



President's Office

Ohio Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee

May 9, 2023

Dear Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee.

Notre Dame College of South Euclid, Ohio, an inner ring suburb of Cleveland, is one of 52 AICUO member campuses in the state. Many of those campuses, like Notre Dame, are small, but together we educate over half a million students. The majority of Notre Dame students come from Ohio, and the majority of them remain in Ohio, contributing to the workforce and our economic well-being.

I write on behalf of them and those who need them to fill important jobs that will sustain and grow our economy. I write on behalf of the young women and men who will create new economic opportunities for growth through creative thinking and entrepreneurship.

Notre Dame educates a significantly diverse student population defined in many ways. We are nearly 50% ethnically diverse at the undergraduate level. Over 40% are Pell eligible. 35% are first generation college graduates.

Our mission statement reads: “Notre Dame College, a Catholic institution in the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame, educates a diverse population in the liberal arts for personal, professional and global responsibility.”

We do this by providing a highly personalized approach to each student's education. Students who choose to attend Notre Dame do so because they recognize the need for this heightened attention and care for each of them as individuals. Our Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2022 call this out in this particular objective:

Notre Dame will cultivate a culture of high academic success by building pathways for all students across all educational modalities relative to individual needs and levels of preparedness.



- Evaluate and adjust the pedagogical approaches and technology needed for 21st century learning in the classroom
- Build pathways for students based on their level of preparedness. Assessment protocols will be developed to find solutions for students.

In addition to this focus on understanding each student's educational journey, we are fully cognizant of each student's and their families economic journey. We do all within our power to make a Notre Dame education affordable with an annual discount rate of near 70% overall.

OCOG funding is incredibly important to our Ohio families in need, and it further helps bridge the funding gap. Notre Dame runs a very tight financial ship, and students use every OCOG dollar they receive to help deliver on our academic promises and to prepare students to enter the world of work well-grounded in a values-based education. 35% of Notre Dame students rely on OCOG funding!

Again, on behalf of our students and their families from Ohio, I implore you to consider increasing OCOG funding and to continue to give students a choice in where they choose to follow their educational journey.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Pressimone, Ed.D  
President