



Office of the President

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOHN W. GARLAND
February 6, 2009**

Every new year begins with the promise of renewal, and that is especially true this year with the great changes that have taken place in this country. Our task now is to work hard to help ensure that the promise of change translates into increased support for higher education and those we serve.

Enrollment

Our enrollment for the spring term is up by about 6 percent over that of Spring 2008. The official count is not yet in, but it is now to 2,064 students, up from last spring term's enrollment of 1,944. The ailing national economy has undoubtedly affected our enrollment growth. Though people tend to enroll in school in tough economic times, this does not necessarily apply to students from low-income families, who find the cost of a university education daunting in the best of times.

Nevertheless, our overall persistence rate this term, 84 percent, is about the same as it was last year at this time. However, we saw slight declines in the return rate for new, first-time freshmen and transfer students who started last fall. Our goal is an overall return rate of 90 percent. To achieve that, we will need to be more aggressive about advising students, monitoring their progress, and providing academic support where needed. This is critical, particularly for first-generation college students and those who are underprepared for college work. Strengthening our academic programs must also remain a priority if we are to continue attracting and retaining students.

Personnel

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Anne Steiner has joined the Office of the President as my interim executive assistant until a permanent replacement for Cheryl Marcus is found. Dr. Steiner brings a wealth of experience to the position and a demonstrated commitment to Central State University. She retired from CSU in 2005, after 28 years of exemplary service to the University. She began her career here as a professor of English, and also served during her tenure here in various leadership roles, including chair of the Department of Humanities, director of the Honors Program and associate vice president for Academic Affairs. Dr. Steiner received a bachelor's degree from Alabama State University, a master's from Atlanta University, and a doctorate from Miami University of Ohio.

OCR monitoring

You have received in your packet a summary of recent findings by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) regarding implementation of the 1998 agreement between the State of Ohio and OCR. A representative of OCR visited the CSU campus in early December to assess the state's progress on implementing the agreement. OCR also requested relevant information from the state. In short, OCR was pleased with the progress CSU has made over the last 10 years. "Central State University today is a far stronger and more attractive institution that it was over ten years ago at the time of the 1998 Agreement," said OCR chief Stephanie J. Monroe in the follow-up letter to Gov. Strickland. The letter credits the CSU leadership and the State of Ohio for this progress and cites the State's support for Speed to Scale as a demonstration of "the State's ongoing commitment to Central State as a viable and fully contributing member of the State's public university system."

OCR determined that the State had complied with many of the requirements set forth in the 1998 agreement, but also noted that there were some that had not yet been met. OCR said it would continue to monitor the state's compliance with these requirements. They include funding for the third year of Speed to Scale as well as "appropriate instructional subsidy and supplemental funding." Of particular note is OCR's expectation that the "State would continue to provide operational funding, including instructional subsidy finding and any necessary supplemental funding, to support CSU's mission," even if Speed to Scale enrollment goals are not met. Other requirements that will continue under OCR's scrutiny include capital funding for phase II of the Center for Education and Natural Sciences and the student center; support for program accreditation; and improvements in the library facilities, collections, staffing, and services.

State budget constraints

The State of Ohio under Gov. Strickland has demonstrated a commitment to higher education in general and to Central State in particular. But the state is facing a \$640 million shortfall in the current budget and a projected deficit of \$7.3 billion in the next two-year budget, which must be approved this year. We saw funding reductions last year, and it is likely that we will see some significant cuts in the higher education budget in the next biennium. The governor met last month with presidents in the University System of Ohio and instructed us to find ways to reduce costs by partnering with one another and sharing resources. We have already begun discussions about this with Shawnee State University and will pursue other resource-sharing opportunities as well.

Stimulus requests

College and university presidents were also asked to draw up a list of "shovel ready" projects that could benefit from funding through the stimulus package now being considered by Congress. The package includes \$7 billion for higher education capital projects. Institutions with large numbers of minority students are among those that would receive preference for funding through this legislation. Last week I met in Washington,

D.C. with several Ohio legislators and received support for some of the projects we had proposed for funding through the stimulus package. They include rehabilitation and renovation of Emery Hall and the Colonel Charles Young House as well as the U.S. 42/35 improvement project.

Central State may have another advocate in Congress besides those in the Ohio delegation. In December, U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn, the majority whip, visited Central State as well as Wilberforce University. His visit was arranged by outgoing Congressman Dave Hobson, who was a good friend of CSU. Mr. Hobson's purpose in arranging the visit was to introduce Rep. Clyburn to Central State with the hope that he would continue Hobson's legacy of support for this institution.

Outreach activities

In addition to the meetings already mentioned, I have been involved with the following outreach activities:

- Meeting with Joe Zeis, Dayton Development Coalition, and Robbie Robinson, ATK, about possibility of a joint proposal to AFRL, Nov. 7
- Dayton Urban League Gala, Nov. 7
- Reception in honor of Dr. Jean Hurst, Springfield, Nov. 11
- Retirement celebration for Dave Hobson, Springfield, Nov. 14
- USMC Board of Visitors meeting, Quantico, VA, Nov. 15
- Lunch with Dr. Sidney Ribeau, president of Howard University, Washington, D.C., Nov. 18
- Dayton Region Supply Chain Diversity Roundtable, Dayton, Nov. 19
- Fifth Third Bank (Western Ohio) Executive Committee Meeting, Dayton, Nov. 19
- AASCU 2008 Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, VA, Nov. 22-25
- Advisory board meeting for the Center for Allaying Health Disparities through Research and Education (CADRE), CSU, Dec. 1-2
- Surprise party for Joyce Beatty, past minority whip, Columbus, Dec. 2
- Title III external evaluation, CSU, Dec. 3-4
- Meeting of University presidents with Gov. Strickland, Columbus, Dec. 4
- Meeting of University presidents with Chancellor Fingerhut, Columbus, Dec. 4
- Meetings with alumni, Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA, Dec. 6-7
- OCR monitoring visit to CSU, Dec. 9
- Dinner with Chinese faculty, Robinson House, Dec. 9

- Annual AAUP Thanksgiving luncheon, Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Dec. 11
- Reception for Governor Strickland, home of Richard Lapedes/Maureen Lynch, Yellow Springs, Dec. 13
- Cabinet retreat, Columbus, Dec. 15-16
- Campus visit by U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, Dec. 17-18
- Meeting with Bill Pardue regarding agreement with NextEdge Research Park, Dec. 19
- President's reception in Washington, D.C., Dec. 29
- Entrepreneurial Development Advisory Board, Dayton, Jan. 7
- Meeting with Rita Morris, Shawnee State University President, Dec. 12
- NCAA Convention, Washington, D.C., Jan. 14-18
- Meeting with Congressman Steve Austria, Washington, D.C., Jan. 15
- Meeting with Senator George Voinovich, Washington, D.C., Jan. 15
- Ohio celebration welcome party, Washington, D.C., Jan. 17
- HBCU Presidential Inaugural Ball Co-Sponsored by NAFEO-UNCF and TMCF, Washington, D.C., Jan. 19
- Meeting with U.S. Rep. Marcia Fudge, Washington, D.C., Jan. 21
- Meeting with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Washington, D.C., Jan. 21
- Welcome remarks for annual Martin Luther King oratorical contest, Dayton, Jan. 23