



PRESS RELEASE

City of Akron 166 S. High Street Akron, Ohio 44308
(330)-375-2345 Fax:(330)- 375-2468
Web: www.akronohio.gov

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie York, Director of Communications
syork@akronohio.gov or 330-375-2345 (w) / 330-289-1467(c)

City of Akron, Akron Public Schools, and Stark State College Collaborate to Provide Adult Learning Opportunities and Degrees

Akron, Ohio (April 17, 2013) - The City of Akron, Akron Public Schools, and Stark State College today announced a major collaboration that will provide lower cost adult educational opportunities for Akron's adult residents to help prepare them for jobs as skilled workers in high-demand fields.

Beginning fall semester, the City and APS will provide classroom space and technology infrastructure at various Community Learning Centers (CLCs) throughout Akron where Stark State will offer both web-based and on-site classes to the community's adult population for college credits.

“We are continually attempting to improve the economic conditions of the citizens of the City of Akron by retaining existing jobs and attracting new jobs,” said Mayor Don Plusquellic. “But even with all the success the City has had, the global recession and restructuring of the economy has left some Akron residents either unemployed or underemployed because of a lack of training in certain skilled careers. This collaboration will help to close that gap and educate our citizens in the job areas where skilled employees are desperately needed.”

The collaboration will kick off with classes in three Community Learning Centers located at Innes, Jennings and Hyre. “This expands upon our relationships with APS educational partners Stark State and UA where our students can receive dual degrees,” said David James, superintendent of Akron Public Schools, “and we are now exploring additional opportunities with Lorain Community College both for our students and adults, similar to our partnerships with Stark State. Our thanks to the Mayor and the City of Akron for collaborating.”

Some adult students may qualify for Individual Training Accounts through Summit County's workforce programs. For more information, students should visit the Job Center at 1040 East Tallmadge Ave. before signing up for classes. “I hope many of our citizens will be able to take advantage of the classes at the Community Learning Centers,” said Russ Pry, Summit County Executive. “This is another great example of how collaborative programs bring benefits to our community.”

Stark State will offer courses based on the needs expressed by local employers. As enrollment increases, more courses may be added as well as an additional Community Learning System.

“This is exactly what we had in mind when we created the Community Learning Centers,” added Mayor Plusquellic. “We envisioned the entire community using these buildings for community and educational purposes and I am thrilled to see one of my dreams for added opportunities for our citizens come true.”

“We are pleased to partner with the City of Akron and Akron Public Schools to offer classes at CLCs throughout the city enabling Stark State to provide even greater outreach to Akron residents seeking education and training that will lead to rewarding employment,” said Para M. Jones, Ph.D., president of Stark State College. “Students from Akron and Summit County comprise 26% percent of Stark State’s overall enrollment and they comprise up to 50 percent of our enrollment in high-growth, high-demand programs. Also, more students transfer to the University of Akron from Stark State than from any other community college in the region or state,” Jones pointed out.

The City, APS, and Stark State are excited to begin the fall semester with this new adult education and workforce training program.

End.