



Office of the President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John W. Garland

February 4, 2011

We begin 2011 on a positive note. We have met our target enrollment goal for spring semester. Our headcount goal was 2,220, and there are currently 2,235 registered for classes at Central State's main and Dayton campuses. This represents an overall return rate for all undergraduate students of 85 percent, about the same as last year's rate.

We are particularly pleased with the fall-to-spring return rate for new, first-time freshmen. It increased from 75.2 percent in Spring 2010 to 82.6 percent this term. This increase reflects our recent efforts to improve our retention rate, a goal that will remain a top priority in the years to come.

We are also pleased by the continuing increase in our transfer student enrollment, which has grown by 18 percent over last spring's enrollment. The combined fall and spring enrollment of transfer students has increased by 26 percent over that of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Contributing significantly to the increase is Sinclair Community College, one of our Speed to Scale partners. Sinclair was our top provider of transfer students last fall, with 34 students from that institution enrolling in Central State. Speed to Scale partners Cuyahoga Community College and the University of Cincinnati were also among the top five providers of transfer students, as were Columbus State Community College and Wright State University. We expect to see a continuing increase in our transfer student enrollment as we build on the strong partnerships we have established with our sister institutions and other organizations in Ohio and elsewhere.

Another promising trend for Central State is the growth in enrollment at the Dayton Campus. There are 351 students registered this term at CSU-Dayton, a 22 percent increase over the Spring 2010 enrollment. Increased visibility and outreach as well as an increase in course offerings, including daytime courses, have all contributed to the growth. Our enrollment goal for the Dayton Campus is 1,000 students. Achieving that goal is a key part of our overall growth strategy for Central State University.

Budget

By meeting our spring term enrollment goals along with implementing the furlough and holiday closure, we are well on our way to successfully addressing the budget shortfall. To end the year with a balanced budget, we must also meet the targets we set for increasing summer term enrollment as well as external funding. I am confident in our ability to achieve our goals and maintain the good financial standing we have enjoyed over the last decade.

That is not to say that our financial challenges will be over. Deep cuts in state funding for higher education over the next biennium are highly likely. Thus, we have begun to look at ways to respond to what could be a sharp decrease in our state funding. With this in mind, we met in December with Trustees Feldman, Watkins, and Dowdell to brainstorm about ways to ensure CSU's future growth. We are also working out scenarios for how we would deal with significant reductions in state support.

Funding formula

With the change in administration in Columbus, our discussions with state officials from the Ohio Board of Regents about a possible revision of the funding formula have come to an apparent standstill. We are still interested in pursuing a change in the formula that recognizes not only Central State's small size but also the high proportion of at-risk students we serve, and we will continue our efforts toward that end.

At the same time, we must be relentless in our efforts to improve Central State's course completion, retention and graduation rates, and to increase enrollment. All have a direct bearing on the amount of state funding we receive and, ultimately, on our continued ability to attract and retain students.

Capital projects

Construction of the new residence halls is proceeding on schedule. However, we have withdrawn a proposal to borrow funds for this project and three others through the federally funded Rice Capital HBCU Financing Program because of concerns about the impact it would have on our debt ratio. The decision to withdraw the proposal will not affect construction of the residence halls. The developer will continue to finance the project until Central State is able to secure the funds to assume responsibility for the financing. We are exploring the feasibility of submitting a revised proposal that includes fewer projects.

Funding to complete construction of the University Center continues to be on hold pending a decision on a state capital bill. Moreover, we have been informed that the state budget office has raised questions about the state's obligation to fully fund the University Center. We are in discussion about this with state leaders and are also exploring other avenues for funding.

TEDA agreement

As you may remember, we hosted a visit in November by a delegation from TEDA Polytechnic, a three-year technical college near Tianjin, China. It was a fruitful visit that furthered the partnership we established earlier in 2010, during a trip to China to explore partnerships with Chinese institutions of higher education. The November agreement paves the way for TEDA Polytechnic students to transfer to and earn a baccalaureate degree from Central State. We expect the first group of students from TEDA to enroll here in Fall 2011.

The TEDA partnership is the first of many we intend to establish as part of the new Center for Global Education, which is under development and should be operational this year. The program will open up opportunities for educational exchanges between CSU and institutions of higher education not only in China but also in other countries.

Master plan

You will hear a presentation during the board meeting by the Edge Group, the firm that was chosen to update CSU's Master Plan. The process is nearing completion, and the draft you will see represents the collective vision of all those involved. The master planners provided several opportunities for members of the campus community to participate in articulating a vision for Central State: who we are, what we do, how we should grow, and what our campus should look like. These meetings provided the framework for the draft plan you will hear about today. It has been exciting to participate in a process that has encouraged us to dream of what we want to be and to develop a roadmap for getting there.

Charter Day

Central State will commemorate 124 years of excellence in higher education at our annual Charter Day celebration on March 1. Among the activities being planned is an evening performance on campus by our partner at the Dayton Campus, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. I urge the board to participate fully in this annual celebration of our founding.

External Relationships

The Central State Dayton Campus hosted a meeting in January that brought together community leaders to discuss the growing gaps in the Dayton area social services network. The meeting resulted in formation of a working group charged with developing an action plan for addressing unmet needs in the social services arena. The Dayton Campus also hosted a well-attended community forum on closing the achievement gap, an issue of national as well as local concern. These kinds of activities have enhanced the visibility of Central State's Dayton Campus and have helped position CSU-Dayton as not only a center of educational opportunity but also a center for community engagement.

I continue to serve on the Board of Visitors of the Marine Corps University and was recently elected as Board Secretary.

I have been informed that the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) has nominated me to serve on the Board of Directors for the American Council of Education (ACE). My three-year term is scheduled to be confirmed at the March 7, 2011, annual meeting.

External Activities

- Meeting with Xenia Township trustees to discuss possible partnership to establish a 6119 water district, Central State University, Nov. 2
- Meeting with Dr. Benjamin Schuster, Dayton, Nov. 3
- Dayton Literary Peace Prize dinner and award ceremony, Dayton, Nov. 7
- Visit by delegation from TEDA Polytechnic Institute, Central State campus, Nov. 9-10
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) annual meeting, Charleston, S.C., Nov. 20-23
- Meeting with OBR staff to discuss capital funding request, CSU, Nov. 30
- Cabinet retreat, Aileron, Dec. 2-3
- Sustaining Philanthropist Society, Audrey Norman Turner scholarship fundraising reception, Dayton, Dec. 5
- Visit to Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine to discuss possible articulation agreement, Rootstown, OH, Dec. 6
- Phone conversation with Karen Tamburro, Office for Civil Rights, Chicago, Dec. 7
- Open House, CSU-Dayton campus, Dec. 8
- Dayton Development Coalition board meeting, University of Dayton, Dec. 9
- Dreamkeepers Scholarship fundraising reception, Chicago, Dec. 11
- SOCHE Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting, Dayton, Dec. 15
- Miami Valley Research Park quarterly board of trustees meeting, Kettering, Dec. 15
- Dreamkeepers Scholarship fundraising reception, New York, New York, Dec. 18
- Meeting with Russlyn Ali, OCR, Washington, D.C., Dec. 20
- Holiday reception, Washington, D.C., Dec. 27

- Community dialogue on addressing unmet needs in Dayton area social service network, CSU-Dayton, Jan. 5
- Reception for Speaker of the House Rep. John Boehner, Dayton, Jan. 7
- Kasich inaugural events-IUC reception, Columbus, Jan. 10
- Meeting with former Sen. Ray Miller, Columbus, Jan. 11
- SOCHE Board of Trustees meeting, Sinclair Community College, Jan. 12
- Interview with the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* editorial board, Cleveland, Jan. 13
- Interview with WEWS TV 5, Cleveland, Jan. 14
- Interview with the *Call and Post* newspaper, Cleveland, Jan. 14
- Keynote speaker for Martin Luther King Day celebration sponsored by Dayton Christian Ministers Association, Dayton, Jan. 17
- CSU Institute of Urban Education annual conference, CSU, Jan. 19