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Crafting Education Policy

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U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) will host his second annual college presidents conference in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, April 1, with more than 45 presidents from colleges and universities across Ohio, including University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran.

The conference runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Capitol Visitors Center in the U.S. Capitol, room 210.

"This conference is about crafting education policy in Washington that meets the needs of Ohio's students and reflects the input of its colleges and universities," Brown said. "By bringing together the presidents of Ohio's institutions of higher education — both large and small, two-year and four-year — we all benefit. Last year, presidents shared best practices and began meeting regionally after the conference."

In addition to meeting with Brown, the presidents will meet with Arne Duncan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Education; U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (H.E.L.P.) Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety; and U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), a former U.S. education secretary and college president.

In April 2008, Brown launched this first-of-its-kind forum for Ohio college and university presidents and Congressional leaders to initiate discussion concerning common goals, needs and opportunities in higher education. It was attended by 46 of Ohio's college and university presidents.

Building upon that success, Brown hosted a series of regional roundtables around the state. The roundtables brought together college presidents and regional business leaders for a discussion on strategies to combat Ohio's "brain drain." Attendees discussed ways to train college students and Ohio workers for 21st century jobs and strategies to create and retain good-paying jobs in Ohio.

This second Ohio college and university presidents conference will focus on how to forge state-wide partnerships to maximize federal investments, including economic recovery funding. Breakout sessions will also explore how to expand higher education access and affordability; support opportunities for research and innovation; and connect higher education with high schools and workforce needs.

All of Ohio's four- and two-year, public and private colleges and universities have been invited.

"We must continue to make critical investments in Ohio's higher education system. Ohio presidents can pave the way for rebuilding a secure future for our state and for our next generation. This conference is an integral step in turning Ohio's economy around," Brown said.


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