

October 28, 2003

Richard W. Pogue, Esq., Commission Chair
The Governor's Commission on
Higher Education and the Economy
Riffe Center, 31st Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0601

Dear Chairman Pogue:

As presidents of three institutions of higher education in northwest Ohio, we are pleased to convey this report documenting the extent and scope of our inter-institutional collaboration. All of us have been aware of long-standing partnerships and collaborative ventures; however, we were somewhat surprised to see the growing number of collaborative and joint projects currently underway or being planned for our universities.

Our plan is to circulate this document widely. The reason for this plan is to address the misperception that little or no collaboration or coordination is occurring among our institutions. This level of collaboration constitutes an excellent example for our State and could, in fact, be a model.

We are pleased to present this report and look forward to building on these efforts, not only to benefit our institutions and northwest Ohio, but perhaps to become a model for the State.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sidney A. Ribeau
President, Bowling Green State University



Dr. Amira F. Gohara
Acting President, Medical College of Ohio



Dr. Daniel Johnson
President, University of Toledo



c: Senator Randy Gardner
Representative Peter Ujvagi
Regent Tom Noe
Commissioner Jim Tuschman
IUC Executive Director Jim McCollum

A Report to the
Commission on Higher Education and the Economy

FROM

**NORTHWEST OHIO
COLLABORATIVE ON RESEARCH,
EDUCATION AND SERVICES
(CORES)**

Bowling Green State University
Medical College of Ohio
University of Toledo

“A Commitment to Collaboration and Cooperation”

October 2003

Introductory Comments

As presidents of three major public universities in northwest Ohio, we have made a strong, unified commitment to collaboration and cooperation in our region of the State. In fact, this commitment was solidified some time ago as collaborations between our institutions have been occurring over a number of years - first, in a more informal manner, not institutional. Recently the three institutions have become more intentional, more systematic about collaboration at an institutional level. Whereas such a commitment creates obvious efficiencies of operation, which are important in these difficult economic times, we are also proud of the increased opportunities this creates for the students and faculty at our three institutions. Our goal is to create significant new efficiencies while continuing to provide high-quality education for those attending our universities.

It is our belief the initiatives we have begun implementing at our institutions are indeed bold. They create major cost-saving opportunities and also provide us the opportunity to generate increased funding from outside sources. We realize the State is not able to meet our funding expectations. Thus, creating cost-saving efficiencies and generating more external support become extremely critical, and our institutions are very pro-active in both areas.

On the following pages are several examples of the tremendous collaboration and cooperation occurring among our universities in the areas of research, education and services. While the list is not all-inclusive, it represents an overview that demonstrates how the Northwest Ohio Collaborative on Research, Education and Services could serve as a model for other regions of the State.

We would be happy to meet with you to further elaborate on these and other initiatives currently in progress. Thank you.

A. RESEARCH PROGRAMS

1. Office of Interinstitutional Collaboration

Recognizing the need to stimulate and nurture research collaborations among investigators at the three institutions, the Presidents, Provosts and Research Officers of BGSU, UT and MCO have established a new Office of Interinstitutional Collaboration. The primary role of this office will be to identify and implement strategies to enhance collaborative research among the three institutions. Dr. Charlene Czerniak from the University of Toledo has been hired to fill the position of Director, Office of Research Collaboration for the three universities. The three schools share the cost of salary, office operations and financial incentives necessary to promote the mission of the office. One of the early results of this collaboration is a UT, BGSU, MCO shared infrastructure support for bioinformatics and proteomics/genomics education and research.

2. Science and Technology Corridor

UT, MCO, BGSU, and Owens Community College, have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate in the development and operation of a Science and Technology Corridor in northwest Ohio. The presidents and vice presidents have met on several occasions with business and civic leaders to plan this cooperative research and innovative initiative. While still in the planning stages, the Governor's Science Advisor Frank Samuels, who has participated in these discussions, stated, "This is the most interesting and intriguing project in the state."

3. NIH-Funded Collaborations

There have been a number of productive research collaborations among investigators at MCO, UT, and BGSU over the past 10 years. These have included several NIH-funded collaborations. Currently, BGSU, UT, and MCO researchers are also actively engaged in NIH-funded collaborative research projects.

4. University Transportation Center

UT and BGSU are partners in the development of a proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a University Transportation Center. Led by UT, several other institutions are also participating. The Center focuses on research and education on transportation logistics and planning, alternative transportation technologies, workzone safety, and infrastructure development needs.

5. Equipment/Instrumentation Inventory and Sharing

The three universities, through the new Director, Office of Research Collaboration, will be working to implement equipment/instrumentation inventory and sharing, financial support for collaborative pilot studies, institutional collaboration with regard to intellectual property and more.

6. Ohio Tobacco Coalition

The MCO Department of Public Health is a subcontractor for UT on an **Ohio Tobacco Coalition** grant. Investigators from the University of Toledo and the Medical College of Ohio are evaluating the performance of programs for smoking initiation and cessation in northwest Ohio. These programs involve: preventing smoking initiation; smoking cessation in youth (around 50 programs); and, smoking cessation in pregnant women.

7. Northwest Ohio Partnership on Alternative Energy Systems

The National Science Foundation awarded the UT a \$600,000 “Partnerships for Innovation” grant to establish the **Northwest Ohio Partnership on Alternative Energy Systems**. The Partnership exploits new discoveries at UT and BGSU in photovoltaics, PV hydrogen generation, on demand delivery of hydrogen for fuel cells and more involving BGSU’s Electric Vehicle Institute and Center for Photochemical Sciences.

8. Gear-Up

The US Department of Education awarded a five-year \$14.5 million Gear-Up grant to a consortium including BGSU to work with schools in low-income areas to improve student performance and promote post-secondary education. The University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center has received a subcontract under the BGSU award to evaluate the grant efforts through surveys of the students and their parents.

9. TAPESTRIES Project

BGSU and UT are receiving a national award, the Christa McAuliffe Award, from the American Association on State Colleges and Universities in November 2003 for their joint research project on science education called the TAPESTRIES Project.

10. Project EXCITE

Environmental health scientists from the MCO Department of Public Health are collaborating with science educators from BGSU on an NIH/NIEHS grant entitled “Project EXCITE.” The combined faculty are overseeing teams of elementary school teachers from different disciplines. The goal is to incorporate more environmental health science into school curricula with focus on: local environmental health science issues; problem-solving and investigation skills; and practical learning.

B. EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION

1. MCO/BSGU/UT Collaborative Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) Degree Program

The MCO School of Nursing established a consortium approximately 30 years ago with Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo for an undergraduate baccalaureate program in nursing. Students are admitted to BGSU or UT and complete the first two years of education at the respective institution. During the sophomore year, students apply to MCO for admission to the nursing major. Beginning with the summer semester prior to the junior year, undergraduate students go to MCO for all junior and senior nursing courses. Students graduate from BGSU or UT with a BSN. A financial arrangement has been negotiated (and re-negotiated) for terms regarding sharing of subsidy/tuition/fees, provision of student-related activities and other issues such as advisement.

2. MCO/BGSU/UT Collaborative Master of Public Health Degree (MPH)

The MCO Department of Public Health, BGSU, and UT work jointly through the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (NOCPH). Via NOCPH, we collaboratively offer the MPH degree program. The relationship and planning were initiated in 1992 and officially implemented following approval from the OBR during 1997. The MPH is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). It is our understanding this could be the only program in Ohio where all three University names appear on the diploma.

3. MCO/BGSU/UT Collaborative Bachelor's Degree and MSBS in Physical Therapy Degree Program

The MCO Department of Physical Therapy, BGSU, and UT offer a combined undergraduate/master's degree program in physical therapy. The curriculum calls for three undergraduate years in pre-physical therapy and three years in professional physical therapy. The first professional year, which is the fourth undergraduate year, is taught at MCO. Students then receive their undergraduate degrees from BGSU or UT. The last two master's level years are taught at MCO and with the graduates receiving their MSBS in Physical Therapy from MCO.

4. MCO/UT Collaborative Ph.D. Degree Program in Medical Physics and BGSU/UT Ph.D. Degree Program in Physics

The Department of Radiation Oncology and the UT Physics Department in 2002 initiated a new Medical Physics concentration for the existing UT Ph.D. program. The Ph.D. in Physics with a Concentration in Medical Physics satisfies all of the degree requirements for a Ph.D. in Physics as well as preparing the student for a career in Medical Physics. MCO faculty provide the medical physics-related courses. The student's faculty advisory committee consists of a combination of faculty members from the UT Department of Physics and MCO faculty. The University of Toledo has degree authorization. BGSU has only a Master's program in Physics. The BGSU/UT collaboration permits students in the UT

Ph.D. Physics program to conduct their dissertation at BGSU under the mentorship of BGSU faculty.

5. MCO/BGSU Shared Courses for Certificate in Gerontology

The Center for Successful Aging (CSA) at MCO has a specialized certificate program in Contemporary Gerontological Practice and BGSU has a general certificate program in Gerontology. Both certificate programs allow a student to take one class from the other institution and count it towards their certificate. In addition, the CSA, the MCO Office of Geriatric Medicine, and the BGSU Geriatric Education Center have sponsored conferences over the past six years. Approximately 500 students and health care professionals have attended these conferences.

6. MCO/BGSU/UT Collaborative Certificate in Bioinformatics and Proteomics/Genomics

In 2001, MCO established a program in Bioinformatics and Proteomics/Genomics (BPG). From its inception, this program was developed in partnership with Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo. Courses are being co-taught by faculty at all three institutions using three-way IP teleconferencing over Internet2. This allowed the three institutions to put in place a centrally important program that none could independently afford to establish. Each of the partner institutions gives its own certificates, allowing the shared program to be tailored to the somewhat distinct needs of each student population.

7. MCO/BGSU/UT Cooperative Registration Agreement

The MCO/BGSU/UT Cooperative Registration Agreement allows graduate students at one institution to enroll and receive graduate credit for classes offered at another institution. Credit and grades earned at the host institution count as resident credit (not as transfer credit) at the home institution. Instructional and non-resident fees are waived by the host institution for graduate students who have paid full-time instructional and non-resident fees at their home institution, or who are graduate assistants, teaching fellows, or recipients of tuition scholarship awards at their home institution.

8. BGSU/UT Concurrent Undergraduate Registration Agreement

This program was developed for undergraduate students who want to register for classes at both institutions simultaneously. One form is used by both institutions for application to this program and registration for courses. All concurrent registrations appear on both transcripts, are considered for resident credit, and are included in the grade point average.

9. MCO/BGSU/UT/Owens Community College Virtual Health Advisor

The collaborating institutions use the Internet to provide virtual career advising. The Web site (www.virtualadvisor.org) targets students who may be interested in a career in health care, or people currently in the workforce who are interested in switching to a career in health care. To insure that the information about health care careers, opportunities, and education reaches the appropriate audience, the Web site is promoted by the Toledo Public Schools, Northwest Ohio Computer Association, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, and the Center of Science and Industry. The project includes a web-based module with extensive career information and a videoconferencing module providing live interactivity between the academic institutions and the potential students.

10. BGSU/UT Center for Science and Math Education: Opportunities for Success (COSMOS)

BGSU and UT are the lead institutions on this \$1,000,000 award sponsored by the Ohio Board of Regents to improve mathematics and science education in northwest Ohio.

11. MEDStart Early Acceptance Program

The MEDStart Program is an early admissions program that allows students in various Ohio colleges and universities to be accepted into the MCO School of Medicine during the junior year of their undergraduate education. Up to a year before the typical time of notification, these early admit students know that they will be attending MCO when they finish their degrees at their home institutions. Students accepted into the MEDStart program attend a summer educational program on the MCO campus between their junior and senior year. The School of Medicine also has a seven-year program with BGSU and UT. In this program, the students complete three years of undergraduate education at BGSU or UT. After completing the first year of medical school the bachelor's degree is awarded by BGSU or UT.

12. MOT Early Acceptance Program

The Master of Occupational Therapy program at MCO has similar early acceptance agreements with BGSU and UT.

13. Future Collaborations

A task force on northwest Ohio educational collaboration has noted several areas that might be explored as possible future collaborative efforts: bioinformatics, biostatistics, astrobiology, molecular evolution, photochemical sciences and more. Additionally, more collaboration could be pursued in existing graduate programs such as neuroscience, cancer biology and molecular biology.

C. COLLABORATIVE SERVICES

1. Common Academic Calendar

A common academic calendar was established among UT, BGSU, and MCO in 1994 that facilitated student enrollment at all three schools. Previously, students took courses at one institution on the quarter system and at the same time at another institution on the semester system. The common calendar allows students to conveniently take advantage of the Cooperative Registration Agreement and for the development of consortial degree/certificate programs.

2. Library Services

The three universities run a Regional Book Depository to make less-used research materials available with one day's notice. UT and BGSU have one contract for journal and bindery services to buy and bind research materials in a cost effective manner.

D. OTHER COLLABORATIONS

1. UT and BGSU have contracted with Van Scoyoc Associates in Washington, D.C. to assist in obtaining federal funds for collaborative proposals submitted by the two institutions. Discussion is currently being held with MCO about joining this effort.
2. The Graduate Dean at each of the three institutions has committed to contact the other two universities to determine if a collaborative effort is possible on new Ph.D. program development.
3. All three Presidents are active members of the Regional Growth Partnership where they promote economic development for the region.
4. The purchasing departments at BGSU and UT have developed joint contracts for office supplies and pest control.
5. Joint faculty appointments at the other institutions
6. Faculty serve on graduate advisory committees at the other institutions
7. Faculty deliver selected lectures at the other institutions, which occur more frequently as distance learning technology is installed
8. Faculty serve on search committees at the other institutions
9. Joint graduate faculty appointments in specific programs

Summary

Bowling Green State University, The Medical College of Ohio and The University of Toledo fully embrace the spirit of collaboration and increased efficiencies. Through a combined effort this core group has shown what is possible now and in the future. While this concept is not new to our three institutions, there has been a significant effort in seeking out and considering opportunities to enhance collaboration.

This effort also has been accelerated because of recent budget reductions as well as a need to bring more awareness of the resources that presently exist in northwest Ohio and the initiatives that are underway. These initiatives, in the areas of research, education and services, have been outlined in this document.

Additionally, the vision of a research corridor for northwest Ohio can become a reality with the continued collaborative efforts of the three institutions and others in northwest Ohio. We are requesting the support of the State in order to continue with these efforts and provide a model for others to emulate.

Your consideration is appreciated.