

# Ohio Appalachians@OSU

According to a 2011 report by the Office of Enrollment Services, 3,151 undergraduate and 565 graduate students from Appalachian Ohio counties attended Ohio State (Columbus campus) in 2011, for a total of 3,716 students. Of the total students from Ohio counties attending OSU (43,266), only 8.6% come from Appalachian counties in the state. The 2012 enrollment data shows that only 2,982 undergraduate and 537 graduate students came from Appalachian counties, for a total of 3,519, making up only 8.3% of Ohioans enrolled at the Columbus campus. Appalachian Ohio makes up over 36% of the geographical space of the state and represents 17.7% of the state's population.

Appalachian Ohioans are underrepresented on the Columbus campus from a regional and economic standpoint, but are an invisible minority because they are not as well documented as other races and ethnicities on campus. We are working toward a more equitable distribution of Appalachian students at OSU, as well as services offered to them, so that their enrollment numbers better reflect their population in the state.

For more information, or to get involved (either as a member of the project or to become a participant in the research study), contact one of the Co-Directors:

**Dr. Patricia Cunningham**

Director, Social Change  
Office of Student Life  
cunningham.212@osu.edu

**Cassie Rosita Patterson**

Assistant Director  
Center for Folklore Studies  
patterson.493@osu.edu

**Krista Bryson**

Ph.D. Candidate, English  
Co-Chair, Literacy in Appalachia  
GradGroup

# THE APPALACHIAN PROJECT, OHIO: HOW I GOT TO COLLEGE

*...dedicated to understanding the educational  
journies of young people in the Appalachian  
counties of Ohio.*





Community Mural, Urban Appalachian Council

## The Appalachian Project, Ohio

is a mixed-methods, interdisciplinary team of faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students dedicated to understanding the educational journeys of young people in the Appalachian counties of Ohio.

We believe that listening to the personal reflections of the young people and community members affected by economic and educational challenges in the region will give us a fuller picture of the issues affecting Appalachian Ohio and lead us to new findings to assist economic recovery.

### Collaborators & Sponsors:

- OSU Center for Folklore Studies & Folklore Archives
- OSU Office of Student Life
- Governor's Office of Appalachia
- Economic Development Alliance of Southern Ohio
- Urban Appalachian Council

The **purpose of the project** is to use interdisciplinary approaches to

- identify the factors affecting Ohio Appalachian students' decisions and/or readiness to obtain post-secondary education
- understand Ohio Appalachian students' strategies for negotiating their college experiences
- produce recommendations for addressing the barriers and challenges that students face, and work toward creating a sustainable educational and economic atmosphere in Appalachian Ohio
- create a conversation at OSU and beyond about the issues Ohio Appalachian stu-



There are five major **aspects to the project**:

1. Preliminary research
2. Site visits to Ohio Appalachian counties
3. Anonymous online surveys with OSU students from the region
4. Focus group interviews with OSU students from the region
5. Video ethnography showcasing trends in our research, major findings, assessments, and recommendations.

Students on our team come from various departments across campus, including

- English
- Education
- Social Work
- Economics
- Philosophy
- International Studies
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Public Health
- Business

## Get Involved!

*Become a member of the research team!* We are looking for enthusiastic faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students to volunteer their time to the project.

Available positions include:

- Researcher
- Interview coordinator
- Site visit coordinator
- Videographer
- Interviewer
- Transcriber
- Audio or Video editor

*Participate in our study!* If you or someone you know is from one of the 32 designated Appalachian counties in Ohio, contact one of our Co-Directors so we can hear your story. We will be collecting anonymous online surveys and conducting in-person focus groups throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Email one of the Co-Directors to express your interest in our project and