The Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education and Human Services

2009–10 Academic Year End Report

Submitted by: Valerie Martin Conley, Director

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Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of activities and accomplishments for the Center for Higher Education that relate directly to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in September 2009.1

- The number of subscribers to the Center’s Listserv Announcement Distribution (C4HE@listserv.ohio.edu) was increased by 25%. The membership increased from 65 people to 87 people.

- Development continued on the Working Paper Series to showcase student and Center work. Four papers have been posted to the Web site:

  http://www.coe.ohiou.edu/centers-partnerships/centers/center-higher-ed.htm

- Two Internship Students were recruited to work on projects related to the Center’s mission.

- The Center sponsored or co–sponsored four events throughout the previous academic year.

- Center faculty and staff made one presentation at regional conferences related to issues in Higher Education.

- Center faculty and staff collaborated on the submission of grant proposals to major funding agencies and secured grants and contracts totaling more than $500,000.

- The Center brochure and Web site were revised to include information about the Center’s NSF-funded CC–ADVANCE project.

- The Center and its collaborating co-PIs have effectively managed the work of the CC–ADVANCE grant.

1 A copy of the MOU is available upon request.
• The Center established a non-endowed discretionary foundation account and begun soliciting donations in a silent campaign.

• Center faculty and staff completed Self-Study documents for the Center’s five-year review.
Collaboration…and Synergy

Leveraging collaboration and synergy to maximize return on investment will define efforts for the next five years. The Center for Higher Education is well positioned to leverage synergies derived from collaboration with other centers and institutes within the College of Education and Ohio University, centers outside of Ohio University, community colleges in Ohio, and higher education organizations and associations. Particular emphasis has been placed on community colleges and understanding the factors that contribute to institutional effectiveness, including human resource issues, planning, and outcomes related to faculty and student success. In addition, the Center continues to pursue research opportunities that support the strategic priorities of Ohio University. The Center activities include development and support of:

1) Ohio University’s strategic priorities such as faculty development, the first-year experience, assessment of and accountability for student learning, and the Academic Quality Improvement Program for regional accreditation; 2) cooperative work with two- and four-year institutions in the state, as well as work with the University’s Regional Higher Education programs, and 3) joint teaching and research appointments with other departments and administrative units.
Externally Funded Projects

ADVANCE-PAID Grant

Ohio University’s ADVANCE-PAID initiative, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, has successfully completed its first year. The project is being called CC-ADVANCE to reflect its unique emphasis on community colleges. We have made substantial progress in our effort to better understand the factors influencing the success and employment outcomes of female STEM faculty in community colleges. This report summarizes our activities and progress to date. Members of the project team are investigating the following:

- The extent to which the factors associated with the success and employment outcomes in the four-year sector translate to the two-year institutional context
- The extent to which there exist other factors affecting female faculty members’ employment outcomes that are unique to two-year institutions

The CC-ADVANCE team, led by Dr. Valerie Martin Conley, an associate professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs in the Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education and Human Services and director of the Center for Higher Education, includes two other lead researchers: Dr. David Koonce, associate professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering in Ohio University’s Russ College of Engineering, and Dr. Cynthia Anderson, associate professor of Sociology in Ohio University’s College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, several graduate students from each of the three colleges and the Center for Higher Education’s Research Associate participate in the team’s research. We are using a concurrent mixed methods research design to guide the work of the project, which means we are employing both qualitative and quantitative elements throughout the study.

The CC-ADVANCE team gave a presentation on the project at a brown-bag luncheon sponsored by the Women’s Center at Ohio University. The presentation included a general overview of the project as well as preliminary findings from the quantitative analysis of NSOPF data.

TIAA/CREF Survey of Retirement Plans and Programs in Higher Education

As part of a continuing effort to comprehensively examine the impact of the economic downturn on individual retirement decisions and institutional responses in higher education, the TIAA–CREF Institute has contracted with the Center to partner in administering and analyzing an on-line survey of retirement trends, policies and benefits at colleges and universities nationwide. Specific research questions being investigated include: What have been the retirement trends at higher education institutions? What are the levels of anticipated...
retirements? Are these patterns changing? If so, what changes have been observed? What are the characteristics of retirement plans, programs, and policies in place at higher education institutions? Have these plans, programs, and policies changed in the recent past (1-3 years)? If so, what have been the changes and why have the changes been implemented? A draft of the survey has been developed and we are in the process of collecting data.

This project provides research and policy analysis on issues related to faculty retirement trends, policies and benefits at higher education institutions is relevant to Appalachian Ohio, the state and the nation. The project also provides opportunities for students to engage in survey research.

Unfunded Research Projects

National Study of Faculty Leadership

The purpose of the National Study of Faculty Leadership is to investigate faculty’s role in shared governance and to collect information about faculty leaders. Department chairs, program coordinators, senate chairs, and deans are examples of the faculty leaders that are being studied. The inaugural survey of the Study of Faculty Leadership is the Faculty Senate Leader Survey. The Faculty Senate Leader Survey collects information about the leadership of faculty senates in doctoral, master’s, and baccalaureate degree granting institutions in the U.S. Topics include factors related to shared governance such as critical issues in higher education, scope of responsibilities of the senate, and perceptions of the effectiveness of the senate at their institution. This project was developed by the Center for Higher Education in collaboration with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

Working Paper Series

The purpose of the Series is to contribute to research on higher education and to stimulate conversation among educators, policy makers, practitioners, and the public. Also, the working paper series promotes Center activity and provides an outlet for publication of faculty and student research.

- Exploring the Cultural Identity of Community Colleges in Appalachia by Robert B. Young (Edit Pending)
- Ohio Dual Enrollment Strategies and Impacts on Students from Appalachian Ohio by Tom Duncan (Edit Pending).
- Faculty Senate Leader Survey-Doctoral Institutions: Descriptive Results by James Archibald and Valerie Martin Conley (Edit Pending).
Events and Seminars

The Center for Higher Education hosted or co-sponsored 4 events during the preceding year. Some of the events were open to all faculty, staff, students, and members of surrounding community.

The Center and the Educational Research and Evaluation program presented the Statistics Webinar Series offered by the Association of Institutional Research. The sessions were designed to give participants an overview of Analysis of Variance, Correlation and Regression, and Advanced Regression. All faculty and students were invited to attend the three part series free of charge.

The Center co-hosted the Alumni Leadership Institute for the executive doctoral program with the Higher Education and Student Affairs Program. The event featured higher education scholar and General Secretary of AAUP, Dr. Gary Rhoades. Members of the university as well as neighboring communities were invited to hear his lecture on “Faculty Issues and Governance.”

The Center and Marietta College’s China Institute collaborated to co-sponsor an event in which a delegation of higher education leaders from Inner Mongolia visited Marietta College and Ohio University to learn more about specific aspects of higher education administration as practiced in the United States. Several Ohio University faculty and administrators, including the following, gave presentations to the delegation: Brian Bridges, Associate Provost for Diversity, Access & Equity; Valerie Martin Conley, Associate Professor, Higher Education; David Horton, Assistant Professor, Higher Education; Ryan Lombardi, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Renee Middleton, Dean of the Patton College of Education and Human Services; Charles Ping, President Emeritus, Ohio University; A. Michael Williford, Associate Provost For Institutional Research And Assessment; and Robert Young, Professor, Higher Education.

The CC-ADVANCE team hosted representatives from the nine community colleges in Ohio at which on-site faculty interviews will be conducted. In addition to providing an overview of the CC-ADVANCE initiative and the planned interview process, the team presented some initial findings from the quantitative research that had been conducted to date. These findings helped launch extended breakout discussions of the issues faced by female STEM faculty at community colleges and how those issues compare across the colleges in
attendance. The meeting also enabled the team to build a stronger rapport with community college administrators, whose assistance and perspectives will be vital to the success of this research initiative.

**Presentations at State and Regional Conferences**


**Research Fellows in Residence Program**

The Center for Higher Education hosted two Research Fellows in Residence this year, TJ Duda and Patti Ross. TJ Duda is a member of Ohio University’s Executive Ph.D. program in Higher Education and Student Affairs (Cycle IX) and serves on the Mathematics faculty of Columbus State Community College. He received a sabbatical from CSCC to complete the proposal for his dissertation research, which will focus on *Learning Strategies as Predictors of Student Success in Web-Based Developmental Mathematics in Community Colleges*.

Patti Ross is a member of Ohio University’s Executive Ph.D. program in Higher Education and Student Affairs (Cycle X) and serves as Associate Dean of Information Technology at Edison Community College. She is working on the ADVANCE grant and developing a dissertation proposal on a topic related to the project.

**Practicum/Intern Students**

Jacob P. Mosher, undergraduate student in Psychology, completed an internship with the Center for winter and spring quarter. His assignment was working with the Study of Faculty Leadership project.

Andrew J. Gianopoulos, undergraduate student in Art History, completed an internship with the Center for spring quarter. His assignment was working with the Study of Faculty Leadership project.
Center for Higher Education Personnel

Higher Education and Student Affairs Faculty:
- Dr. Valerie Martin Conley, Associate Professor
- Dr. David Horton, Jr., Assistant Professor
- Dr. Peter Mather, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Robert B. Young, Professor

Affiliated Faculty and Researchers:
- Dr. Cynthia Anderson, Associate Professor, Sociology, College of Arts & Sciences
- Dr. Brian Bridges, Associate Provost for Diversity, Access & Equity
- Dr. Gordon Brooks, Associate Professor, Higher Education, Patton College
- Dr. Craig Howley, Associate Professor (adj.), Higher Education, Patton College
- Dr. David Koonce, Associate Professor, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Russ College
- Dr. A. Michael Williford, Associate Provost for Institutional Research and Assessment

Center Staff:
- Mr. James G. Archibald, Senior Graduate Research Associate
- Ms. Becky Bushey-Miller, Graduate Research Associate
- Ms. Debra Fanning, Administrative Associate
- Ms. Laura Risler, Research Associate

New Faces
The Center for Higher Education welcomes its new Research Associate, Laura Risler. Though new to Ohio University, Laura has lived in the Athens area for more than 13 years. She previously worked with the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education, a consortium of 11 Ohio public colleges and universities (including Ohio University) that was established to increase educational attainment in Ohio’s 32 Appalachian counties. In her position with the OACHE, Laura developed grant proposals, assisted with the oversight of new and existing programs, developed reports and media releases, maintained the website, and delivered training throughout the region. Laura holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Indiana University and a bachelor’s degree in history from Miami University.

Next Steps
The Center for Higher Education has made significant progress toward completing the ambitious list of objectives and tasks delineated in its 2009–11 Memorandum of Understanding with The Patton College of Education and Human Services. In Year 2 of the MOU, the Center’s efforts will continue to advance the strategic priorities of Ohio University and The Patton College by completing the objectives and tasks remaining, while also pursuing research and grant opportunities that extend beyond the scope and time period of the MOU.