

January 7, 2009

I want to bring to your attention a rather frightening statistic: according to the National Center of Education Statistics, students at Cleveland State Community College paid \$2,637.00 in tuition (2007-2008) as a full time student compared to students at 31 comparable community colleges in the South who paid only \$1,670.

As you know our area has been fortunate with the arrival of Volkswagen, and eventually the suppliers for Volkswagen, to have jobs available in the future to the residents of our area. Other parts of the United States cannot say they are in this position. However, it appears that most of the employees for these jobs will need post secondary education of some kind to even apply. My question to you - are the graduates of your high schools in a financial position to attend Cleveland State? I am willing to bet many are not. The young people in this county will not stay in the area if they cannot qualify for the better paying jobs. Attached is a proposal to address this situation and offers you an opportunity in making sure they stay in this area.

I would be pleased to further discuss this proposal with you and will respond to any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Carl Hite  
President

CH:le  
Attachment

# DRAFT

## THE FUTURE IS NOW

### Present Situation:

- Economy in decline
- Increase in unemployment
- State support to education in decline
- Education more important than ever
- Volkswagen "raising the bar" for all
- Greater emphasis being placed on a prepared workforce and workforce development
- Tuition continues to increase
- Higher education report card – TN – affordability – "F"

### Implications:

Undereducated workforce

### Solution:

Increase number of workers in the area who have the higher level work skills to compete in the workplace.

### Implementation:

More students need to participate in postsecondary education of some kind (certificate or associate degree level).

### Obstacle:

Cost

### Proposed Solution:

Each of the Cleveland State Community College service area city councils/county commissions set aside a certain amount of funds to be used for graduates of their area high schools as an emergency scholarship fund to supplement federal, state, and institutional scholarships. These would be need based and allotted on a first come, first serve basis at the beginning of each academic year. A request would be made each year to the governmental entity involved. Thus the agency is not locked into a certain amount each year over a period of time. All funds would be channeled through the Cleveland State Community College Foundation.

### Return on Investment:

- Our community will have the skilled workforce to meet and/or exceed the need of area business and industry.
- More citizens employed and more citizens employed in higher paying jobs increases the tax base.