

## Muha testifies before Ohio House Workforce Study Committee

Susan Muha, Cuyahoga Community College's Workforce and Economic Development Division Executive Vice President, testified before the Ohio House of Representatives Legislative Study Committee on Workforce Development October 3 at the Committee's Northeast Ohio regional meeting.

Muha highlighted a 2011 CNBC study measuring the "Top States for Business", which ranked Ohio's workforce last among 50 other states, a measure that accounted for both the education level in the state and the factors such as the relative success of the state's worker training programs in placing participants in jobs. Notwithstanding a strong performance in other categories like the cost of doing business, technology and innovation, the workforce ranking dragged Ohio down to 23<sup>rd</sup> overall. Muha commented that this study highlights the importance of alignment of the State's economic development and workforce development strategies as it creates the infrastructure for the new JOBS Ohio economic development system.



Susan Muha,  
Executive Vice President  
Workforce and Economic  
Development Division

Muha advocated for a more formal role for Ohio's community colleges in this strategy, commenting that several other states officially include community colleges as partners in their workforce development system, while Ohio's current model treats training providers more as vendors in the system. Several State's that have achieved higher workforce rankings include education and training providers more formally in their system, strengthening the relationships between education and training providers, businesses and the state.

When forming the Legislative Study Committee on Workforce Development, along with committees on Tax Structure and Technology in State Government, Ohio House Speaker Bill Batchelder stated, "As lawmakers, we must constantly strive to connect with our constituents and ensure that their voices are heard. As we move into the fall legislative session, the results of these meetings will serve as the springboard for possible reform on these issues."

Susan Muha currently serves as Executive Vice President of Cuyahoga Community College's Workforce and Economic Development Division. She has more than 30 years experience in workforce training, most extensively in Ohio, Texas and Indiana, and has also served as a consultant nation-wide in both community colleges and in private industry.