



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GIVE back. GO forward.

Volunteering For College Tuition Program

Program Overview

Our elders are a valuable and respected resource, often under-utilized – but in a position to contribute to their communities in ways that will continue to positively impact the state for decades to come. These elders, who have helped build our great state to what it is today, bring years of experience in business, industry, innovation, and community involvement. They are now in a position to use their talents to help others through volunteering.

Through the program, elders (60+) will **GIVE back** by volunteering 100+ hours per year at organizations identified by the community as having a need, and earn college or university tuition waivers that they can use for themselves or designate to students to **GO forward**.

This program helps generations share knowledge and an understanding of each other that truly helps build strong communities. The Youngstown area will be the first to launch this exciting pilot that brings partners and generations together to benefit the state for years to come.

Program Goals:

- Create new and meaningful ways for Ohio's communities to appreciate and utilize the talents and skills of Ohio's elder population;
- Prioritize volunteer service hours to align with and meet the community's self-identified needs;
- Give elders a renewed sense of purpose and opportunities to improve their health and well-being;
- Inspire young people to achieve academic success; and
- Expand lifelong and other learning opportunities for all Ohioans through Ohio's college and university system.

Youngstown Pilot

Here's How It Works

The Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber, working with Youngstown State and Eastern Gateway, identified where volunteers could positively impact their local community. The Department of Aging and local organizations, including the local RSVP and Area Agency on Aging 11, will help promote the project to prospective volunteers.



Bonnie Kantor-Burman, Director

John Kasich, Governor



John Carey, Chancellor

Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College will each provide 50 new tuition waivers (*not from existing scholarship dollars*), with each **one (1) tuition waiver good for three (3) undergraduate credit-hours at either institution**. Volunteers will have until May 31, 2016 to earn 100+ volunteer hours. The timeline will run from August 3, 2015 to May 31, 2016. In subsequent years it will run from May 1 through April 30.

Youngstown area (Trumbull and Mahoning counties) elders who **volunteer 100+ hours (in a program identified by the community as having a specific need – see 3 organizations below)** will earn one (1) tuition waiver to Youngstown State University or Eastern Gateway Community College.

Through collaboration with Youngstown State University, Eastern Gateway Community College and the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber, the local community has identified specific volunteer activities targeting the following three programs:

United Way Success By 6, a United Way pre-kindergarten summer readiness program which gives children the opportunity to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. This currently has no elder volunteers.

United Way Success After 6, a United Way program, which focuses on academic success for hundreds of students grades K-6 with the goal of improving their test scores, behavior and motivation to stay in school. This new program is projected to have 50 elder volunteers.

Inspiring Minds seeks to engage, inspire and empower youth to reach their full potential through education and exposure to life-changing experiences. The program has a vision “to see every student graduate from high school, complete college or a vocational school, and become strong, successful members of our society.” This program currently has 30 volunteers, 10 of which are age 60 or older (volunteer hours earned after August 2, 2015 are eligible for the program).

Standard background checks will be required to volunteer at these organizations.

The volunteer can choose to use the tuition waiver toward his or her own education, or gift the tuition waiver to a currently enrolled college or high school student. Students must be enrolled or plan to enroll in the college or university within five years of the waiver being earned. A student would be permitted to receive a waiver from more than one volunteer. However, the student cannot utilize more than two waivers per academic year.

The tuition waivers will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis by Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College. Volunteers will be eligible to start earning volunteer hours August 2015, and enrolled students would be able to redeem a tuition waiver as early as fall 2015. Use of the tuition waiver must coincide with the enrollment deadlines for each institution.

Mature Services, Inc., a non-profit agency that serves individuals, families and communities by providing a variety of direct services to older adults in Ohio, will partner in the pilot project by providing assistance with tracking of the volunteer hours. Mature Services will work with the pilot project volunteer organizations to assist with the collection of data and providing it to Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College. The Employment and Training Solutions branch of Mature Services assists older Ohioans by providing job training, helping to develop personal skills and teaching job search techniques, so that older adults participating in this project will also be developing skills.

Pilot Project Role/Responsibilities

Program Leader/Manager

The Ohio Department of Higher Education will administer and manage the pilot with existing program staff who will serve as a liaison with the Ohio Department of Aging, Youngstown State University, Eastern Gateway Community College and Mature Services.

Tracking

- Volunteers TRACK their hours/year (confirmed by the community-designated organizations);
- Volunteers REPORT hours to Mature Services;
- Mature Services REPORTS to Youngstown State and Eastern Gateway Community College; then
- REWARD of tuition waiver is issued by Youngstown State University or Eastern Gateway Community College.

Metrics for determining the success of the program include:

- The total number of new volunteers at the three community-designated organizations;
- The number of volunteered hours provided by these new volunteers; and
- The total number of tuition waivers awarded (and the total dollar equivalent).

Launch and Marketing

The pilot project launch is scheduled for **Monday, August 3rd** at Youngstown State University. Launch event includes the Director from the Ohio Department of Aging and the Chancellor from the Ohio Department of Higher Education; Presidents of both Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College; representatives of the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber, the United Way and Inspiring Minds; city and county officials from the Mahoning Valley; students; media and a “first group” of volunteers that could sign up that day.

All partners will take part in marketing the program:

- Promote through local service clubs and agencies as appropriate;
- Outreach/one-on-one meetings with key stakeholder groups;
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and website content; and
- Photos of volunteers “at work.”

Immediate Next Steps:

Replication and expansion to other regions of the state, with other college/university partners such as Ohio State, Cleveland State and Shawnee State.

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