

AGENDA ITEM C2: ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
BOARD RULE 400.0000.00
TUITION AND FEE COMPARISONS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: JANUARY 27, 2011

The University System of Ohio (USO) has developed a system of metrics for evaluating 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 according to these four categories. Performance on the metrics can be used as measures of accessibility, quality, affordability and efficiency and economic leadership.

Tuition and fees data from institutions are used as indicators of affordability. Colleges and universities report the tuition and fees charged by their institutions to the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) in the Fall Survey of Student Charges. Stakeholders can then use the information derived from the data published by OBR in Higher Education Information (HEI) system reports to make decisions about the affordability of higher education in Ohio. 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 a September 2010 HEI report. In the case of tuition and fees, HEI data are useful for making comparisons among Ohio institutions as USO institutions are required to submit their data according to uniform definitions and criteria for reporting.

Data

This report compares tuition and fee data for 23 community colleges in Ohio. The data summarized for review in this report are based upon annualized average cost to attend USO community colleges as a full-time student for one year. When comparing tuition and fees among the 23 USO community colleges, it is worthy of note that six of Ohio's community colleges have local levies that provide between 10 and 35 percent of the resources for those institutions. Thus the net tuition and fees at those six institutions are generally lower than tuition and fees for the other 17 community colleges. In addition, community colleges with levy support charge different rates for in-district and out-of district students. In this report, comparisons are made between in-state annualized tuition and fees at technical colleges and in-district annualized tuition and fees for community colleges.

When HEI publishes annualized tuition and fee data, community colleges and technical colleges are shown in two groups. This report displays that HEI data in those same groupings. Data are arranged in tables and charts. The first table, *Annualized tuition and fees for technical colleges, 2010/2011* displays annualized tuition and fees for eight technical colleges. The table is followed by a chart that displays a comparison among Belmont and the minimum (lowest tuition and fees), median (the middle value for tuition and fees), maximum (the highest tuition and fees) and means (mathematical average) values for in-state tuition and fees at eight technical colleges. A similar format for displays is given in Table 2, *Annualized tuition and fees for community colleges, 2010/2011* where annualized tuition and fees are listed. Chart 2 shows the minimum, median, maximum and mean values for in-district tuition and fees for community colleges.

Table 1, *Annualized tuition and fees for technical colleges, 2010/2011*

	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
James A. Rhodes State	\$4,313	\$8,627
Stark State	\$4,073	\$6,323
Zane State	\$3,960	\$7,920
Belmont	\$3,908	\$6,799
North Central State	\$3,893	\$7,785
Marion	\$3,876	\$5,784
Central Ohio	\$3,852	\$6,552
Hocking	\$3,795	\$7,590

Chart 1, *Comparison of annualized in-state tuition and fees for technical colleges, 2010/2011*

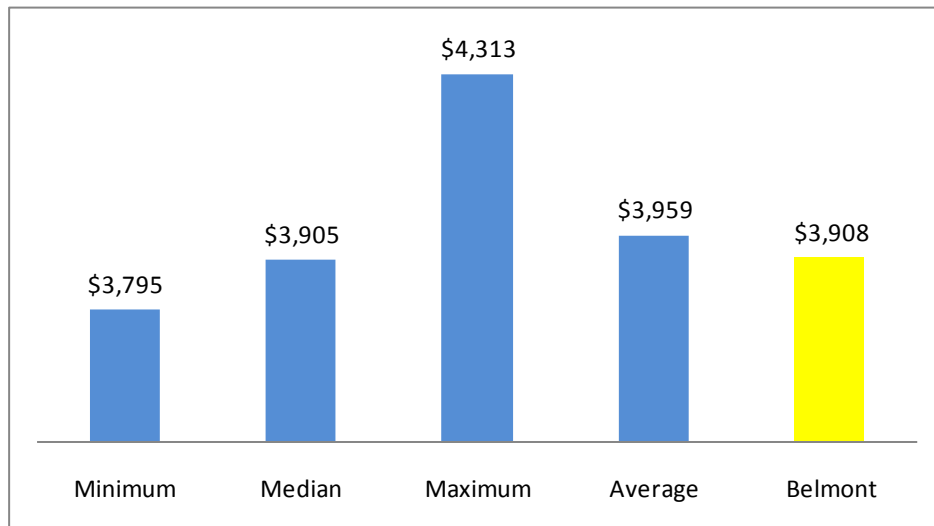


Table 2, *Annualized tuition and fees for community colleges, 2010/2011*

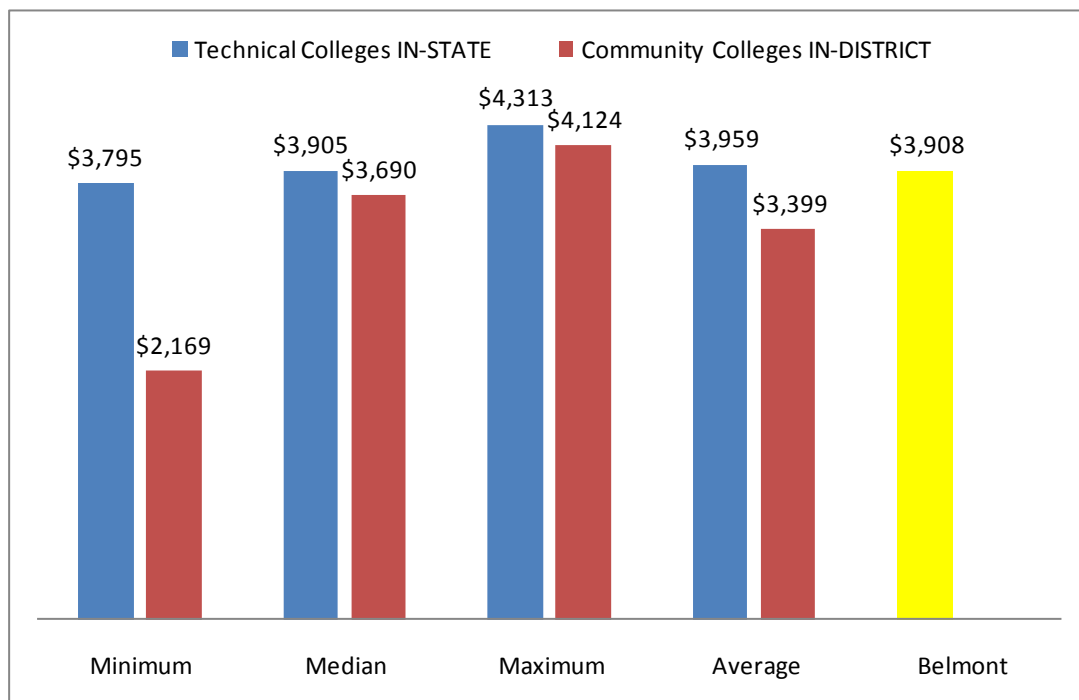
	IN-DISTRICT	OUT-OF-DISTRICT	OUT-OF-STATE
Cincinnati State	\$4,124		\$7,989
Northwest State	\$3,990		\$7,740
Terra State	\$3,865		\$6,058
Washington State	\$3,807		\$7,475
Owens State	\$3,749		\$7,005
Rio Grande	\$3,740	\$4,340	NA
Clark State	\$3,732		\$6,927
Edison State	\$3,690		\$6,900
Columbus State	\$3,679		\$8,145
Southern State	\$3,633		\$6,993
Lakeland	\$2,916	\$3,566	\$7,598
Eastern Gateway	\$2,790	\$2,970	\$3,780
Lorain	\$2,569	\$3,094	\$6,252
Cuyahoga	\$2,537	\$3,354	\$6,868
Sinclair	\$2,169	\$3,542	\$7,029

Chart 2, Comparison of annualized in-district tuition and fees for 17 community colleges (excluding the 8 technical colleges in Chart 1), 2010/2011



Chart 3, Comparison of annualized tuition and fees for USO two-year institutions, 2010/2011 brings together minimum, median, maximum, and mean values for in-state (technical colleges) and in-district (community colleges) tuition and fees at 23 USO institutions.

Chart 3, Comparison of annualized tuition and fees for USO two-year institutions, 2010/2011



Analysis

The data presented in this report suggests that annualized tuition and fees at community colleges are lower than at technical colleges. The greatest discrepancy between technical and community colleges appears at the minimum where the difference between the minimum at Hocking Technical College is \$3,795 and the minimum at Sinclair Community College is \$2,169. Comparison of median values shows a more narrow range; the median for technical colleges is

\$3,905 and the median for community colleges is \$3,690. The difference in median values is \$215. The difference between the maximum values at James A. Rhodes Technical College and Cincinnati State Community College is \$189.

Conclusions

The annualized tuition and fees for in-state students at Belmont for 2010/2011 is \$3,908; this is \$51 above the average and \$3 above the median for technical colleges. Overall, annualized tuition and fees are lowest at community colleges with levy support for in-district students and highest at technical colleges. Belmont's tuition and fees are within the range for technical colleges; the tuition and fees are not as high as two of the community colleges (i.e. Cincinnati State and Northwest State). Overall, Belmont ranks 6th from the top of 23 two-year colleges in annualized tuition and fees costs.

Reliance on The Trustees Scholarship continues to be one of the most effective strategies for off-setting the cost of a technical education. The scholarship assistance is an important aspect of making higher education affordable for students from Belmont, Harrison, and Monroe counties.