

# Academic alliance signed with private colleges

**Matthew Deutsch**  
news editor

YSU signed an agreement with four private institutions of higher learning to form the Northeastern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania Academic Alliance this past Wednesday morning in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center

Leslie Cochran, YSU President, and three of four presidents from other participating schools were on hand to offer comments, answer questions and officially sign their names to the agreement. Westminster College President Oscar Remick could not attend, but signed the agreement beforehand.

The Alliance is designed to create a partnership between the schools for the purpose of sharing resources and developing joint programs, projects and activities.

Cochran stated that the impetus for the Alliance stemmed

from the schools' similar goals.

"We have a common ground and that common ground is to serve the educational needs of individuals in Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania," said Cochran. "Sharing resources works to the benefit of the students we serve."

There are many academic areas that are being considered for incorporation into the program, none of which have been finalized yet. These areas include expansion of the electronic campus, sharing of student performance groups, exchanging of faculty and students through international programs and research projects and creating dual enrollment programs.

"I've been an advocate of these types of agreements for many years," said Dr. Hal Laydon, president of Lake Erie College. "I think they're the wave of the future."

"Small campuses have limited resources, so it's good to have this

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opportunity to cooperate [with other schools] in a variety of ways," said Dr. Carylyle Haaland, president of Thiel College. "I think it's going to provide a good network through which people in the five institutions can communicate."

In addition, Haaland emphasized the benefits the agreement will have on international programs. Under the Alliance, faculty and students will be able to participate in international ventures

that exist at the other schools and therefore won't have to undertake the task of creating them.

"Why invent the wheel when there's a fairly decent one around," asked Haaland.

Father Richard Mucowski, president, Walsh University, also reaffirmed the necessity for the partnership and expounded upon the beneficial possibilities it provides for international projects.

Walsh University has made contacts and conducted trips to various portions of the world, including Russia, Korea, India, China and Brazil.

"We become global in many ways through the signing of this agreement," said Mucowski.

Work on the Alliance has been progressing for the last 16 months. YSU originally sent letters to nine schools informing them about its interest and intent to form such an agreement.

Cochran said that the greatest enthusiasm and feedback was received from those schools represented on Wednesday, although other schools indicated that they may be interested in joining the partnership at a later date.

The Alliance will have a board of trustees, a chairperson and vice chairperson for that board. A program committee with a chairperson and vice chairperson will also be appointed.

With the agreement signed, the participants said they are eager to

forge ahead with their plans.

"We don't see ourselves as competitors, but as collaborators," said Mucowski.

The institutions involved are Lake Erie College, Painesville, OH; Thiel College, Greenville, PA; Walsh University, North Canton, OH; Westminister College, New Wilmington, PA..

**PARTICIPANTS  
INCLUDE  
LAKE ERIE COLLEGE  
AND WALSH  
UNIVERSITY FROM  
OHIO AS WELL AS  
THIEL COLLEGE AND  
WESTMINSTER  
COLLEGE FROM  
PENNSYLVANIA.**