

For Immediate Release
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Chancellor Approves First Ph.D. Program to Drive Regional Economic Growth in Youngstown

***Chancellor, Youngstown State University President Anderson announce at
Press Conference***

COLUMBUS – Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut, joined by Youngstown State University President Cynthia E. Anderson, today announced state approval of a proposed Ph.D. program at YSU, the institution's first, designed to support the steady growth of an advanced materials industry cluster in the region.

“Ohio’s future economic prosperity will be built on the strength of our state’s ability to use its powerful network of higher education to provide the talent, research, and entrepreneurship critical for competing in today’s global economy,” said Chancellor Fingerhut. “This proposed Ph.D. program will help YSU step into its role as an urban research university that can drive the economic growth in the region.”

Youngstown State University’s proposed Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Materials Science and Engineering was designed specifically to grow the intellectual capital of the region, attracting businesses and fostering the creation of new homegrown companies. Creating the program was the first goal of the Emerging Center of Excellence in Materials Science and Engineering at YSU announced by Governor Strickland in April.

The proposed program also builds upon a series of research milestones achieved by the university and the YSU College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics over the past several months, including the creation of the YSU Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering, the opening of the new YSU Center for Advanced Materials, the creation of the Center for Efficiency in Sustainable Energy Systems, and record-setting levels of external research funding.



[Click above to hear full text of Chancellor Fingerhut’s remarks.](#)

“The Mahoning Valley has a long and storied history in the materials sciences,” President Anderson said. “This new Ph.D. would build upon that history and is yet another step in YSU’s evolution into a research institution that has the potential to have significant impact on the economic future of the entire region.”

Providing a strong talent and research base with high quality, investment-driving degree programs is a core responsibility of Ohio’s urban research universities according to Ohio’s 10-year *Strategic Plan for Higher Education* which seeks to utilize the world-class University System of Ohio to drive the future prosperity of the state.

The proposed YSU Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering seeks to produce graduates who will work in industrial settings in which a strong background in materials science and materials engineering is needed. In addition to coursework, the program will require a significant internship component and other outreach activities with local industry.

Before the new Ph.D. program can begin accepting students, it must be approved by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, YSU’s institutional accrediting body. Upon approval of the Higher Learning Commission, it would be YSU’s first Ph.D. program. The university also offers an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

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