



Cuyahoga County Department of Workforce Development
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SmartStart 2007, a summer youth employment program funded by the
Cuyahoga County Commissioners, hosts its
Employment Achievement Ceremony for youth ages 14-18.**

*Commissioner Tim Hagan will be the keynote speaker at the celebration to be held
at Cuyahoga Community College - Metro Campus in the Auditorium at 3:p.m.
on Friday August 17th 2007.*

CLEVELAND – August 17, 2007 – Today, Commissioner Tim Hagan will be the keynote speaker at the **SmartStart 2007 Employment Achievement Ceremony** for youth held at **3 p.m. at the Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus in the Auditorium**. SmartStart 2007 is a summer youth employment program sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Commissioners. SmartStart 2007 is an initiative that strives to introduce and prepare the workforce of the future, our youth, to the world of work. The program provides youth with an array of work readiness skills and real world experience.

The SmartStart 2007 program provided a 6-week paid work experience for 645 youth, ages 14-18. All youth were given the opportunity to earn a \$100 employment incentive bonus based on a positive employer evaluation of established work criteria including appropriate attitude, attire and attendance. Majority of the youth served are from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District with the balance of youth from suburban school districts. The program realized a success rate of 95% retention in employment and 98% of youth who successfully completed the program earned the employment bonus.

The SmartStart 2007 youth employment program was facilitated in partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District – Youth Employment Program and Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)

For more information contact Mary Kay Bitterman, Program Administrator,
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