$4700 per scholarship will be awarded to each student making the total amount of this proposal \$ 573,400.

Student Recruitment and Selection:

Each institution will utilize its existing recruitment and selection processes for the scholarships they award. All institutions will be encouraged to undertake special efforts to recruit first-generation, high-need, and/or underrepresented/underserved students for the COF Scholarships. Each institution will decide the number of Choose Ohio First Scholarships to award to different STEM departments and programs. All four institutional partners in this proposal will work closely with high schools in the southern Ohio region to recruit students for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship.

Mentoring and Internships:

The partner institutions in this proposal have many mentoring and internship opportunities for students in the STEM discipline programs. This is particularly true in teacher preparation, the allied health and medicine fields, and engineering and computer technology. Mentoring from faculty is also a particular strength through undergraduate research and graduate and professional programs. Each institution in this partnership will expand and enhance existing mentoring and internship opportunities and seek out new

opportunities with area businesses, industry, and the health-care sector. Area hospitals and health-care related industries will be partners across the region. The p-12 education community will also be active partners in recruiting and mentoring in STEM education.

#### Scholarship Match:

The required 1: 1 match of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship program will be met in this proposal by contributions from each partner including restructuring of scholarship programs to enhance recruitment and retention of STEM students; investments in STEM disciplines such as new programs and faculty hires; construction and renovation of STEM teaching and research space; STEM related education funding from other sources such as foundation support, support from local business and community partners, and grants from other government agencies.

#### Anticipated Educational Impact:

The partners in this grant will award subsequent scholarships to individual Choose Ohio First Scholars based on timely progress toward the degree and persistence in the STEM area. It is expected that the design of this proposal will greatly facilitate the progression of students from two-year institutions and regional campuses to universities to continue their studies in the STEM disciplines. The ability to "carry" their scholarship with them to the next level will be a great incentive for associate degree completers to move to the next level and for baccalaureate students to move on to graduate and professional school in the STEM areas.

Cost of attendance and lack of financial support is often cited as a reason for leaving the colleges and universities in the southern Ohio region. The Choose Ohio First Scholars will have a significant financial incentive to stay in school and persist toward degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine or STEM education.

#### Project Management:

The fiscal and reporting management of this project will be coordinated by the Financial Aid Office at Shawnee State University. Each participating institution will report at the end of each term on the number of hours completed, progress toward degree, and gpa of COFS award recipients.

Additional coordination of policy and processes related to this proposal will be done in a collaborative structure composed of representatives appointed by each institution's president. The Shawnee State representative will chair this group.

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Board of Regents  
30 East Broad Street - 36<sup>th</sup> floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Attention: Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

Dear Chancellor Fingerhut:

The following letter of interest represents a collaborative proposal for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program from the Appalachian region of Ohio. The collaborating partner institutions are confident that this plan will serve the students in the region as well the state of Ohio in promoting higher education in science, technology, engineering/engineering technology, mathematics, medicine, and the STEM related teaching areas.

We look forward to your positive response and eagerly await the development of the full proposal.

Sincerely,



Rita Rice Morris  
President

### **Choose Ohio First Scholarship Proposal Serving Appalachia**

Lead Institution: Shawnee State

Partner Institutions and Organization:

Shawnee State University, in partnership with the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education (OACHE), Ohio University and its regional campuses, Belmont Technical College, Hocking College, Jefferson Community College, the regional campuses of Kent

State University at East Liverpool, Salem and Tuscarawas, Rio Grande Community College, the University of Rio Grande, Southern State Community College,

Washington State Community College, and Zane State College proposes a Choose Ohio First Scholarship program that will serve the Appalachian region of Ohio by awarding COF scholarships to students entering college or transferring to programs at another institution in science, technology, engineering, engineering technology, mathematics, and medicine. Shawnee State and OACHE will work with the Registrars, Financial Aid Officers, and Bursars at all the participating institutions to assure that Choose Ohio First is identified as the scholarship funding source on each student's financial aid summary.

#### Focus of Proposal:

This region-wide collaboration will serve the dual needs of educational access for the region's young people who are often first-generation college attendees and assist the economic development of the region by preparing a STEM skilled work force. Currently the Appalachian region of Ohio has the lowest college attendance rate for high school graduates (30%) and the lowest percentage of the adult population with bachelor's degrees (12%) in the state. As workforce needs change, it is critical that the region increase the educational level of its citizens to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. Our goal is to increase the college-going rate and percentage of graduates in the region.

Another significant goal of this proposal is to assist students in the transitions from high school to college to graduate/professional school programs. With scholarships that move with the student from one institution to another in the region, transfer from one campus to another will be facilitated and the incentive to develop clear articulation paths will be enhanced. Many institutions in the region provide special assistance for first-generation college students through bridge programs in the summer, special advising and support such as the TRIO programs, faculty and fellow student mentoring efforts, and centers for student success. These resources and services to emphasize and promote retention will be deployed across the region to assure the success of the Choose Ohio First Scholars. Of particular importance to the success of this proposal is the role of OACHE in promoting higher education in the region and securing region-wide collaboration among the higher education partners and larger community.

#### Number of Scholarships:

Scholarships will be available to a selected number of entering freshman at all institutions. The design of this proposal will encourage and facilitate the movement from one institution to another in the region as students complete associate degrees at the community college level. Students at the associate degree level will be encouraged to move on to a university for a bachelor's degree as their Choose Ohio First Scholarship follows them to Ohio University, the University of Rio Grande, or Shawnee State University. A smaller number of scholarships will be available to STEM students pursuing graduate or professional education at the partner universities. The distribution of scholarships for the first year of this proposal will be:

Associate Degree and Entering Freshman	Upper Division and Transfer Students	Graduate and Professional Students
<b>320</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>35</b>

The maximum rate of \$4700 per scholarship will be awarded to each student making the total amount of this proposal \$2,538,000.

Student Recruitment and Selection:

Each institution will utilize its existing recruitment and selection processes for the scholarships they award. All institutions will be encouraged to undertake special efforts to recruit first-generation, high-need, and/or underrepresented/underserved students for the COF Scholarships. The institution will decide the number of Choose Ohio First Scholarships to award to different STEM departments and programs. In addition, the region-wide nature of this program allows the collaboration with entities such as OACHE, the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools (CORAS) at Ohio University, the Southeastern Ohio Center for Education in Mathematics and Science (SEOCEMS), and the regional Department of Education infrastructure (regions 9,12, 14, 15, and 16) to advertise and market the program. Brenda Haas, the Executive Director of OACHE, has volunteered her organization and extensive network to lead and coordinate an Appalachian Region Choose Ohio First recruitment effort in the STEM disciplines. At the graduate and professional degree level, there will be a two-fold recruitment strategy. 1) the three institutions with graduate STEM programs will assist baccalaureate graduates with the transition to graduate/professional school with scholarships funded from this proposal. 2) Ohio residents who went out-of-state for their undergraduate preparation will be recruited back to Ohio.

Mentoring and Internships:

The partner institutions in this proposal have many mentoring and internship opportunities for students in the STEM discipline programs. This is particularly true in teacher preparation, the allied health and medicine fields, and engineering/engineering technology. Mentoring from faculty is also a particular strength through undergraduate research and graduate and professional programs. OACHE brings experience in mentoring and internship programs because of their participation in High Schools That Work and Tech Prep throughout the Appalachian region. Each institution in this partnership will expand and enhance existing mentoring and internship opportunities and seek out new opportunities with area businesses, industry, and the health-care sector. Area hospitals and health-care related industries will be partners across the region. The p-12 education community will also be active partners in recruiting and mentoring in STEM education. Internships and mentoring of the COF Scholars will be tracked through the development of an intern matrix that all the partner institutions will contribute to as a result of their participation in the Appalachian Choose Ohio First Scholarship program.

Scholarship Match:

The required 1: 1 match of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship program will be met by each institution individually in accordance with the number of students it enrolls under the proposal. Should an institution fail to fulfill its cost-share obligations it will not become the responsibility of the other partners to increase their share of the required match.

Each partner will choose how it meets the match. Some possibilities include, but are not limited to, restructuring of scholarship programs to enhance STEM recruitment and retention of students; investments in STEM disciplines such as new programs and faculty hires; construction and renovation of STEM teaching and research space; STEM related education funding from other sources such as foundation support, the National Science Foundation grants, and the Ohio Department of Education.

Anticipated Educational Impact:

The partners in this grant will award continuing scholarships to individual Choose Ohio First Scholars based on timely progress toward the degree and persistence in the STEM area. It is expected that the design of this proposal will greatly facilitate the recruitment, persistence and progression of students from two-year institutions and regional campuses to universities to continue their studies in the STEM disciplines. The ability to "carry" their scholarship with them to the next level will be a great incentive for associate degree completers to move to the next level and for baccalaureate students to move on to graduate and professional school in the STEM areas.

Cost of attendance and lack of financial support is often cited as a reason for leaving the colleges and universities in the Appalachian region. The Choose Ohio First Scholars will have a significant financial incentive to stay in school and persist toward degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine or STEM education. Special attention will be given to the Choose Ohio First Scholars at each institution to provide support services that enhance retention and graduation.

Project Management:

The fiscal and reporting management of this project will be coordinated by the Financial Aid Office at Shawnee State University. Each participating institution will report at the end of each term on the number of hours completed, progress toward degree, and grade point average of COFS award recipients.

Additional coordination of policy and processes related to this proposal will be done in a collaborative structure managed by OACHE and composed of representatives appointed by each institution's president. The Shawnee State representative will chair this group.