



2455 North Star Road, Suite 200  
Columbus, Ohio 43221-3468

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Contact: Kate Carey  
Executive Director  
614.995.3240  
kcarey@oln.org

## **Lumina Foundation funding helps Ohio adults get a “QuickStart” to College**

COLUMBUS, Ohio— Working Ohioans who want to go to college will get a “QuickStart” thanks to a \$522,200 grant from Lumina Foundation for Education.

The grant will create a new path to college in Lima, Toledo, and Zanesville at Rhodes State College, Owens Community College, and Zane State College. Adults return to learning with a course, “QuickStart to College” that helps them transition into college. Once enrolled, students will be offered refresher classes in math and English, join a mentoring program and create a learning plan that will keep them on track throughout their degree.

The QuickStart course brings students to campus for the first class meeting and then they work at a distance. At that first class, students get a parking pass, learn how to find their way around the campus, and meet their adviser. At the end of the course, students will have created a complete learning plan that helps them determine what courses they will take to earn a degree.

“This program promises to help Ohioans get the education they need so they can keep the jobs they want,” said Kate M. Carey, Executive Director of the Ohio Learning Network, recipient of the grant. “The program exemplifies the philosophies embedded in the new Strategic Plan for Higher Education.”

This project will strengthen the Ohio workforce by increasing the number of adult students entering and completing higher education. Barriers for adults include college readiness (often mathematics and English skills), support mechanisms, financial aid, and time. QuickStart to College reduces all those barriers. In the next five years, Ohio’s economy will create more than 560,000 new jobs, 60% of which will require employees with some college education. Today, less than 25% of Ohio’s population over the age of 25 has some postsecondary education.

“The Quickstart program is exciting in that it allows us to reach out to those students who might not otherwise consider going to college,” said Chad Brown, Academic Dean of Health, Public Service & Service Related Programs at Zane State College. “The key to this program is really individuality and flexibility; students will work individually with Financial Aid and the Student Success Center as they design a forward looking, individualized plan of study.

“Sometimes the greatest barrier to not attending college is simply being unaware of the help and services available. The Quickstart program really seeks to bridge this gap,” said Brown.

Bruce Busby, Vice President of Academic Services at Owens Community College said, “With support from the Lumina Foundation, QuickStart to College will provide increased access to higher education for many under-employed and unemployed adults in the Toledo area.”

“This opportunity provides a pathway for students to achieve their dream,” said Melissa Green, Vice President for Student Affairs at Rhodes State College.

Lumina Foundation for Education, an Indianapolis-based private foundation, strives to help people achieve their potential by expanding access to and success in education beyond high school. Through grants for research, innovation, communication and evaluation, as well as policy education and leadership development, Lumina Foundation addresses issues that affect access and educational attainment among all students, especially underserved student groups such as minorities, students from low-income families, first-time college-goers and working adults. The Foundation believes postsecondary education is one of the most beneficial investments individuals can make in themselves and that a society can make in its people.

OLN ([www.olin.org](http://www.olin.org)), an initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents, is a consortium of 82 public and private colleges and universities. Ohioans can find 4000 courses and 210 degrees through the OhioLearns catalog ([www.ohiolearns.org](http://www.ohiolearns.org)). OLN supports faculty teaching and learning and builds partnerships among higher education schools, business, and communities in Ohio. For additional information regarding the Ohio Learning Network or the QuickStart to College program please contact Kate Carey at [kcarey@olin.org](mailto:kcarey@olin.org) or 614-995-3240.