

## Ohio's Regional International Education Summits

Summits in five regional locations brought together over 700 people interested in promoting global competence. Participants include representatives from K-12 education, students, business community groups, and higher education.

The first event was held at the University of Cincinnati on Oct. 2. University President, Dr. Nancy Zimpher, challenged participants to think systematically about international education from P-16. She also speculated about requiring passports when students come to college to set an expectation that they need international experience. Participants held an in-depth discussion of Ohio's Strategic Plan for International Education and provided constructive feedback for implementation.

The second summit was held at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) on Oct. 13-14. The *Bridges to the World Conference* included international participants from Poland, Ukraine, Morocco and South Africa who have been working with the International Democratic Education Initiative at the BGSU to foster civic education in new democracies. It was a unique opportunity for pre-service teachers and educators from the region to learn about this work and have meaningful conversations on topics such as pedagogy, professional development and partnerships.

The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Council on World Affairs, and the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation hosted the third summit at the Intercontinental Hotel on Oct. 30. Incoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Deborah Delisle, welcomed the group. The morning speaker, David Yen, shared his perspectives on the global marketplace and the luncheon speaker, Dr. Stephen Gordon, spoke about the global impact of infectious diseases. Business, education and medical panels all underscored the need for global competence. Participants were able to network and ask questions of the speakers.

On November 14, *Educating Global Talent*, was hosted by the Columbus Council on World Affairs and The Online Computer Library Center. Carl Kohrt, CEO of Battelle, Bill Hiller of the Jennings Foundation, Doug Matthews of Right Management, a panel of educators and Jay Jordan of OCLC shared their perspectives. During interactive sessions the participants helped to prioritize the action steps within Ohio's Strategic Plan for International Education.

The final summit was held in Athens on November 19th. Daniel Weiner, Director, Center for International Studies, Mary Anne Flournoy and Rene Middleton, Dean of the College of Education, addressed the group. Discussion centered on implementation of the strategic plan, particularly in rural settings.

The World View radio program on WMVK in Cincinnati has broadcast a series of programs featuring speakers from the summits. To listen to a podcast go to this link. <http://ax.itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/browserRedirect?url=itms%253A%252F%252Fax.itunes.apple.com%252FWebObjects%252FMZStore.woa%252Fwa%252FviewPodcast%253Fid%253D204241521>

Those who were unable to attend one of the regional summits may download a discussion draft of Ohio's Strategic Plan for International Education. It contains data about Ohio's connections to the world as well as a detailed vision and action steps. You are invited to review the plan and share your insights online.

The plan is available at <http://www.thinkglobalohio.org/pages/about/about.html> A feedback form is available on <http://surveymonkey.com/IntEdPlan>