



The Ohio Urban University Program

The State's Economic Development Resource

The History of the UUP

Ohio's Urban University Program — A National Model

During the late 1970s, in response to the plight of America's urban centers, the U.S. Congress began discussion of an urban grant university program to utilize the expertise of the nation's academic community to help solve the many problems of the nation's cities. Although the program was authorized as part of Title XI of the Higher Education Act, federal funds were never appropriated. Legislative efforts on the state level, however, proved more successful with the state of Ohio taking the lead.

In 1979, Ohio ranked first among the nation's states in the number of urban areas of 500,000 people, with seven such communities. An astounding 75 percent of the state's population was classified as urban dwelling. Furthermore, Ohio's cities, like most older, industrialized cities, were in great need of repair and revitalization. Responding to the dramatic population shift and the tremendous needs of the state's urban areas, the Ohio General Assembly authorized—and appropriated the funds for—the Urban University Program (UUP), which has become a national model linking the resources of Ohio's academic institutions to the state's urban communities to solve the unique problems of cities.

The Ohio General Assembly established and funded the Urban University Demonstration Program through the Ohio Board of Regents in the spring of 1979. The program was to provide a better means of focusing the talents and resources of the state's urban universities for rebuilding and revitalization efforts of Ohio's urban communities.

As the creator of the UUP model, the State of Ohio leads the nation. UUP resources supported the establishment of a prototypical Urban Center at Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs. By stepping off campus and into the community, the Levin College professional research staff and faculty provide a continuous source of expertise to community, government, and business leaders. In addition to supporting the Levin College Urban Center, UUP funding is also allocated to seven other state urban universities — The University of Akron, the University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, The Ohio State University, the University of Toledo, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University.

A statewide consortium of the eight urban universities was established in 1979 by the (then) Ohio Board of Regents and is known as the Regents' Advisory Committee on Urban University Programs. The advisory group still meets regularly to coordinate planning and projects, exchange ideas and information, and report on successful projects and approaches. As a result, a foundation of mutual support and assistance among the eight universities has been established. The UUP is an effective program with a broad resource base and proven ability for urban problem-solving efforts. The UUP draws on all eight urban-based, state-supported institutions to deliver research, teaching, and service.

The UUP makes it possible for the state's urban universities to assist with the revitalization efforts of the State and its communities. These eight institutions have demonstrated that they can design, direct and effectively carry out projects that contribute significantly to Ohio's future prosperity. The UUP is the State's economic development resource.



The Ohio UUP is a program of the University System of Ohio and the Ohio General Assembly.

For more information:

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