

CHAMBER Q & A DOCUMENT

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY – RFP 02-CY09

- Question:** Beyond the Chamber of Commerce, City, and school district, has a larger group of stakeholders been consulted regarding the viability of a place-based scholarship program? To what extent would the consultants hired to prepare the Economic Impact Study be encouraged and/or permitted to consult with a broader group of stakeholders?

Answer: At the inception of the planning of this project, a larger group of stakeholders, consisting of approximately 24 community organizations and various community members were consulted to participate for planning purposes. However, not all have participated in this process resulting in a pool of stakeholders that may not be all-inclusive and fully representative of pertinent stakeholders surrounding this project. The consultants hired to prepare the study would absolutely be encouraged and permitted to consult with whom is determined as necessary.

- Question:** Among the three key stakeholders, is there general agreement on the vision and goals of a scholarship program (e.g. to reverse population decline in the urban core, to increase public school enrollment, to increase college attendance rates, to improve local workforce, etc.), or is the group seeking guidance on this question from the consultants hired?

Answer: The consensus on the vision and goals of the scholarship includes all of the above. However, if the consultant should see it necessary to include additional goals, the consultant should feel free to propose such items as it sees fit.

- Question:** Is there a consensus among stakeholders that the scope of the program will be the Springfield public schools? Is there any discussion or debate over including private/parochial and/or home-schooled students in the program? Would this be an issue the consultants would want to address?

Answer: The consultants may, if they choose to do so, address the positive and negative affects of including private/parochial and/or home-schooled students in the program. However, there is a general consensus among the key stakeholders to focus solely on the Springfield public schools for this program.

- Question:** Are you mainly concerned about whether the implementation of a statewide merit aid program subsequent to the introduction of a local, place-based program would diminish the value of the local program? Or are you interested in the opposite – that is, is there a need for a local, place-based program if there is a statewide merit program in the works?

Answer: The local, place-based program would serve to supplement any currently available aid programs, including any statewide merit programs currently in existence.

5. **Question:** Has a determination been made that a scholarship program would include only these regional institutions (Clark State Community College, Wittenberg University, Cedarville University, Wright State University), or is the question of eligible institutions still open – and are you looking for the consultants to put forth a recommendation (or alternative recommendations) regarding which schools scholarship recipients would be allowed to attend?

Answer: It is recommended that the consultant draw on findings from similar communities when making a recommendation of whether or not to include only regional institutions of higher education.