

SOCHE Member Institutions Earn Ohio's Collegiate Purple Star Designation

DAYTON, OH (May 31, 2022) – [Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education \(SOCHE\)](#) is thrilled to announce that nine of its member institutions have earned [Ohio's Collegiate Purple Star designation](#) for their advocacy and support of military-connected students.

The nine member institutions receiving the award include: Clark State College, Edison State Community College, Franklin University, Kettering College, Miami University, Ohio University, Sinclair Community College, University of Cincinnati, and University of Dayton. This important state-level accolade is one that SOCHE encourages all its member institutions to attain in the upcoming year.

Spearheaded by the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Collegiate Purple Star recognizes institutions that empower, include, and support military-connected students from both public and independent colleges. The application process captures each institution's policies and programming in relation to integration of military-connected students.

The Collegiate Purple Star Advisory Committee evaluates applications from colleges and universities, then makes recommendations to ODHE chancellor Randy Gardner, who has final determination for the College Purple Star designation. Each institution holds active Collegiate Purple Star status for three years before having to repeat the application process.

"Ohio has always valued veterans and service members and their families," said Gardner. "Expanding the Purple Star program to our colleges and universities will give students with military connections one more reason to continue their education here."

"I applaud Ohio's efforts to illustrate the importance of military and veterans once again in our state. Ohio will win the talent war, with more military and veterans coming to our state, and the Collegiate Purple Star designation offers great encouragement to military-connected students," said SOCHE president and retired Air Force officer Cassie Barlow.

More information on the Collegiate Purple Star program is available at <https://www.ohiohighered.org/purple-star>.

Formed in 1967, SOCHE is the leader for higher collaboration, engaging with colleges, universities, and industry to transform the economy through increased education and employment. SOCHE is home to several workforce development programs, including SOCHEintern, the Aerospace Professional Development Center (APDC), and Defense Associated Graduate Student Innovators (DAGSI). For more information about SOCHE and all its initiatives, visit www.socche.org.