



NEWS RELEASE

Central State University
College Of Engineering, Science, Technology, And Agriculture
937-376-6677
Centralstate.Edu

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Lena Fields-Arnold
December 10, 2020

(937) 376-6677

Central State University Extension Partners with Hocking College, Stark State College, and Edison State Community College

WILBERFORCE, OH—Presidents from Central State University, Hocking College, Edison State Community College, and Stark State College signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will further advance the mission of Central State University Extension to implement extension outreach and research-based programs in each college’s community.

A key component of the agreement allows Central State Extension to house Regional Coordinators at each campus. Regional coordinators will work with each college president as well as key community stakeholders to design and implement programs based on community need as well as current research.

According to Dr. Subramania I. Sritharan, Interim Dean, College of Engineering, Science, Technology, and Agriculture and Interim Director, Land-Grant Programs, Central State University became a Land-Grant Institution in 2014. The designation enables Central State to establish and develop Research and Extension programs which focus on sustainable agriculture practices, water resources management, youth development, community and economic development, and health and nutritional disparities.

“According to the most recent US Census, more than 1.7 million Ohioans live in poverty – approximately 15.8% of the state,” stated Dr. Sritharan during his remarks. “The CSU 1890 Land-Grant Extension Program addresses the needs of socially disadvantaged, limited-resourced, and under-served Ohioans through four program areas which include Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community and Economic Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development and by utilizing Ohio’s existing infrastructure present at local community colleges within each region, we have the opportunity to compliment one-another in serving many of these underserved populations.”

Central State University president Dr. Jack Thomas gave a brief overview of Central State University’s history as a land-grant institution. “This is truly exciting because as we (*Central State*) are expanding our footprint across the state of Ohio, partnerships with colleges like Stark, Edison, and Hocking are significant and meaningful. Such partnerships allow us to meet the needs of so many more Ohioans, not only with programs and outreach, but with opportunities for continuing education; ultimately improving the lives of the citizens of this great state!”

Hocking College President Dr. Betty Young thanked Central State for selecting the Hocking College Perry Campus as a site for meeting the mission of a land grant university and for reaching into their rural communities. “We are proud to be part of this strategic priority of Central State and to be your partner.” Dr. Young in her remarks, further acknowledged the importance of agricultural and technical education and its importance to the economic growth of Ohio.

“Alongside our overall economic partnerships in Preble and Darke Counties, this next level of collaboration with the Central State University Extension Office supports increased options for our Agri-business students. It also forms a foundation for new pathways for all Edison State students in all of our service counties,” stated Edison State College president Dr. Doreen Larson. “Central State University President, Dr. Jack Thomas, has certainly hit the ground running and wasted no time in promoting strategic partnerships. The presence of Trustees Mehaffie and Fletcher at the signing event speaks volumes in terms of Edison State’s commitment to support the Agricultural industry in Ohio.”

“Stark State College is delighted to partner with Central State University (CSU) to provide educational opportunities to students in the region, and we are pleased that CSU’s Northeast Ohio outreach office is located at our Downtown Canton facility,” said Stark State President Para M. Jones, Ph.D. “We look forward to joining Central State in reaching out to urban, suburban and rural residents and employers with programs on nutrition, health and wellness; agriculture; and other extension services related to Central State’s land-grant mission.”

Attending the Virtual MOU Signing Ceremony held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 1 PM, were:

Dr. Jack Thomas, President of Central State University
Dr. Betty Young, President of Hocking College
Dr. Para Jones, President of Stark State College
Dr. Doreen Larson, President of Edison State Community College

Other Notable Attendees Included:

Central State University

- Dr. Subramania Sritharan Interim Dean, College of Engineering, Science, Technology, and Agriculture, and Interim Director, Land-Grant Programs
- Dr. Zillah Fluker, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
- Dr. Siddhartha Dasgupta, CSU Extension Associate Director
- Leslie Horner, Regional Associate NE
- Kelley Beers, Regional Associate SE
- Seth Swallow, Regional Associate SW

Hocking College

- Tim Brunicardi, Executive Director of Marketing
- Jeff Daubenmire, Chief of Staff

Stark State College

- Dr. Lada Gibson-Shreve, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Edison State Community College

- Chris Spradlin, Provost
- Chad Beanblossom, Vice President of Regional Campuses
- Bruce McKenzie, Director of Marketing and Communications
- Marvella Fletcher, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Darryl Mehaffie, Trustee

To learn more about Central State University Extension contact Dr. Siddhartha Dasgupta, Central State University Extension Associate Director at 937-376-6625 or sdasgupta@centralstate.edu.

###

Photo 1- (Top Left: President Dr. Doreen Larson, Edison State), (Top Center: Provost Dr. Lada Gibson-Shreve, Stark State College), (Top Right: Dr. Subramania Sritharan, Interim Director Central State University Land-Grant), (Bottom Left: President Dr. Para Jones, Stark State College), (Center Bottom: President Jack Thomas, Central State University), (Bottom Right: President Betty Young, Hocking College)

About Central State University: Central State University, located in Wilberforce, Ohio, is a regionally accredited 1890 Land-Grant University with a 133-year tradition of preparing students from diverse backgrounds and experiences for leadership, research and service. The University, which has been named HBCU of the Year by HBCU Digest, fosters academic excellence within a nurturing environment and provides a strong liberal arts foundation and STEM-Ag curriculum leading to professional careers and advanced studies globally.

EEO Statement: Central State University, an 1890 Land-Grant Institution, is committed to the full inclusion of all people, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, marital or family status, military status, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. If reasonable accommodations are needed, please contact the Department of Human Resources at 937-376-6540. Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution.

Central State University Land-Grant programs are sponsored in part by funding from the USDA-NIFA.