

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
BOARD RULE 400.0000.00
TUITION AND FEE COMPARISONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: JANUARY 28, 2010

The University System of Ohio (USO) has developed a system of metrics for measuring indicators of success and assessing the performance of Ohio's institutions of higher education. There are twenty metrics grouped along four dimensions: access, quality, affordability and efficiency, and economic leadership. Systematic processes for gathering data from institutions and reporting data to stakeholders are organized accordingly to provide stakeholders with information that shows how individual institutions are performing.

Colleges and universities report the tuition and fees they charge to the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) and to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Statistics Data System (IPEDS). Stakeholders can then use the data published by OBR and IPEDS to make decisions about the affordability of higher education. The Board of Trustees at Belmont Technical College recognizes that the cost of attending college affects not only affordability, but also access, as the more affordable education becomes, the more likely students will be to make decisions to pursue higher education and to achieve their educational goals.

Comparing tuition and fees with comparable peer institutions is one strategy Belmont uses to monitor access to higher education in the Ohio Valley. The college's systematic process for monitoring and reporting progress toward making education accessible to students relies on data gathered from IPEDS and is the most recent cost comparison data available.

Data

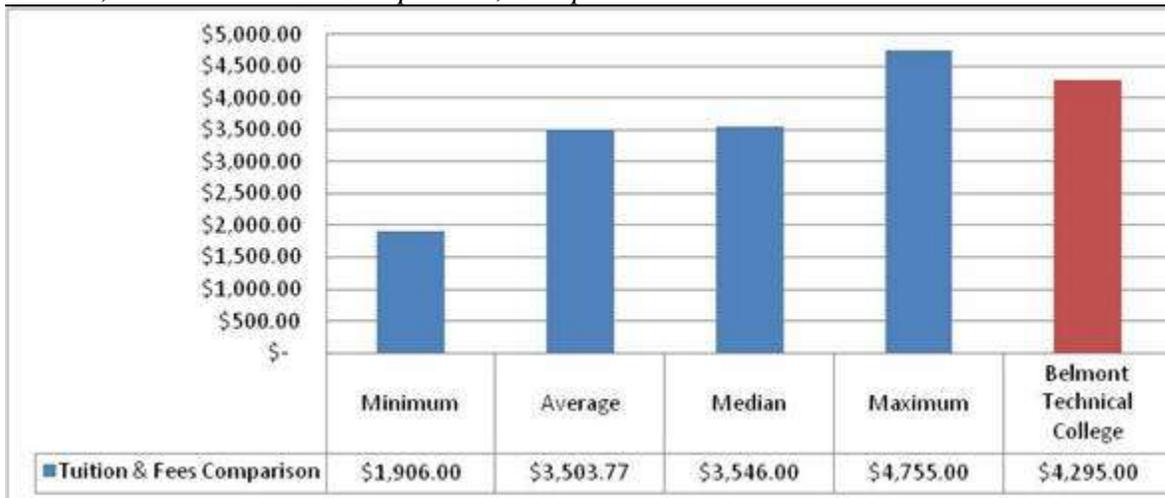
This report compares published tuition and fee data for 12 two-year institutions. Eight of these institutions represent those institutions formerly referred to as technical colleges, one institution is a community college in northern West Virginia, and three others are community colleges from this geographic region. Chart 1, *Tuition and Fees Comparison, Comparable Institutions*, compares tuitions and fees for first-time, full-time degree/certificate seeking students, enrolled for 15 credit hours in each of three quarters during the 2007/2008 academic year. Institutional tuition and fees are those "costs" defined by IPEDS as "the amount of money charged to students." Fees are "those fixed sum charges to students for items not covered by tuition that are required of such a large portion of all students that the student who does not pay the charges is an exception."

Table 1, *Tuition and Fees Comparison, Comparable Institutions 2007/2008 and 2008/2009*, shows tuition and fees at each of 12 institutions. Totals for tuition and fees are shown for two academic years, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. Institutions are arranged so that the institution with the highest cost in 2008/2009 is at the top of the list. The majority of institutions did not make changes in tuition for the 2008/2009 academic year. The small differences at some institutions are generally the result of increases in fees. The range of totals for the 12 institutions in 2008/2009 begins with a low of \$1,978 at West Virginia Northern. The highest total for tuition and fees in this grouping is at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College where a full-time student would be charged \$4,755 for the 2008/2009 academic year. The range between highest and lowest is \$2,777.

Table 1, *Tuition and Fees Comparison, Comparable Institutions 2007/2008 and 2008/2009*

	2007/2008	2008/2009
Cincinnati State Technical and Community College	\$ 4,755.00	\$ 4,755.00
Belmont Technical College	\$ 4,295.00	\$ 4,295.00
Marion Technical College	\$ 3,660.00	\$ 4,064.00
Zane State College	\$ 3,849.00	\$ 3,855.00
Central Ohio Technical College	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
Hocking College	\$ 3,546.00	\$ 3,546.00
James A Rhodes State College	\$ 3,398.00	\$ 3,398.00
Washington State Community College	\$ 3,336.00	\$ 3,354.00
Stark State College of Technology	\$ 3,302.00	\$ 3,302.00
North Central State College	\$ 2,907.00	\$ 2,907.00
Jefferson Community College	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00
West Virginia Northern Community College	\$ 1,906.00	\$ 1,978.00

Chart 1, *Tuition and Fees Comparison, Comparable Institutions 2007/2008*



The second table, *Comparison of Tuition and Fees, and Financial Aid Awards with Comparable Institutions*, displays tuition and fees, and three types of financial aid awards for 12 institutions. Data for the comparison are for the 2007/2008 academic year and were drawn from the IPEDS system. Tuition and required fees for this comparison are based upon tuition and required fees for first-time, full-time, degree/certificate seeking undergraduates for the 2007/2008 academic year. The amounts for Federal, state, and institutional aid are the *average* amounts awarded to first-time, full-time, degree/certificate seeking students who received each type of award.

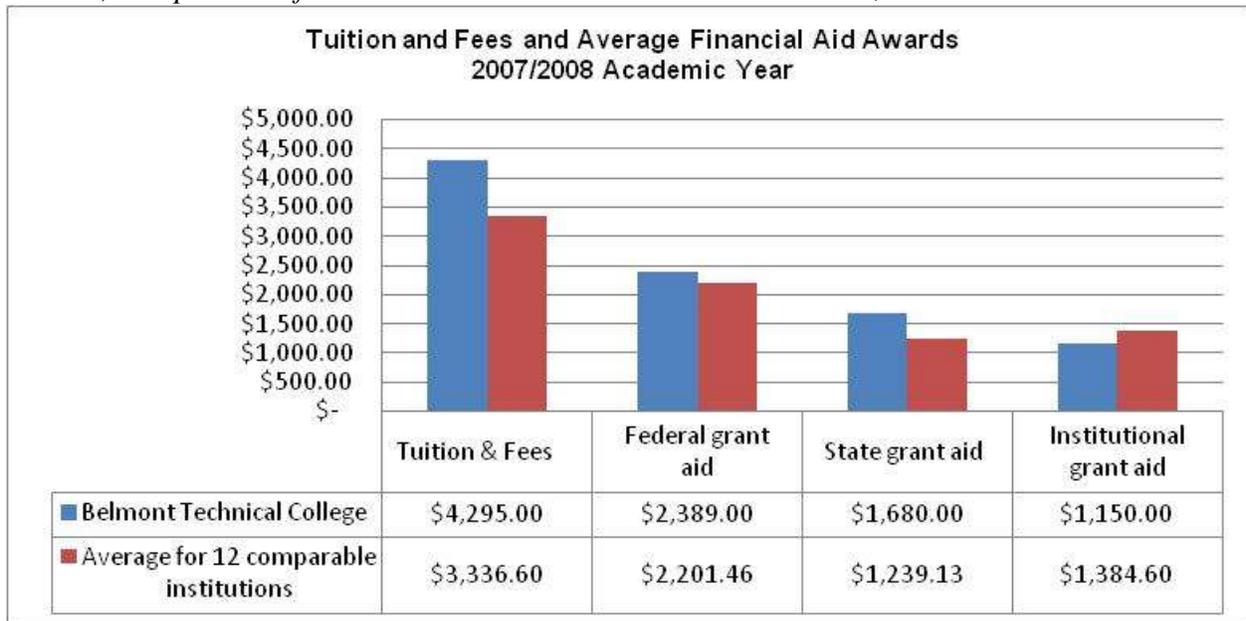
The same 12 institutions are included in the second table; however, in this table, the order of presentation is according to the “out-of-pocket” cost of attending the institution. The “out-of-pocket” cost is another way of looking at the cost of attendance. This “out-of-pocket” cost calculation begins with the total tuition and required fees. The average financial aid awards are totaled and applied against the total of tuition and fees. It is then possible to guesstimate how much a student would have to pay out of his or her pocket to cover the cost of attending college. While it is unlikely that any one student would receive the average amount of financial aid in

every category, financial aid counselors work with students to secure the best packages of aid for each student.

Table 2, *Comparison of Tuition and Fees, and Financial Aid Awards 2007/2008*

	Average awards to First-time full-time Degree-seeking students				Total average awards	Out-of-pocket cost
	Tuition & Fees	Federal grant aid	State grant aid	Institutional grant aid		
North Central State	\$2,907.00	\$ 708.00	\$ 342.00	\$ 494.00	\$1,544.00	\$1,363.00
Stark State	\$3,302.00	\$1,574.00	\$ 879.00	\$1,332.00	\$3,785.00	-\$483.00
Belmont Technical	\$4,295.00	\$2,389.00	\$1,680.00	\$1,150.00	\$5,219.00	-\$924.00
Washington State	\$3,336.00	\$2,195.00	\$ 919.00	\$1,550.00	\$4,664.00	-\$1,328.00
James A Rhodes	\$3,398.00	\$2,608.00	\$1,543.00	\$ 852.00	\$5,003.00	-\$1,605.00
Marion Technical	\$3,660.00	\$2,552.00	\$1,810.00	\$1,259.00	\$5,621.00	-\$1,961.00
Cincinnati State	\$4,755.00	\$2,089.00	\$1,929.00	\$2,790.00	\$6,808.00	-\$2,053.00
Hocking College	\$3,546.00	\$2,562.00	\$1,502.00	\$1,746.00	\$5,810.00	-\$2,264.00
Central Ohio	\$3,600.00	\$2,679.00	\$1,818.00	\$2,005.00	\$6,502.00	-\$2,902.00
West Virginia Northern	\$1,906.00	\$3,030.00	\$1,150.00	\$ 914.00	\$5,094.00	-\$3,188.00
Zane State	\$3,849.00	\$2,848.00	\$1,726.00	\$2,763.00	\$7,337.00	-\$3,488.00
Jefferson	\$2,700.00	\$2,554.00	\$1,586.00	\$2,523.00	\$6,663.00	-\$6,463.00

Chart 2, *Comparison of Tuition and Fees and Financial Aid Awards, 2007/2008*



Analysis

There is a range in cost for Ohio community and technical colleges, and technical colleges seem to cost more than other colleges. Differences are related to the higher cost of providing a technical education. Understanding that a technical education costs more than a general studies program, BTC makes an effort to help students find financial aid to make college accessible.

Tuition and fees at BTC have stayed constant over the last three years, as they have at most of the USO community and technical colleges. IPEDS data included in this report shows *cost* based on tuition and fees, and then *cost* for first-time full-time degree-seeking students who qualify for and receive federal, and/or state, or institutional aid. Thus, an important factor that makes an impact on the cost of higher education is availability of federal, state, and institutional grants. If these types of aid can be used to offset tuition and fees, the remaining cost which a student must pay is often referred to as *out-of-pocket* or *net cost*.

BTC advisors and financial aid counselors encourage first-time full-time degree-seeking students to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The submission of this form initiates the process of determining eligibility for Federal and other sources of need-based financial aid. Based upon the Department of Education’s determination of students’ expected family contribution (EFC), students receive financial awards that can offset the cost of higher education. In fact, over the last three years, while tuition and fees have remained constant at BTC, federal aid grants have increased for eligible BTC students.

Table 3, *Average Financial Aid Awards, 2006/2007 through 2009/2010* displays the cost of tuition and fees for first-time, full-time degree/certificate seeking students at Belmont. In addition, the table shows average financial aid awards to students. The amounts shown for 2009/2010 reflect awards for fall quarter. The data here show that the out of pocket, or net cost, of a technical education at BTC is lower for the 2008/2009 and the 2009/2010 academic years than it was for the 2006/2007 year. Financial aid awards for the remaining two quarters of 2009/2010 are expected to remain at the current level.

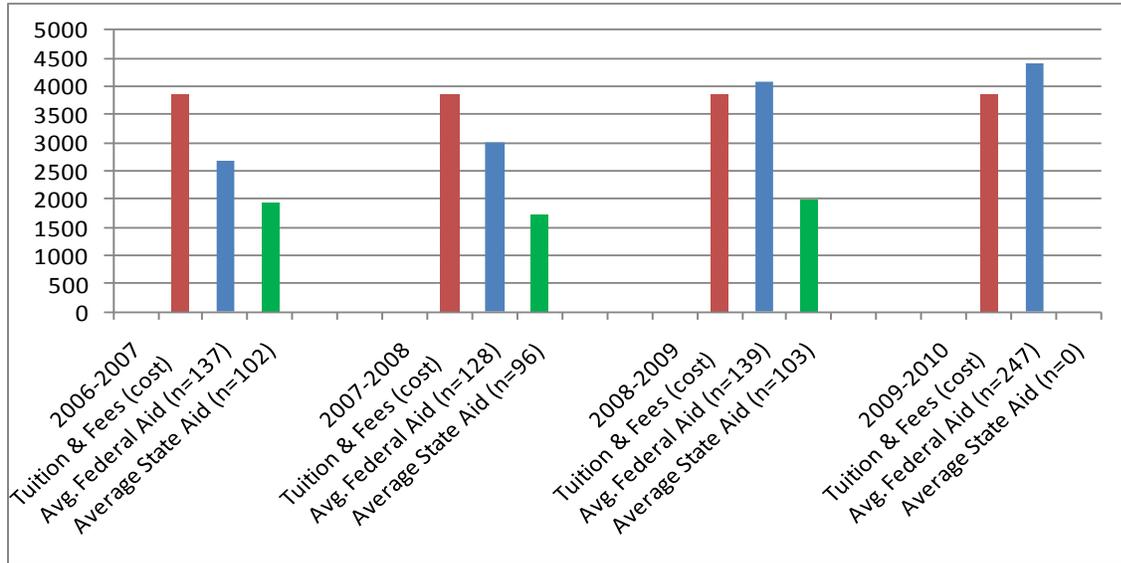
Table 3, *Average Financial Aid Awards, 2006/2007 through 2009/2010*

2006-2007	
Tuition & Fees (cost)	\$ 3,849.00
Avg. Federal Aid (n=137)	\$ 2,693.00
Average State Aid (n=102)	\$ 1,920.14
2007-2008	
Tuition & Fees (cost)	\$ 3,849.00
Avg. Federal Aid (n=128)	\$ 3,003.00
Average State Aid (n=96)	\$ 1,724.84
2008-2009	
Tuition & Fees (cost)	\$ 3,849.00
Avg. Federal Aid (n=139)	\$ 4,069.00
Average State Aid (n=103)	\$ 2,004.74
2009-2010	
Tuition & Fees (cost)	\$ 3,849.00
Avg. Federal Aid (n=247)	\$ 4,416.00
Average State Aid (n=0)	\$ -

These data showing average financial aid awards reflect the fact that in 2009/2010, there have been no financial aid grants from the state. In the third chart and table, the numbers of students receiving aid in each category are shown with category labels e.g. *Average State Aid (n=102)*. The data suggest that first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students eligible for both

federal and state financial aid awards would have sufficient funds to cover the cost of BTC tuition and fees. In fact, some students receive awards great enough to pay for books and some of their living expenses. In the chart, cost is shown in red, the bar showing federal aid is blue, and state aid is green.

Chart 3, *Average Financial Aid Awards, 2006/2007 through 2009/2010*



Conclusion and Recommendations

Institutionally supported financial aid has become the key to access for students who would have been eligible in the past for state financial aid. Belmont has given \$205,985.00 to 114 students in 2009/2010. Factored into the average institutional grant are the Hilda Burrows scholarships that were added to help displaced workers return to school. The average institutional aid award to students in 2009/2010 is approximately \$1,807. During the 2008/2009 academic year, institutional awards given at Belmont averaged out to \$952 per student. The increase in institutional grants is making an important impact on the lives of students by giving them access to higher education.

As Belmont Technical College does its part to contribute to meeting the Chancellor’s targeted goals for the University System of Ohio, the college is continuing to assess the needs of students, to respond to those needs in meaningful ways, and to make strategic and creative allocations of institutional aid. Institutional awards are especially important because Federal aid is often not enough to meet the needs of Belmont’s students. Without a doubt, financial aid dollars are key to successful enrollment management, and further to meeting the USO goals of increasing the number of college graduates by 2014.