



July 18, 2018

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Joint Committee:

The Ohio State University is proud to be a leader in affordability for our students.

We have committed \$100 million in additional need-based aid for Ohio students and families since 2015 — well exceeding our stated goal of reaching that number by 2020 — with an expected impact for almost 32,000 Buckeyes. At the same time, we have introduced a number of affordability efforts unprecedented in our university's history, including a new tuition guarantee program for incoming Ohio freshmen. For existing Ohio students, tuition and fees have been frozen for six consecutive years.

Nationally, Ohio State ranks No.1 among flagship universities for efforts to control in-state tuition costs over the last decade (*Chronicle of Higher Education*, see attached).

In the past four years, Ohio State has launched and expanded numerous initiatives to make college more affordable. These include:

- The Ohio State Tuition Guarantee
- President's Affordability Grants
- Land Grant Opportunity Scholarships
- The Buckeye Opportunity Program
- Summer tuition discount of 25 percent
- Completion grants

The Ohio State Tuition Guarantee offers new, incoming students and their families certainty about the cost of a college education by setting rates for in-state tuition, mandatory fees, room and board that stays frozen for four years. The guarantee is entering its second year.

It follows Ohio State's first comprehensive cost freeze — including in-state tuition, housing, dining and more — in at least 40 years. The comprehensive freeze was enacted in 2015-16 and continued in 2016-17. Tuition and fees have now been frozen for existing Ohio students for six straight years. Overall, our in-state tuition and fees are the second-lowest among Ohio selective universities and at the median among Big Ten public institutions.

The President's Affordability Grant program, entering its fourth year, provides additional support to approximately 15,000 low- and moderate-income Ohio students annually at our campuses across the state. The grants of up to \$2,250 each year are funded through the university's efficiency program, transforming administrative savings into direct benefits for students.

Land Grant Opportunity Scholarships were expanded last year to cover the total cost of attendance (the scholarships previously covered tuition only). This year, the number of these scholarships offered to in-state students doubled from 88 to 176. Support comes from the university's strategic funds. Among returning and incoming student recipients, all of Ohio's 88 counties are represented.

The Buckeye Opportunity Program, beginning in Columbus this fall, ensures that Ohio students who qualify for Pell Grants receive an aid package that covers at least the full cost of tuition and mandatory fees. The university will provide institutional aid to close any gap that remains after Pell Grants, Ohio College Opportunity Grants and other gift aid. The program will expand to qualifying students at each of our five regional campuses in the spring. Overall, it is expected to support 4,200 Ohio students and is funded through an endowment created from proceeds of the Comprehensive Energy Management partnership.

A summer tuition discount of 25 percent saved undergraduate students \$2.4 million in its inaugural year in 2017, and continues this summer semester. It is part of a number of efforts — including a campus-wide predictive analytics advising tool for improving student outcomes — to help shorten the path to graduation and reduce costs, including debt.

In 2015-16, the most recent year for which comparison data is available, 54 percent of Ohio State undergraduate students graduated with debt. The average among public four-year universities nationally was 59 percent, with the average among these institutions in Ohio at 64 percent. For those who did borrow, debt at Ohio State averaged \$27,930 compared to \$27,291 nationally and \$29,651 among all Ohio public four-year universities.

Completion grants were awarded to 160 students last year, up from seven in 2011-12. These grants go to seniors who are very near to graduation and unable to register due to a financial hold on their records. Each grant averaged about \$1,000. They provided one-time support that helped students who might otherwise drop out of school reach their degrees. The grants are made possible by donor funds and funds provided through a grant received by the University Innovation Alliance (UIA), a partnership of 11 public research institutions working to increase the number and socioeconomic diversity of college graduates.

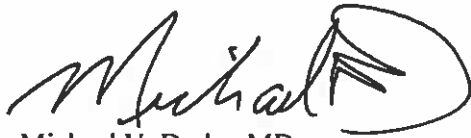
Ohio State is a charter member of the UIA. By scaling programs like the completion grants and through other innovative efforts, its members have thus far helped increase low-income students earning degrees by 24.7 percent at their institutions. This marks significant progress toward the larger UIA goal of graduating an additional 68,000 undergraduates by 2025.

Ohio State is also a founding member of the American Talent Initiative, a first-of-its-kind partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Ithaka S+R and the Aspen Institute. The goal is to enroll and graduate an additional 50,000 low- and moderate-income students at top-performing colleges and universities over the next decade. We started with three member schools in 2015 and have grown to 100 and counting. We are all working to ensure that low- and moderate-income families have greater access to an Ohio State education — and that, once enrolled, they complete their degrees.

Several additional programs and partnerships exist across Ohio State's campuses and beyond. The university's Affordable Learning Exchange supports innovative teaching methods that employ low-cost or open-educational course materials, resulting in savings of \$3 million with direct impacts for 12,000 students. By spring 2019, we anticipate savings of more than \$5.5 million. Ohio State has also partnered with Columbus State Community College, Central Ohio Technical College and Rhodes State College on more than 80 pathway agreements toward completion of a bachelor's degree.

Finally, we are one of four institutions in the state to partner on the Ohio Department of Higher Education's "GIVE back. GO forward." program, combining critical community volunteerism with tuition waivers for universities and community colleges.

Access, affordability and excellence are vital to our land-grant mission to serve communities throughout our state. I want to personally thank you for your ongoing efforts to advance higher education and its impact on us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael V. Drake". The signature is stylized and includes a large, circular flourish at the end.

Michael V. Drake, MD
President
The Ohio State University

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Flagship Universities With the Lowest Percentage Increases in Tuition and Fees, 2007-17

The Chronicle List
November 12, 2017

Among flagship institutions, Ohio State University was the most successful in limiting increases in tuition and fees for in-state students. Its tuition and fees went from 10th highest among the 50 flagships in 2007-8 to 29th highest in 2017-18. It also had the highest enrollment in 2015, and had the fourth-lowest 10-year increase for out-of-state tuition and fees. Some institutions, like the University of Georgia, raised tuition and fees for in-state students by a much higher percentage than they did for out-of-state students over the decade. Others, like the University at Buffalo, raised out-of-state tuition and fees at a much higher rate.

In-state tuition and fees

Rank	Institution	2007-8	2016-17	2017-18	1-year change	10-year change	Fall 2015 enrollment
1	Ohio State U	\$10,196	\$10,210	\$10,591	3.7%	3.9%	58,663
2	U of Maryland at College Park	\$9,365	\$10,357	\$10,399	0.4%	11.0%	38,140
3	U of Maine at Orono	\$9,789	\$10,811	\$10,902	0.8%	11.4%	10,922
4	Indiana U. at Bloomington	\$9,210	\$10,567	\$10,533	-0.3%	14.4%	48,514
5	Pennsylvania State U. at University Park	\$16,028	\$18,208	\$18,438	1.3%	15.0%	47,307
6	U of Texas at Austin	\$9,014	\$10,284	\$10,414	1.3%	15.5%	50,950
7	U of Missouri at Columbia	\$9,518	\$10,900	\$11,008	1.0%	15.7%	35,424
8	Rutgers U. at New Brunswick	\$12,558	\$14,619	\$14,638	0.1%	16.6%	49,428
9	U of Montana at Missoula	\$8,042	\$6,322	\$7,063	11.7%	16.9%	13,044
10	U of North Dakota	\$7,204	\$8,277	\$8,447	2.1%	17.3%	14,951
11	U of Michigan at Ann Arbor	\$12,277	\$14,650	\$14,826	1.2%	20.8%	43,651
12	U of Iowa	\$7,395	\$8,468	\$8,964	5.9%	21.2%	30,844
13	U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	\$13,080	\$15,968	\$15,868	-0.6%	21.3%	45,842
14	U of Nebraska at Lincoln	\$7,305	\$8,685	\$8,901	2.5%	21.9%	25,260
15	U of Minnesota-Twin Cities	\$11,617	\$14,385	\$14,417	0.2%	24.1%	50,678
16	U of Wisconsin at Madison	\$8,447	\$10,668	\$10,533	-1.3%	24.7%	42,718
17	U of Wyoming	\$4,177	\$5,142	\$5,217	1.5%	24.9%	12,648
18	U of South Carolina at Columbia	\$9,808	\$12,058	\$12,262	1.7%	25.0%	33,724
19	U of Vermont	\$14,165	\$17,598	\$17,740	0.8%	25.2%	12,815
20	U of Arkansas at Fayetteville	\$7,098	\$8,972	\$9,062	1.0%	27.7%	26,754
21	U of New Mexico	\$5,372	\$7,070	\$7,146	1.1%	33.0%	27,285
22	U of Massachusetts at Amherst	\$11,682	\$15,417	\$15,566	1.2%	33.7%	29,269
23	U at Buffalo	\$7,307	\$9,739	\$9,828	0.9%	34.5%	29,796
24	U of Delaware	\$9,578	\$13,051	\$13,160	0.8%	37.4%	22,852
25	U of South Dakota	\$8,338	\$8,602	\$8,772	2.0%	38.4%	9,971
26	U of New Hampshire	\$13,009	\$17,927	\$18,067	0.8%	38.9%	15,351
27	U of Kentucky	\$8,339	\$11,515	\$11,772	2.2%	41.2%	29,727
28	U of Alaska at Fairbanks	\$5,264	\$7,308	\$7,518	2.9%	42.3%	8,638
29	U of Connecticut	\$10,391	\$14,308	\$14,880	4.0%	43.2%	27,043
30	U of Mississippi	\$5,796	\$7,887	\$8,300	5.2%	43.2%	23,212
31	U of Rhode Island	\$9,618	\$13,106	\$13,792	5.2%	43.4%	16,813
32	U of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	\$6,275	\$8,713	\$9,005	3.3%	43.5%	29,084
33	U of Kansas	\$8,398	\$11,652	\$12,069	3.6%	43.7%	27,259
34	U of Idaho	\$5,182	\$7,356	\$7,488	1.8%	44.5%	11,372
35	U of Washington	\$7,503	\$10,938	\$10,974	0.3%	46.3%	45,408
36	U of Utah	\$5,861	\$8,665	\$8,824	1.8%	50.6%	31,592
37	U of Oklahoma at Norman	\$7,847	\$11,068	\$11,538	4.2%	50.9%	27,428
38	West Virginia U.	\$5,549	\$8,129	\$8,376	3.0%	50.9%	28,778
39	U of Colorado at Boulder	\$7,797	\$11,729	\$12,086	3.0%	55.0%	33,056
40	U of Nevada at Reno	\$4,735	\$7,266	\$7,538	3.7%	59.2%	20,896
41	U of Oregon	\$7,248	\$10,947	\$11,571	5.7%	59.6%	24,032
42	U of Alabama at Tuscaloosa	\$6,898	\$10,650	\$10,780	1.2%	60.9%	37,098
43	U of Virginia	\$9,989	\$15,984	\$16,076	0.6%	60.9%	23,883
44	U of Florida	\$3,960	\$6,491	\$6,381	-1.7%	61.1%	50,645
45	U of California at Berkeley	\$8,419	\$13,717	\$13,928	1.5%	65.4%	38,189
46	U of Hawaii-Manoa	\$6,334	\$11,934	\$11,732	-1.7%	85.2%	18,865
47	U of Tennessee at Knoxville	\$6,971	\$12,943	\$12,970	0.2%	88.1%	27,845
48	U of Georgia	\$6,180	\$11,834	\$11,818	-0.1%	91.2%	36,130
49	U of Arizona	\$5,919	\$11,971	\$11,877	-0.8%	100.6%	42,595
50	Louisiana State U. at Baton Rouge	\$5,339	\$11,000	\$11,374	3.4%	113.0%	31,524