

INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF OHIO NEWSLETTER



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Governor DeWine Signs Budget Boosting Higher Education

Governor Mike DeWine has officially signed the new biennial budget bill, securing critical funding for higher education across Ohio. The Inter-University Council (IUC) worked closely with members of the Ohio General Assembly and the administration throughout the budget process to ensure strong support for Ohio public universities. The budget increases State Share of Instruction (SSI) funding by \$38.7 million in FY 2026 and \$60.1 million in FY 2027 over current levels. It also includes key investments such as the Governor's Merit Scholarship for the top 5%

BUDGET WINS FOR OHIO'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Highlights from the Ohio Biennial Budget



State Share of Instruction (SSI)

- 1% year-over-year increase
- Supports programs in engineering, AI, nursing, teaching, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing
- \$4.60 return for every \$1 invested by state



Governor's Merit Scholarship

- Scholarships for top 5% of Ohio high school graduates
- Keeps Ohio's top talent learning in-state



Record OCOG Investment

- Historic funding increases for Ohio College Opportunity Grant
- Expands affordability for thousands of students



"This budget reflects a strong commitment to our students and public institutions."
—Laura Lanese, IUC President & CEO

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(OCOg). These investments reflect a strong, shared commitment to college affordability, student success, and the future of higher education in Ohio.

The University of Toledo Welcomes New President



Dr. James Holloway began his tenure as the 19th president of the University of Toledo on July 15, 2025. He previously served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of New Mexico. He brings with him extensive academic leadership experience and a vision for growth and innovation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 Collaborative Initiatives Summit

September 24, 2025 at the Ohio 4-H Center in Columbus, OH.

Questions? Contact Megan Leone at megan.leone@iuc-ohio.org.

IUC Military-Connected Student Symposium

December 2, 2025, at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium

Curious to learn more?

Visit us anytime at iuc-ohio.org. We'd love to see you around—stay connected!

[Learn More](#)

Collaborative Initiatives Gaining Momentum Across IUC

The IUC's Collaborative Initiatives are progressing steadily with active involvement from member universities in key areas: cybersecurity, contract strategy, and summit planning.

Cybersecurity Pilot Project

Phase 1 is underway with two Chief Information Security Officers (CISO) led work groups—one building a shared resource library, the other developing a threat-sharing platform. At the April 8 meeting, CISOs agreed to use a free, open-source platform, offering a cost-effective, scalable solution.

IUC-PG Contract & Procurement Updates

Contract expansion opportunities have been reviewed by key committees and will soon be prioritized for strategic impact. Current procurement efforts include:

- Completion of a 5-year P-Card contract
- Finalizing contract details for Identity Management
- Reviewing responses for Cloud Hosted VOIP Telephone System RFP
- Conducting a Life & Disability Insurance RFP
- Successful rebid of AV/Video Equipment Agreement
- Negotiating key contract extensions and subcontracts



Laura Lanese Speaks

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Leadership Forum



The National Veterans Leadership Foundation (NVLF) remains a key partner in Ohio's strategy to support military-connected students. IUC President Laura Lanese co-led a panel session titled, "The Policy Perspective – How Does Federal and State Policy Impact the Higher Education Experience for Military-Connected Students? What Are the Current Issues and How Can Military-Veteran offices Connect to Policymakers?" Alongside Stacy Rastauskas, Vice President for Government Affairs, at The Ohio State University, President Lanese spoke before Ohio and campus leaders, as well as students, addressing ways to increase funding opportunities for campus military and veteran offices.

The FY26 -27 state budget includes \$1.14 million annually for military and veterans offices at Ohio colleges and universities. This includes \$255,000 in grants to IUC/OVEC institutions, \$91,800 for staff training through the NVLF Advancement Institute, \$213,750 for student scholarships, and funding for NVLF-led coordination and administrative support.



Laura Lanese Joins National Panel on Higher Ed Impact

IUC President & CEO Laura Lanese participated in a high-profile panel at the 2025 CASE Conference for Marketing & Brand Professionals in Los Angeles. The session, "Changing the Value Narrative from Cost to Impact," focused on how higher education leaders can shift public perception and influence policy through communicating the value proposition for higher education. President Lanese joined experts from BVK, RW Jones, and CASE to champion the *Proud Sponsor* campaign—an initiative to highlight the real-world value of higher ed in Ohio and beyond.

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SPOTLIGHT



Ohio University AFROTC Detachment 650 Sets New Standard

On June 18, 2025, OU's AFROTC Detachment 650 earned top honors in leadership, fitness, and overall Cadet Corps performance—highlighting their commitment to developing future military leaders through strong mentorship and training.

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