

**AGENDA ITEM B3: DEGREE COMPLETION**

**BOARD RULE 400.0200.00**

**GRADUATION RATE COMPARISONS WITH COMPARABLE INSTITUTIONS**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

Administrators and staff members from the Office of Research and Information Services at Belmont Technical College report graduation rate data to the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR). These data are published by OBR for the University System of Ohio (USO) in reports accessible through the Higher Education Information (HEI) system. Institutions of higher education and members of the public can use these data to compare graduation completion rate data between and among USO public institutions. This report compares graduation rate data for Ohio's 23 community colleges. Comparing graduation rates at BTC with rates for comparable institutions is one way the College monitors the college's progress and improvement toward helping students achieve their educational goals (Board of Trustees, *Ends Policies*, Section IV, 400.0200.00 *Degree Completion*).

This report relies upon data from the HEI system that has been systematically gathered from the 23 community colleges in the USO system, organized, and presented to facilitate meaningful comparisons across institutions within the USO. These data are available to members of the public who have computer access and are interested in knowing about graduation rates in Ohio's public institutions. Comparisons between and among institutions are most valid and reliable when systematic processes such as those used by HEI have been implemented to standardize measurements.

***Data/Analysis***

Graduation rate data in this report are presented in tables. The data presented summarize OBR's data from its HEI system to monitor the number of associate degrees awarded and the length of time and number of credits earned by students who earned associate degrees. Students who completed certificates and students who transferred into Belmont or were awarded college credit from other institutions are not included in this report.

This report includes three tables. Table 1, *Time and credits to associate degree for Belmont students graduating in 2009/2010*, displays HEI data for Belmont students during the 2009/2010 academic year. Table 2, *Time and credits to associate degree for Ohio community college students graduating in 2009-2010*, includes the same data for Belmont as is shown in Table 1, and also includes data for all community colleges in the USO and displays comparable data<sup>1</sup> for the 23 community colleges. Table 3, *Six-year trend in associate degree awards*, shows the upward trend in associate degree awards at Belmont from the 2005/2006 academic year through the 2010/2011 academic year.

Table 1, *Time and credits to associate degree for Belmont students graduating in 2009/2010*, includes 8 columns of data. The first data column indicates the total number of students receiving associate degrees during the academic year. Those degree recipients are then categorized by percentages of graduates within *time-to-degree* periods.

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<sup>1</sup>Retrieved September 1, 2011 from: [http://regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/statProfiles/Time-to-Degree\\_Report\\_FY2010.pdf](http://regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/statProfiles/Time-to-Degree_Report_FY2010.pdf)

Table 1, *Time and credits to associate degree for Belmont students graduating in 2009/2010*

	# degrees awarded	Avg. credits to degree	Median years to degree	Percent graduating in:			
				2 years or less	> 2 years, <= 3 years	> 3 years, <= 4 years	More than 4 years
Belmont Technical College	240	88	3.0	14%	38%	10%	38%

Reading across the first row in this table from left to right indicates: the number of associate degrees awarded at Belmont in 2009/2010 was 240; the average credits-to-degree was 88; and the median<sup>2</sup> number of years to degree was 3.0 years. The elapsed amount of time Belmont students spent earning associate degrees is further categorized and shown in four columns. The break-outs by time-to-degree are for students earning their degrees in 2 years or less, 14% (n=34), greater than 2 years, but less than or equal to 3 years, 38% (n=91), greater than 3 years, but less than or equal to four years 10% (n=24), and more than four years 38% (n=91).

Table 2, *Time and credits to associate degree for Ohio community college students graduating in 2009-2010*

USO Community Colleges	# degrees awarded	Avg. credits to degree	Median years to degree	Percent graduating in:			
				2 years or less	> 2 years, <= 3 years	> 3 years, <= 4 years	More than 4 years
Belmont Technical College	240	88	3.0	14%	38%	10%	38%
Central Ohio Technical College	455	84	3.3	10%	35%	22%	33%
Cincinnati State Tech & Comm College	1,003	86	3.8	8%	29%	19%	44%
Clark State Community College	288	80	4.3	9%	24%	16%	51%
Columbus State Community College	1,492	86	4.6	5%	19%	19%	57%
Cuyahoga Community College	1,594	89	6.0	2%	10%	15%	73%
Eastern Gateway Community College	157	97	3.7	13%	26%	14%	47%
Edison State Community College	211	77	4.3	6%	24%	18%	52%
Hocking Technical College	494	82	2.8	27%	30%	17%	26%
James A. Rhodes State College	450	83	3.5	9%	30%	26%	36%
Lakeland Community College	714	83	4.3	11%	20%	15%	54%
Lorain County Community College	914	90	4.7	7%	16%	16%	61%
Marion Technical College	169	89	3.8	8%	31%	22%	38%
North Central State College	289	79	4.3	4%	25%	19%	51%
Northwest State Community College	229	80	4.7	18%	17%	11%	54%
Owens State Community College	1,078	86	4.7	7%	16%	20%	57%
Rio Grande Community College	177	102	2.7	38%	18%	14%	31%
Sinclair Community College	1,333	69	5.3	4%	15%	14%	66%
Southern State Community College	303	81	4.0	16%	20%	16%	49%
Stark State College of Technology	918	90	4.0	11%	21%	19%	48%
Terra State Community College	176	68	4.3	16%	18%	14%	52%
Washington State Community College	257	87	3.8	13%	24%	20%	43%
Zane State College	313	83	3.5	17%	30%	15%	38%

Data provided by Ohio Board of Regents, *Time and Credits to Associate Degree for Non-transfer Students Graduating in FY 2010*

<sup>2</sup> The *median* value from the range is used in the descriptive statistics because this mid-point value is less sensitive to extreme values in the data.

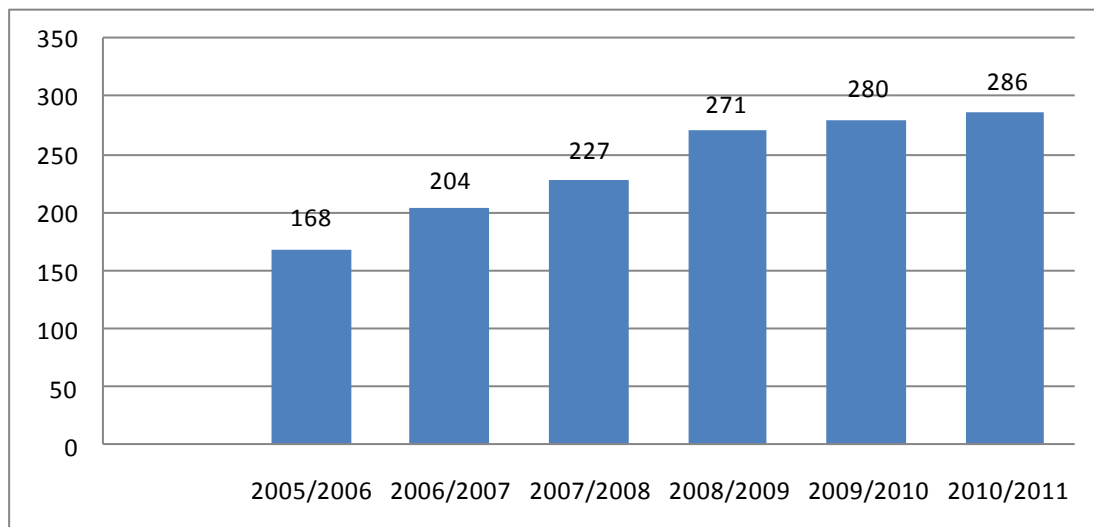
Table 2, shows that in comparison with 22 other community colleges in Ohio, Belmont ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the number of associate degrees granted during 2009/2010. The numerical range for degrees awarded goes from a low of 157 at Eastern Gateway Community College to a high of 1,594 at Cuyahoga Community College. Belmont’s ranking is five places below the median and six places above the lowest.

In terms of average credits to degree, Belmont ranks 7<sup>th</sup> from the highest. The range for average credits to degree runs from 68 credits at Terra State Community College to 102 credits at Rio Grande Community College. Belmont’s average of 88 credits to degree is five places above the median of 84 credits to degree and 16 places above the lowest.

The median number of years to degree data indicates that Belmont ranks 20<sup>th</sup> below the greatest number of years to degree, which means the 3.0 median years to degree for Belmont associate degree graduates in 2009/2010 was surpassed by only two other community colleges. The range of time in this category goes from a minimum of 2.7 years at Rio Grande Community College to a high of six years at Cuyahoga Community College.

The steady increase in associate degrees awarded at Belmont can be seen by looking at the trend that emerges when associate degree awards are tracked over a six-year time period. Table 3, *Six-year trend in associate degree awards* shows that since the 2005/2006 academic year, the number of associate degrees awarded has increased from 168 to 286 in 2010/2011. This is an increase of 70% over the six-year time period.

Table 3, *Six-year trend in associate degree awards*



### ***Conclusions***

Belmont has academic programming and student services programs in place to encourage students to complete degrees. Adding the Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Science (AS) degrees has expanded opportunities for students to complete two-year degrees and to continue beyond completion of certificate programs. Staff members and administrators in the Student Services department will continue to make students aware of an array of opportunities to complete associate degrees in a variety of disciplines and to support students in their efforts to achieve educational goals.