

## RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **January 11, 2007:** A Mayor's Think Tank meeting in Twinsburg City Hall was held to brainstorm on the impact of constitutional amendments and term limits on home rule.
- **January 16 & 17, 2007:** Kent State University's (KSU's) Dept. of Political Science hosted a symposium in Columbus, Ohio. Nationally recognized experts and Ohio policy practitioners discussed critical topics involving reforms in election and ethics law in Ohio and across the country. Center staff and graduate students participated in the event.
- **February 6, 2007:** UUP (Urban University Program) Conference in Columbus, Ohio. This year's conference brings together private and public sector visionaries who are focused on rebuilding Ohio's older metropolitan areas. This Forum should be attended by legislators and staffers, elected and appointed state and local government officials, planners, business leaders, university researchers and others interested in making Ohio more competitive in the nation. For conference information and to register visit: <http://uup.csuohio.edu/policyforum/index.shtml>

Editor: Ms. Melba Hawkins

**Funding sources include:**  
Ohio Urban University Program,  
Northeast Ohio Research Consortium,  
& Kent State University

## Letter from the Director

Dear Colleagues:

The second semester of the 2006-2007 school year is under way and I am very excited about the projects and activities that the Center is undertaking. I hope you found the previous issue of the newsletter to be informative and helpful. Please do take a moment to review the highlights and updates that are presented in the following sections of this newsletter, and pay particular attention the services we provide for government entities, elected officials, administrators, non-profit organizations, and others (see bottom of page 2). We do want to be of assistance in any way we can, so please feel free to contact us if we can be of help.

Sincerely,

John Hoornbeek, Director

## Please Join Us on February 13 for:

### “Collaborative Approaches to Performance Improvement: The Case of Organ Donation and Transplantation”

Collaborative approaches to performance improvement have taken hold in the field of public health. These approaches – based on peer learning and benchmarking clear measures of success – are achieving impressive results, particularly in the field of organ donation and transplantation.

Between 2002 and 2006, the number of organ donors in the US increased by nearly 30%, after years of relatively inconsequential change. Hospitals and organ procurement organizations have also increased the (conversion) rates at which eligible donors provide organs for others who need them to live and prosper. Elizabeth Duke, a senior administrator with the US Department of Health and Human Services in (HHS) in Washington D.C. reported that these increased conversion rates "made possible 1,200 more life saving and life-enhancing transplants in 2005 compared to 2004" (HHS Press Release, October 19, 2006). Positive efforts by health care professionals in northeast Ohio have contributed to this nationwide progress.

On **Tuesday February 13 at 10 AM**, the Kent State University (KSU) Center for Public Administration will welcome Mr. Dennis Wagner, HHS's National Organ Donation Collaborative director and Mr. Gordon Bowen, Executive Director of Lifebank, northeast Ohio's leading organ procurement organization, to KSU. They will discuss recent and rapid improvements in national and regional organ donation and transplantation systems. They will also explore the applicability of the performance improvement approaches they have used to other areas of government and public policy. For those interested in improving government performance, this is an opportunity to learn more about a very successful approach.

**For more information or to register, contact Dr. John Hoornbeek or the Center staff at 330-672-7148.**

**Kent State University**

Center Contact Information:  
 Phone: (330) 672 - 7148  
 Fax: (330) 672 - 4057

**RECENT & UPCOMING  
EVENTS CONTINUED:**

- **February 13, 2007:** The Center for Public Administration will welcome Mr. Dennis Wagner, and Mr. Gordon Bowen to campus to discuss recent and rapid improvements in national and regional organ donation and transplantation systems.
- **February 14, 2007:** Elected Officials class on "Managing Services" begins. Facilitated by Dr. Melinda Holmes, this course is designed to enhance elected officials' policy leadership skills to develop efficient and effective services for their citizens.

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## Project Updates

### Ohio Indicators

Ms. Jera Oliver and Ms. Sayantani Satpathi, graduate assistants at the center, are nearing completion of their data collection efforts on Ohio policy conditions. Some interesting facts emerging from this research are:

- Ohio lags behind most states in its generation of renewable energy, producing less than one percent of the energy it generates from renewable sources.
- While Ohio graduates a higher percentage of students from high school than the US average (87.9% vs. 85.2% in 2005), only 22.9% of Ohioans possess a bachelor's degree – 4.7% fewer than the national average (2005 figures). This difference is increasing, as the percentage of bachelor's degree holders in Ohio was only 2.2% lower than the comparable US percentage in 2003.
- Ohio released more toxic chemicals into the environment than all but five other states in 2004, the most recent year for which data is available.
- Ohio's election turnout in the 2006 elections was 49.34% of eligible voters, substantially higher than the national turnout rate of 41.19%.

Watch out for the release of this report in the coming months to learn more.

### Water Resources

Dr. Hoornbeek has conducted approximately a dozen interviews with key water stakeholders and experts in northeast Ohio, and has also collected substantial information in written form. The following are some areas in which interest and concern have been expressed:

- Access to water resources for recreation and tourism purposes.
- Land use decision-making at the local and regional levels.
- The need for implementation of measures to improve water quality in streams, rivers, and lakes.
- Alleviation of flooding and improving the management of floods when they occur.
- Fostering creation and implementation of drinking water protection programs.
- Increasing sustainable use of water resources for economic purposes.

## Need Assistance? The Center provides:

**Technical Assistance:**

- Assessment Centers to hire and promote qualified individuals for public and non-profit sector positions.
- Strategic planning and goal setting retreats for public and non-profit organizations.
- Human resource assistance, (e.g. job description devel-

opment and verification)

**Targeted Research:**

- Trained research professionals and graduate assistants provide research and analytical support.

**Training Programs:**

- Educational and career development programs for Municipal Clerks, Municipal Court Clerks, Mayor's Court Clerks,

and Ohio Public Finance Officers.

- Skills development training for supervisors and managers of public and nonprofit organizations.
- Leadership development courses for elected officials.