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The Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education is the consortium of twenty-four colleges and universities in the 13-county region which represents the activity and impact of the higher education cluster in Northeast Ohio. The Council provides basic consortial functions among its member institutions and the community by NOCHE seeking ways to leverage higher education assets as a resource for the advancement of the regional economy and improvement of individual and regional quality of life.

NOCHE is a partner in regional efforts to address workforce preparation through improved and expanded education and training and by aligning higher education supply with industry demand to serve workplace needs for the current and future economy. NOCHE works to collectively link its members schools with business and civic leaders through a variety of projects related to advocacy, workforce and regional economic development, community outreach and service to member institutions.

Founded in 1951 as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio, The Cleveland Commission on Higher Education changed its name to the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education and revised its mission and geographic footprint in 1995. NOCHE was one of the first organizations historically devoted to Cuyahoga County to recognize the crucial necessity of expanding its vision and operations into the larger region

Twenty-four higher education institutions form the membership of NOCHE: three community colleges, three specialized institutions, four state-assisted universities, eleven private liberal arts colleges and universities, and one private, research university. NOCHE's geographic purview is 13 counties in Northeast Ohio: Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne.

The Council advocates, coordinates and sponsors programs for higher education in the region. This is accomplished by: (1) producing timely assessments of issues and needs; (2) implementing demographic studies from which connections can be made between campus workforce education and training programs and the needs of regional businesses and organizations; (3) providing leadership and issue-oriented forums enhancing communication and coordination; and (4) designing programs to increase understanding of the crucial role played by colleges and universities in enhancing community values and quality of life.

NOCHE's Board of Trustees is comprised of the Presidents of each higher education institutional member and an elected group of Public Trustees, civic and business leaders, whose role is to offer private sector insight and advocacy support for key higher education and economic development issues and policies.