

JULY 7, 2015



Office of the President CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Meeting the unique health-care needs of historically underserved urban communities will require training a more diverse health-care workforce with equally unique skills. That's the vision at the heart of the NEOMED-CSU Partnership for Urban Health – and that vision just received a ringing vote of confidence to the tune of \$5.5 million from the Cleveland Foundation.

This truly remarkable gift was announced June 25 during a news conference in Cleveland State University's new Center for Innovation in Medical Professions. Cleveland Foundation President and CEO Ronn Richard and two other Northeast Ohio leaders whose support has been integral to the partnership -- Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and former U.S. Representative Louis Stokes – were among the distinguished guests who joined NEOMED President Jay Gershen and me for the very happy occasion.

All told, the Cleveland Foundation has pledged \$7.25 million to the partnership since 2010.

With a goal of graduating 175 medical students in the next five years, the partnership promises to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who live in Cleveland's urban communities. Our vision could not become a reality without the ongoing support of the Cleveland Foundation, for which I am profoundly grateful.

This exciting initiative is but one prime example of the positive momentum here at CSU, where a busy summer is bringing more good news from many corners of our University community. It's my pleasure to share these stories with you.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Berkman

President

Cleveland State University



At the Cleveland Foundation/NEOMED-CSU Partnership for Urban Health announcement June 25 were, from left, Partnership student Carl Allamby, NEOMED President Jay Gershen, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, Cleveland Foundation President and CEO Ronn Richard, CSU President Ronald M. Berkman, Cleveland Foundation Executive Vice President Robert Eckardt, Partnership Director Sonja Harris-Haywood and retired U.S. Congressman and

Partnership Advisory Board Co-Chair Louis Stokes.

Engage: The Campaign for Cleveland State University sets goal of \$100 million for scholarships and student-success programs

We launched the first major fund-raising campaign in CSU's history at our fifth annual Radiance benefit on May 8.

[Engage: The Campaign for Cleveland State University](#) is off to a great start, thanks to a \$5 million gift from CSU alumnus and Parker Hannifin Chairman Donald Washkewicz and his wife, Pamela. This is the second major gift since 2014 from the Washkewicz family. On behalf of the entire CSU community, I am grateful for their extraordinarily generous support of CSU's mission to become a best-in-class urban university.

Ultimately, the Engage campaign hopes to raise \$100 million, which will allow the University to significantly increase funds for scholarships and student-success programs.

Brookings ranks CSU among top Ohio universities for college outcomes

A new report from the highly respected Brookings Institution underscores the fact that CSU graduates enjoy outstanding returns on their investment in higher education. The think tank's Metropolitan Policy Group issued ratings that rank CSU in the top three among Ohio's 14 four-year public universities in categories related to career earnings, placement into high-paying career paths and loan repayment rates.

A highlight of the report is that CSU graduates have mid-career salaries that are more than \$10,000 higher than predicted for demographically similar graduates from other colleges and universities. This was the third-highest percentage increase among a grouping of Ohio's four-year public universities, following only the University of Cincinnati and Miami University.

Simply put, this means CSU is among the leaders in the state in boosting the future earnings potential of its graduates, and we do so while remaining accessible and affordable. You can read the Brookings report [here](#).

Center for Innovation in Medical Professions nears completion

It's hard to believe that only 18 months ago, in December 2013, we broke ground for the Center for Innovation in Medical Professions on the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 22nd Street.

As you read this, crews are busily putting the finishing touches on this stunning new addition to the CSU campus. With an emphasis on interprofessional education, the state-of-the-art facility promises to prepare future health-care professionals to work together.

The building will house the CSU Health and Wellness Clinic, the CSU Speech and Hearing Clinic, nursing simulation labs and occupational therapy/ physical therapy training rooms, as well as spaces for a rotating series of innovative research projects. It also will serve as the headquarters of the NEOMED-CSU Partnership for Urban Health.

We'll be announcing details shortly regarding the ribbon-cutting ceremony. In the meantime, I invite you to have [a look inside the Center for Innovation in Medical Professions](#) via CSU's ENGAGED blog.

Read all about it: Local students rise to 50 Book Challenge

Read any good books lately? Nearly 1,500 Northeast Ohio students might have you beat! All told, they read more than 75,000 books as part of CSU's 50 Book Challenge.

In celebration of CSU's 50th anniversary, young bibliophiles in grades 3 and under were invited to read 50 books between September 2014 and May 2015.

Taylor Drake, a second grader at Glendale Primary School in Bedford, was the undisputed champion – with a remarkable 700 books read. For her achievement, she won tickets to Kalahari Waterpark. Way to go, Taylor!

For a complete list of winners, please visit [the 50 Book Challenge website](#).

Congratulations to all the students and schools who participated – and to Dr. Sharon Brown, director of the College of Education and Human Services' Center for Excellence and Innovation in Education, and her staff for coming up with such an engaging way to involve the community in the University's golden anniversary.

Kudos corner

- The Fenn Co-Op Program at CSU's Washkewicz College of Engineering [received the E. Sam Sovilla Award of Excellence](#) from the Ohio Cooperative Education Association. This prestigious honor recognizes educational institutions and employing organizations with exceptional cooperative education and internship programs.
- The Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) [bestowed a 2014-2015 Honorable Mention Award on the CSU student chapter](#) for providing exceptional growth and development opportunities to its members, including an outreach program assisting veterans, resume workshops and an information night for professionals.
- CSU [received a \\$600,000 grant from the Ohio Board of Regents](#) to support ongoing research and development of ultraconductive wire that could dramatically improve electrical systems and devices. A team led by Taysir Nayfeh, Ph.D., a professor of mechanical engineering at CSU's Washkewicz College of Engineering, has created a nanocomposite copper wire that is more than twice as conductive as pure copper.

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