



THE TURNER FOUNDATION
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

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CLARK COUNTY TEAM LOOKS TO SMOOTH EDUCATION TRANSITIONS
KnowledgeWorks Foundation funds five “P-16” councils in Ohio

Cincinnati – Clark County is one of five sites in Ohio to receive a grant from KnowledgeWorks Foundation aimed at smoothing the education pipeline for Ohio students from preschool through college.

The grants announced today will establish what are known as P-16 Councils to plan methods for easing transitions from one level of learning to the next. The councils, composed of leaders from education, business and the community, will identify gaps in local education systems – problem areas that hinder students from moving efficiently from early childhood to postsecondary education – and set priorities for addressing those gaps.

In addition to Clark County, the following locations will receive \$20,000 each to assist in the development of these local/regional P-16 Councils: Ashtabula County, Greater Cincinnati, Highland County and Summit County.

“Receiving this KnowledgeWorks grant is in essence a seal of approval for this county-wide P-16 council,” stated John Landess, Executive Director of The Turner Foundation. “It’s no longer an educational initiative or business initiative, it’s now a community initiative.”

“Business, education and community leaders are committed to working together to address student needs. This student-centric P-16 program employs an evidence-based approach to enable a more effective and efficient method of identifying and filling the gaps students experience,” said Bruce Stewart, Superintendent of Clark County Educational Services

In applying for the grant, officials from The Turner Foundation said, “The vision of the P-16 Council of Clark County, Ohio is to enable all students to successfully enter and transit from one developmental level to the next by creating systemic change that aligns our educational system with the needs of the learner, so each student is ready to succeed in the workforce or post-secondary education.”

“We are encouraged that more and more communities are willing to accept the challenge of rethinking their education delivery systems,” said Chad P. Wick, president and CEO of KnowledgeWorks Foundation. “Our current systems are disjointed, with the result that students too often are ill prepared, or even unable, to move from one level to the next. We must break down these barriers so that our students, and our state, are positioned for success in the 21st century workplace.”

The P-16 (preschool-grade 16) initiative focuses on coordinating academic expectations, connected coursework and credit transfer among education systems. It was developed in response to research showing that students tend to get lost at key transitions in their educational life and have a difficult time recovering – whether because curricula don't align between elementary and middle school, or because academic expectations aren't consistent between middle and high schools, or because credits don't transfer appropriately from one academic institution to another.

A P-16 approach to education brings together stakeholders from across the education continuum to study their local community's education data, and identify where students are getting lost in educational transitions. These stakeholders work together toward easing these transitions and aligning educational expectations.

During the grant period, the local/regional P-16 Councils funded by KnowledgeWorks Foundation will identify local transitional rough spots and, in conversation with the community, determine one to two priorities and strategies to address those priorities.

KnowledgeWorks Foundation will provide personalized coaching to each of the sites. Coaches will facilitate discussions around major challenges, asking critical questions to lead groups to collaboration and decisions toward common goals. KnowledgeWorks Foundation will also provide networking opportunities between grantees.

P-16 reform targets both the practice and policy arenas to produce higher levels of education achievement in Ohio that will improve economic and social conditions. Lessons and best practices will be collected through this process to improve both local and state-level policy and practice, with the aim of creating a system in Ohio that can be used as a model across the nation.

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KnowledgeWorks Foundation is Ohio's largest public education philanthropy. KnowledgeWorks Foundation provides funding and leadership for education initiatives throughout the state and is focused on creating and improving educational opportunities. The Foundation is committed to sharing knowledge gained and lessons learned with others in Ohio and across the nation to help inform public policy. Learn more about KnowledgeWorks Foundation at www.kwfdn.org

The Turner Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the greater Springfield/Clark County community through artistic, educational, environmental, recreational, family, healthcare, historic preservation, community beautification and revitalization initiatives. Learn more about The Turner Foundation at www.hmtturnerfoundation.org