



For Immediate Release
Nov. 5, 2014

Media Contact: Edwina Blackwell Clark
(419) 234-5440

Ohio Board of Regents Officials Meet with Local Business Leaders on Regional Business Needs and Partnering with Higher Education

LIMA, Oh. - Local economic development and business leaders will meet at Rhodes State College today to discuss how to partner with higher education to better train today's students to meet regional workforce needs.

The Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills (RAPIDS) meeting is one of seven around the state that Ohio Board of Regents officials are having to prep communities about how to work together to apply for upcoming grant money to support investment in equipment and training. Between \$8 and \$10 million will be allocated in 2015. Ohio colleges and universities will be the recipients of the grants.

Dr. Debra McCurdy, President of Rhodes State College, said, "This type of engagement among business, industry, education and government is becoming so common place as we leverage our resources with a central focus on the development of a skilled workforce to meet the growing and changing demands of employers."

The grant process encourages local universities, community colleges, Ohio Technical Centers, economic development partners, and business representatives to work together to address local and regional workforce training needs.

Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor John Carey; Cheryl Hay, Deputy Chancellor Higher Education Workforce Alignment; and John Magill, Assistant Deputy Chancellor Economic Advancement will talk about the need for collaboration as they try to establish a statewide coordinated workforce delivery mechanism that is responsive to local conditions and opportunities.

Wednesday's meeting was for Northwest Ohio. The next meeting is for Central Ohio.

#