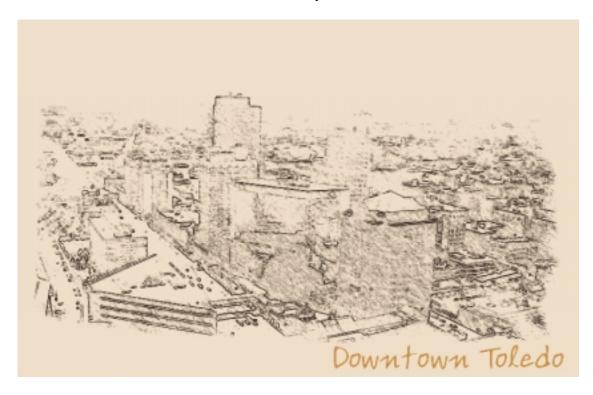
Center City, Center of Learning and Earning? Considering Sub-Baccalaureate Options For Downtown Toledo

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This study was performed through a contract submitted by the City Council of Toledo to the Urban Affairs Center of the University of Toledo. The project team, who take full responsibility for the statements contained herein, independently performed the study. The Urban Affairs Center and/or the University of Toledo made no formal endorsement of the materials herein.

Executive Summary

Findings

- Educational attainment in Toledo is lower than the Ohio average at every level from high school through to graduate degrees, and Ohio's is lower than the national average. Across the board, educational attainment by Toledoans is only 2/3rd the rate of the US average. A severe deficit exists in the downtown Toledo area, where educational attainment rates are one-half to one-third of the City as a whole, and as low as one-sixth the national average.
- Residents and workers in Toledo (and especially the near downtown area) have limited opportunities to pursue educational attainment and skill enhancement in a timely manner, since the main campuses of the public post-secondary educational institutions are more than 5 miles from the center of the city and there is limited mass transit service to those sites.
- Low rates of degree completion from the high school to graduate levels reduces the ability of the City, Port Authority, and Regional Growth Partnership to retain and to attract new firms, and impedes the ability of Toledoans to secure jobs when they are created and/or maintain the skills needed to perform jobs as the skill levels of those jobs are increased.
- As service-based and information-based activities dominate the economy, educational and skill attainment are crucial to maintaining a local economy and attracting new firms.
- Other Ohio and US cities have increased the education of their citizens, the economic vitality, and their ability to attract new industry by locating a college with a comprehensive curriculum (GED, certificate, AA, and BA degrees) in their center city. As few as 1,000 students might have an economic impact of \$8 million dollars on the local economy.

Recommendations:

To effectively address the needs of its residents and businesses, the City of Toledo should:

- 1. Secure a (sub-baccalaureate and/or baccalaureate) college with a comprehensive curriculum in proximity to the transit hub and low income/low education population found in downtown Toledo.
- 2. Initiate discussions with Owens Community College and with The University of Toledo to ascertain the interest of each institution in creating high quality education and lifelong learning opportunities in the downtown area as part of a process of assuring the current and future economic vitality of the City and region.

Executive Summary Table of Contents Index of Tables	ii iii iv		
		Introduction	1
		Part I – The Downtown Challenge in State and Federal Context	1
A. State Policy and Under-investment in Ohio's Education SystemB. Financial and Institutional Variance Among Ohio Community CollegesC. Summary	2 6 9		
PART II: Economic And Demographic Changes In Toledo	9		
A. Demographic Considerations B. Economic Considerations C. Summary	9 11 13		
PART III: Community College and Sub-Baccalaureate Functions In Downtown Toledo	13		
 A. Educational Attainment in Ohio, Lucas County, and Toledo B. Sub-Baccalaureate Programs and Services in Downtown Toledo C. The New Economy Comes To Toledo and A New Response Is Needed D. Local Labor Market Needs E. Downtown Economic Development; The 800 Pound Gorilla F. Summary of Economic and Workforce Development Data 	13 17 20 22 25 26		
PART IV: Findings, Options, and Closing Thoughts	27		
About The Research Team	34		

<u>Index of Tables</u>	Page
1 Diversity of Structure of Higher Education in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio	3
2 Institutional Diversity of Public Two-Year Colleges in the State of Ohio	5
3 Post-Secondary Enrollment in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio	6
4 Changes in Enrollment at Public Two-Year Institutions in Ohio, 1992-1999	7
5 Enrollment Changes at Public Two-Year Institutions in Northwest Ohio, 1992-1999	8
6 Population Trends and Projections in the Toledo MSA, 1980 to 2015	9
7 1990-2004 Census Data Within a 2 and 5 Mile Radius from Downtown Toledo	10
8 Historic Employment Trends 1995-1998, Toledo MSA	12
9 Projected Employment Needs for the Toledo MSA, 1996-2006	13
10 Comparison of Educational Attainment in Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio, and the US	14
11 Educational Attainment in Toledo and Lucas County (1990)	15
12 Sub-Baccalaureate Education Offered by Public Institutions and in Downtown Toledo	19
13 Enrollment in UT Programs Located Outside of the Bancroft and Scott Park Campuses	19
14 Workforce Competencies (All Sectors)	23
15 Changes in Skill Requirements for Companies	23
16 Employer Perceptions of Relationship Between Formal Credentials and Workforce Skills	24
17 Source of Workforce Training Most Likely to be Used by All Employment Sectors	25
18 Earnings and Unemployment Rate by Degree Attainment	25