

development and higher education. We look forward to working with the Governor and state legislature to continue to bring common-sense, pro-business reforms to Ohio.”

Ohio Chamber of Commerce (Andrew E. Doehrel, President & CEO)

“Gov. Kasich has never been one to rest on his laurels and tonight he once again pushed a bold agenda, focusing on job creation, economic opportunity, and training a highly skilled workforce, all of which are critical for Ohio to succeed. We are pleased the governor understands the need to improve the business climate in Ohio and we trust the forthcoming proposals will achieve this goal.”

Ohio Council of Retail Merchants (Gordon Gough, President)

“The Governor’s remarks show that his strong, innovative leadership will continue to focus squarely on the policies Ohio needs to restore our economy, families and communities. The Governor is to be commended for his new efforts to help Ohio's mentally ill, fight drug abuse, help our veterans and improve our schools so every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Last but not least, we look forward to working with the Governor to lower taxes for all and strengthen families, businesses and communities across Ohio.”

Ohio Manufacturers’ Association (Eric Burkland, President)

“We commend the Governor for proposing programs to support Ohio’s current and emerging manufacturing workforce, particularly by expanding vocational education and helping workers and their families with opiate and other addiction problems. We also welcome the Governor’s continuing focus on tax reform and look forward to working on the details of the plans.

“These policy proposals demonstrate the Governor’s commitment to strengthening Ohio’s workforce and continuing to improve the state’s business climate. Both are high priorities of Ohio manufacturers.”

Fordham Institute (Aaron Churchill, Ohio Policy and Data Analyst)

"Ohio Governor John Kasich outlined bold, new initiatives in tonight's State of the State speech. Especially praiseworthy is his proposal to lift the stature of vocational- and career-and-technical education. With an appalling 20,000 plus young people dropping out of high school each year, Ohio must ensure plentiful and high-quality vocational opportunities. We look forward to more details on his plan for career education, and thank him for his unflinching leadership on the third-grade reading guarantee and quality school-choice."

Ohio Association of Community Colleges (Karen E. Rafinski, Interim President)

“The presidents of Ohio’s community colleges have worked diligently on this performance based funding model for the past year, leading our nation’s community colleges in this comprehensive outcome-based initiative. We commend Governor Kasich for his encouragement and recognition of the central role that community colleges play in workforce training, transfer and career education. While community college leaders realize there remains more work to do, they believe that with legislative support and adoption, this proposed funding system will be a tool to tackle the larger issue of Student Success and making sure that as many students as possible complete credentials with a high value in the labor market. Community Colleges specialize in taking people from where they are to where they want to go. We are pleased to learn of the pilot program and are grateful for the opportunity to further assist people who are trying to help themselves.”

Ohio State University (Joseph A. Alutto, Interim President)

"The demands of the workforce of the future in Ohio and elsewhere will require more high school and college graduates. I applaud Gov. Kasich for his proposals to create new pathways toward earning a degree. This shared goal begins with the belief that high school graduation is expected and college is possible for everyone, regardless of their economic status. The evidence is clear that those who earn degrees in high school and college have higher incomes and lower unemployment rates, which will serve Ohio well."

Inter-University Council of Ohio (Bruce Johnson, President)

“Ohio’s public universities are pleased that Gov. Kasich’s State of the State address acknowledged the vital role higher education plays in creating economic opportunity for Ohio citizens and helping to drive economic growth for our state. Since the governor took office in 2010, the IUC and its member institutions have worked closely and collaboratively with his team to reform Ohio’s higher education funding model so it is linked more directly to student success and other positive outcomes. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the governor’s office to develop innovative policies that will allow our universities to maintain quality, support student success and stimulate economic activity and growth.”

Voices for Ohio’s Children (Sandy Oxley, CEO)

“To build a greater community we must begin with greater kids. Voices stands ready to work with the Kasich Administration to educate policymakers to ensure that all of Ohio’s children are poised for success.”

Southern State Community College (Dr. Kevin Boys, President)

“Governor Kasich’s passion for lifting the lives of people, regardless of age, through purposeful and innovative education was most evident. It was music to my ears hearing his support for earlier career awareness among our middle school students, his

challenge to prevent more students from opting out of school, and his belief that more high schools students should have access to college courses while in high school. He seemed particularly impassioned to help people who do not have a high school diploma attain that GED and continue on at a community college for additional credentials. I look forward to supporting these initiatives among our friends in the General Assembly.”

American Cancer Society’s Cancer Action Network (Jeff Stephens, Director of Government Relations)

“Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death, killing more than 18,500 Ohioans each year. Lung cancer is the number one cancer killer in Ohio for both men and women. With the loss of tobacco settlement revenue to other budget needs in recent years, investment in tobacco use prevention and cessation in Ohio has bottomed out. After years of decline in Ohio’s smoking rates, the past four years of attrition in tobacco-control funding contributed to an alarming rise in the state’s smoking rate, pushing it back up to 23.5 percent from its low point of 20 percent. Ohio now has the 10th highest smoking rate in the country. We are pleased about Governor Kasich’s proposal to invest dollars from the arbitrated 2003 payment of Master Settlement Agreement funding to its rightful purpose of funding proven tobacco control initiatives such as prevention and cessation programs and believe it is a step in the right direction.”

ProMedica Tobacco Treatment Services (Holly Kowalczyk, Registered Respiratory Therapist and Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist)

“I could not be more thrilled [with Kasich’s plans for smoking prevention, cessation and enforcement programs]. When we had some funding, so many programs were available in our area, which made a huge dent in students using tobacco and the number of adults who chose to quit using tobacco.”

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