June 28, 2018

The Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) is the trusted and recognized regional leader for higher collaboration, working with colleges and universities to transform their communities and economies through the education, employment, and engagement of nearly 200,000 students in southwest Ohio. Since 1967, SOCHE and its 23 member institutions have contributed to southwestern Ohio by increasing the education and training in the 20-county region and preparing individuals for careers.

Through close relationships with the Air Force Research Laboratory, the Air Force Institute of Technology and many businesses across the region we are partnered to build their future workforce. Every year, SOCHE attracts over 400 students to the region to participate in multiple internships both year-long and over the summer. Last year, over 500 students applied for internships in Dayton Ohio, from 34 different states and 81 institutions.

Our newest platform, SOCHEEngage, connects businesses across the region with High School students for career exploration internships. The students in our region deserve opportunities to have meaningful work in the community to best understand their career options.

SOCHE member institutions produced a total economic impact of $7.3 billion in Southwestern Ohio. An estimated $4.9 billion of the total economic impact is attributable to ongoing operations while local and non-local student spending increased economic output in the area by $2.0 billion. Another $364 million of economic impact came from one-time capital expenditures, including construction.

In July 2017, the state funded Aerospace Professional Development Center joined SOCHE as a complementary workforce solution. The center is laser focused on working with Aerospace companies across Ohio to find the workforce they need to accomplish their missions.

In April 2018, the state and AFRL funded Defense Associated Graduate Student Innovators (DAGSI) joined SOCHE as another complementary workforce solution. DAGSI’s work in funding graduate student defense related research is critical to the development of the next generation of high-end scientists our State needs to remain competitive.

SOCHE’s Cin-Day Cyber Corridor program brings together multiple Universities across the region to improve upon cyber workforce development as well as research opportunities.