



History of Battelle Partnership with The Ohio State University

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History of the Partnership

Since its first recorded gift to Ohio State in 1954, Battelle Memorial Institute's generosity has enabled Ohio State to accelerate research in fields as diverse as medicine, engineering and contemporary public policy.

The Battelle Endowment for Technology and Human Affairs, established in 1975, supports activities that help scientists and engineers become more knowledgeable about and engaged in the relationship between science and technology and broader social and cultural issues. Participants in the program's initiatives have numbered in the thousands—including Ohio State faculty, staff and students; Battelle colleagues; specially invited international luminaries; and members of the central Ohio community.

For the first 10 years of its existence, the program provided for a major symposium, as well as seminars and meetings on general topics connecting science and technology with the quality of life in the contemporary world. A hallmark of the early symposia and related activities was their broad interdisciplinarity. The inaugural Battelle Endowment symposium, "Energy, Environment and Our Society," included a professor of economics from the University of Colorado who, at the time, was also the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the vice president for science and technology at Exxon Corporation (now, ExxonMobil); the dean emeritus of the John F. Kennedy School of Government; the chief economist of the Atlantic Richfield Company; the former ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and the president of the National Audubon Society. The complementary faculty seminars included representatives from such diverse disciplines as law, agricultural economics, sociology, nuclear engineering, philosophy, economics, public administration, history, zoology and political science.

The program format has changed since its earliest days, but the focus remains the same. In 2012, program administration moved from the Office of Academic Affairs to the Office of Research. At Battelle's request the fund was renamed the **Battelle Engineering, Technology and Human Affairs (BETHA) Endowment**. Today, the Battelle Endowment supports such initiatives as public lectures, art exhibits, workshops and interactive computer projects that examine the complex relationship between science and technology and the needs and aspirations of individuals and society.