OHIO in Appalachia: 
OHIO Value of Global Value

THE UNIVERSITY

Ohio University (OHIO) was chartered by the State of Ohio in 1804 and is the oldest university in Ohio and the Northwest Territory in the United States. Located in the scenic Appalachian foothills of Southeast Ohio, its classic residential campus is one of the most attractive in the nation. The charm of tree-lined brick walkways on the university’s College Green makes you feel as if you are at a small college rather than a large university. The university has a total enrollment of just over 36,000 students and over 1,000+ faculty located on the main campus in Athens and nine regional campuses and centers throughout the State of Ohio, as well as in its e-learning programs. OHIO is a comprehensive research university with the largest osteopathic medical school in the state, and 10 other colleges that offer over 250 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. An active and engaged campus yields more than 5,000 alumni with each graduating class every year, thus fortifying OHIO’s 200,000 alumni worldwide.

OHIO offers a compelling academic experience as it collectively aims to be transformative and committed to academic excellence and experiential learning for preparing alumni to be global leaders and enriching society with accessible knowledge and innovation. OHIO is an institution rich in academic distinction, innovation and community engagement. Through its local, national, and international connections and relationships with institutional and industry partners and alumni, OHIO aspires to generating social change, new learning, and novel technologies with lasting positive impact.

Unique to OHIO is a distinct ‘sense of place’ that it has in Athens and Appalachia. The families who have lived in the region for centuries and those who are newcomers – whether from the U.S. or around the world – are weaved into the diversity of the community that creates an enriching and dynamic culture. There is a synergy derived from the natural habitat and biodiversity of the region and the beauty of the university campus, its people, and our location in which the 200+ year old institution has evolved into the place that it is today. This ‘sense of place’ is embedded within the OHIO culture that supports a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment for achieving academic excellence and contributing back to the community. It is impressive.

LEVERAGING LOCAL VALUE IN ITS COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

The location of OHIO presents valuable opportunities for faculty and students to utilize challenges and illustrations of novel and best practices and models for advancing diversity, inclusion and cooperation for sustainable innovation and development. Not only do these experiences exist internationally they exist on our campus and in our Appalachian community. Our local areas of distinction and excellence combined with our experiences contribute to the dialogue about and challenges facing sustainability along with domestic and international issues in the overall global learning and research capabilities offered by OHIO.

(Continued on back)
OHIO in Appalachia:  
OHIO Value of Global Value

OHIO is committed to leveraging academic excellence by creating a welcoming community of diversity, inclusion and cooperation in all dimensions of its leadership and campus life. Its approach to community engagement, and fostering global citizenship in an environment of advanced learning, scholarship, and innovation is a lived experience in which students, faculty and staff all play a role.

Appalachia is a community rich in spirit, engagement and a sense of place while being a leader in rural-based development cooperation and innovation. It is also a community grappling with serious economic, environmental, poverty, education and health indicators. Through local and university/community partnerships, the region is distinguishing itself by its many impactful programs in rural action and in novel approaches to funding development, environmental innovation, food security, community resilience and healthy living initiatives.

“Appalachian Ohio can’t be defined only by its past – we can’t be defined by our fears – we need to be the people who made the changes that gave us a more peaceful, prosperous, and just future. We need to be defined by the values that will inspire us to keep working hard, to keep giving and investing, and to keep us hopeful.”

Michelle Decker, President, Sept 8th 2017, Rural Action Luncheon

Both OHIO and Appalachia provide opportunities to witness, experience and participate in effecting social change for the betterment of all. In our own community, we have valuable global learning, research and innovation opportunities that mirror the international and sustainable development and innovation sectors. They are increasingly universal. The opportunity is to leverage our local assets with our national and international assets and exchange our common concerns and ideas for advancing innovation for a sustainable impact in our and other communities around the world.

OHIO in Athens is a special place and one with significant opportunities for students across all disciplines seeking an education and innovations in global development and innovations for sustainability on and off campus locally, nationally and internationally. OHIO International Student Union captures this sentiment about OHIO:

“Many NATIONS...One FAMILY”