

UUP

The Ohio Urban University Program

The State's Economic Development Resource

UUP Accomplishments

Ohio's urban universities, working together through the Ohio Urban University Program (UUP), are an important public policy and economic development resource for the State. The research products of the UUP have addressed nearly every major economic development initiative of the State including Business Tax Reform, Tax Code Restructuring, Program Development and Evaluation, Economic Development Strategy, and Land Reuse and Redevelopment.

Created by the Ohio General Assembly and the Board of Regents in 1979, the UUP is the oldest statewide inter-university program in the United States. Led by the flagship program at Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, the eight university research centers of the UUP have developed a base of knowledge and expertise in economic development, public policy, public management, and fiscal policy that is recognized and valued nationally, as well as statewide. **For every state dollar invested in the UUP, the universities have leveraged \$2.25 and supported two federally funded research centers.**

After three decades, the UUP is reframing its policy and research agenda to one that is more client-driven. The *new* UUP collaborative is focused on doing more with fewer resources, improving efficiency and accountability and delivering improved economic development services to the State through its new State Initiative.

A newly formed State Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from the Governor's Office, the Department of Development, the University System of Ohio, the Office of Budget and Management, and the legislature, serve as the primary portal through which the UUP works to identify and implement priority projects in response to the needs of the people of Ohio. The eight Ohio urban universities now work directly with the State to identify, respond and resolve the economic challenges facing Ohio today.

The UUP *is* the research arm of state government, enabling the state's public, urban universities to undertake forward-thinking projects that support Ohio's economic survival. For example, since 2000, nearly every major economic development initiative of the state of Ohio has involved the Levin College, with the financial support of the UUP. These include:

Thought Leadership

- **BUSINESS TAX REFORM:** The College's research on manufacturing and subsequent work with the Ohio Manufacturers Association re-launched the conversation on business tax reform in 2000. The College developed the principles of that reform.
- **COOPERATIVE EDUCATION:** The College worked with former Speaker of the House of Representatives Jon Husted in conceptualizing the state's cooperative education program, one of the centerpieces of Governor

A program of the University System of Ohio and the Ohio General Assembly.



Strickland's Jobs Bill; an economic development talent retention/attraction program for the University System of Ohio.

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY:** The College worked with the Ohio Department of Development to develop its 2008-09 economic development strategy for Ohio. In 2005, the College, with Deloitte Consulting was engaged by then Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson to produce a regionally based, widely used economic development report.
- **SUPPLY CHAIN STRATEGY:** The College worked with Compete Columbus on an automotive supply chain strategy that has been expanded statewide. This work is now moving forward with Honda, the Ohio Manufacturers Association, The Ohio State University, and the Ohio Department of Development.
- **REGIONALISM AND REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS:** Much of the current work on regionalism as a statewide concept began at the College, under the leadership of then Senator Grace Drake and Representative Patrick Sweeney.
- **CLEAN OHIO FUND:** The College worked with the Ohio Department of Development to design, implement, and later reassess, the guidelines and rules for the Clean Ohio Program. The College also worked with the Third Frontier Commission on its strategy.
- **THE OHIO BALANCED GROWTH PROGRAM:** The College worked with the Ohio Lake Erie Commission to develop the policy and planning frameworks and provided technical assistance for the Balanced Growth Program.

Policy and Rulemaking

- **TAX CODE RESTRUCTURING:** The College initiated conversations and conducted research on changes to Ohio's tax code that would increase fair business practices.
- **HOUSING AND FORECLOSURE DATA AND RESEARCH:** The College's data and research capacity has played a large role in the analysis of and policy reaction to the current mortgage crisis.
- **LAND BANK STRATEGY:** The College conducted best practices research to support the development of an industrial land bank for the City of Cleveland. The College later conducted further research for the City and Cuyahoga County in outlining an operational strategy, which culminated in the County initiating land bank legislation.

Technical Assistance

- **MEASURING ECONOMIC PROGRESS:** The College produces a regional dashboard of economic indicators for the Fund for our Economic Future that measures the comparative performance of Northeast Ohio and other Midwest metropolitan areas. Also for the Fund, the College along with Wright State University's Center for Urban and Public Affairs, produces the Northeast Ohio Barometer of Economic Attitudes that measures trends in public perception of the state of the region's economy.
- **STATEWIDE MAPPING AND SPATIAL ANALYSIS:** For two decades (1990 and 2000), the College provides census data and assists the State Reapportionment Committee in the redistricting process for political districts.

Public Education and Engagement

- **PUBLIC FORUMS:** The Levin College Forum program brings together the university and the community in thoughtful public debate, innovative thinking, new ideas, and timely action addressing critical issues that impact Northeast Ohio and the state. At the state level, the UUP's Columbus Forums cover topics identified by the UUP's State Advisory Committee.

A program of the University System of Ohio and the Ohio General Assembly.

