

President's Report to the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARCH 2014 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

Signage at Mt. Orab Campus

As we approach the opening of the Mt. Orab Campus, important decisions need to be made regarding signage along State Route 32. We have invited a representative from Kap Signs to discuss options with the Board and to listen to the Board's input so that design can move forward.

Request for Proposal for Small Campus Fund Released

The RFP for the \$16 million small campus pool which was a recommendation of the Higher Education Funding Commission has been released and is due on March 19. We have been refining our proposal for the Adams County Campus Project and believe we have a most competitive proposal. It is anticipated that the Chancellor's office will be making the determination regarding which projects to fund. With our recent design and construction experience in Mt. Orab, we believe we can tighten the time frame and be ready for a fall 2014 groundbreaking in Adams County provided we are successful with funding and the site acquisition occurs in a timely manner.

Southwest Ohio School Board Association Award

On March 11, I will be attending the spring meeting of the Southwest Region of the Ohio School Boards Association to receive their Educator of the Year award. The Southwest Region encompasses 17 counties including our five-county service area. It's truly an honor to be recognized outside of our community college sector for the contributions of our college to the overall educational attainment in our region.



Upcoming Events

Board members are invited and encouraged to attend any of the following upcoming events:

MARCH

- 03.19.14 **Women’s Tea**
2:00 pm | Appalachian Gateway Center, South Campus
- 03.20.14 **Master Gardener Series: “Composting”**
6:00 pm | South Campus Library

APRIL

- 04.04.14 **SSCC Theatre presents “Almost, Maine”**
7:30 pm | Edward K. Daniels Auditorium, Central Campus
- 04.05.14 **SSCC Theatre presents “Almost, Maine”**
7:30 pm | Edward K. Daniels Auditorium, Central Campus
- 04.06.14 **SSCC Theatre presents “Almost, Maine”**
3:30 pm | Edward K. Daniels Auditorium, Central Campus
- 04.10.14 **Guest Speaker: Dr. Aaron Thompson**
12 noon | Edward K. Daniels Auditorium, Central Campus
- 04.10.14 **Student Artists Showcase**
4-8 pm | Appalachian Gateway Center, South Campus
- 04.17.14 **Master Gardener Series: “Trees & Shrubs”**
6:00 pm | South Campus Library

President’s Activities and Involvement

Since my last report, I have been involved in the following meetings and events:

- Extended SSCC Board of Trustees Meeting at Murphin Ridge Inn
- Hillsboro Rotary Club Meeting
- Conference Call with Sinclair Community College representatives about Memo of Understanding on Unmanned Aerial Systems
- Quality + Value Working Group Conference Call
- ACCT Legislative Summit/Rural Community College Alliance in Washington, D.C.
 - Meeting with Congressman Brad Wenstrup
 - Meeting with Senator Rob Portman
 - ACCT National Capital Reception

- Meeting with White House Officials
- Meeting with U.S. Department of Education
- USDA Luncheon and Agency Presentations
- Meeting with Senator Sherrod Brown
- Meeting with Representative Terry Johnson on Adams County Campus
- Leadership Clinton, Educational Resources Day
- OACC Presidents' Meeting
- OACC Presidential Search Committee Conference Call
- State of the State Address with Governor John Kasich
- Chatfield Findlay Market Campus (Chatfield College Over the Rhine) Meeting
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
- Meeting with Foundation members to discuss Wilmington Succeeds Initiative
- Ohio Deans Compact on Exceptional Children

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Higher Learning Commission visits

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will visit our new Mt. Orab Campus sometime in late fall or early spring semester. The visit is part of the approval process for the new campus. Additionally, the college submitted two sets of dates for the reaccreditation visits in 2015 and 2016. Once the dates for both of these visits are finalized, the Board will be notified and invited to participate as required by HLC.

Data Capacity Team

A small group of administration, staff, and faculty have been participating in a grant project sponsored by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC). The grant's purpose is to help institutions with little or no institutional research capacity to find ways to improve their data collection and review process. The institutions will use information gathered during the grant process to help inform the college completion plan submitted by the College and approved by the Board. The data capacity team recently participated in a one-day meeting in Columbus and just hosted a day-long data

review of the College's gateway courses with the respective disciplines. The team is supported by a special consultant provided by the grant.

Program Approval and Development

The Ohio Board of Regents recently approved two new programs: Cyber Security & Forensics and HVAC. Both of these programs will be offered on the Mt. Orab Campus beginning this fall. In addition to these two programs, the academic division is in the process of developing Biotechnology and Logistics programs to most likely be offered on North Campus. It is anticipated these programs will be operational sometime during the next academic year.

Workforce Development and Community Services

Truck Driving Academy

Enrollment for the month was one student better than February of 2013. March enrollment appears to be up significantly; however, weather delays and reduced instructor staffing levels pose a challenge to accommodating the increased interest and financial standing.

In early January, word was received from the Ohio Board of Regents that approximately \$2.9 million is to be awarded to community colleges for equipment and facility purchases to further the training efforts in Ohio's key businesses and industries. The limit on each award is \$250,000. On Feb. 7, John Joy submitted a grant proposal application for \$234,000 for needed equipment upgrades.

Application is underway for operation of a CDL-training location in Middletown, in partnership with Cincinnati State. Training is expected to be available at the Middletown campus in early April.

Workforce Development

SSCC and Sinclair Community College co-sponsored a one-day workshop Feb. 28 at Central Campus on the applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to agriculture.

Dr. Andrew Shepherd, Program Director of UAS at Sinclair, conducted the workshop. Kevin Carver, Executive Director of the Clinton County Port Authority, was guest for part of the day, and plans are underway to further publicize the links between UAS and applications to the region's agricultural community.

John Joy will be presenting at the annual statewide Ohio Continuing Higher Education Association conference to be held March 20 and 21 in Columbus. The topic will be on maintaining effective relationships with area One-Stops and WIA service providers to improve workforce development outcomes.

Continuing Education & Departmental Notes

Dr. Ryan McCall and John Joy met Feb. 25 with David Hoover, operator of the Clinton County airport. Discussions were focused on offering general aviation training at the Wilmington campus on a non-credit basis.

STUDENT SERVICES AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Admissions

Placement Test

Accuplacer dates have been scheduled on all four campuses, with a particular emphasis at South Campus. Students will be encouraged to test early, due to the eventual closing of that building. The Admissions Office will work with the Student Success Center to facilitate placement test preparation workshops.

Area high schools have again been offered the opportunity to schedule a test at their locations. Southern State sends a test proctor to the high school site, and the high school saves time and money by not having to transport students to one of the SSCC campuses. This has proven to be a valuable service to our secondary school partners.

Credit When It's Due

The second cohort of Credit When It's Due (Reverse Transfer) transcripts is starting to come in for evaluation and degree audit. This group has included student transcripts from Shawnee State, Ohio State University, Cleveland State University, Ohio University, and University of Cincinnati.

Transferology

The updated version of a transfer website (formerly known as u.select) will soon be ready for beta testing. The Ohio Board of Regents supports this site, which is the product of the nationwide vendor, College Source. Last November, SSCC purchased an annual subscription to TES (Transfer Evaluation System), another College Source product. The OBR technology director was quite pleased to discover that the college had invested in TES, as it should allow more frequent updates to the transfer course database.

Student Activities

Graduation

Preparation for this year's graduation ceremony has begun, with an administrative planning meeting set for March 10.

PTK

Spring Induction for new Phi Theta Kappa members will be held 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, in the Edward K. Daniels Auditorium on Central Campus.

Athletic Department

The following student athletes made the Dean's List for Fall Semester 2013: Kasey Fitzpatrick (men's soccer), Anna Howard (women's volleyball), and Karson Kendall (men's soccer).

Women's softball will be classified as a club level sport for the Spring 2014 semester. This move allows part-time students to participate which will serve to increase the number of players on the team.

Student Government Association

George Martin, president of Student Government Association (SGA), has approval from his Lindsey Wilson College instructor to perform his practicum in conjunction with SGA and under the supervision of his advisor, Sherry MacDowell. George will be spending a day at each campus talking to students about Student Government and performing other duties related to SGA, such as working on upcoming elections and SGA's donation to the Adult and Crippled Children's Society fundraiser in March. George will also be assisting in the Student Services department with some light clerical duties.

The annual Student Discount Card fundraiser has been a huge success this year. There are about 70 cards left to sell which will all be a profit. Enough cards have been sold already to cover both the expense of the cards and the scholarship funded annually by Student Government.

Financial Aid

High School Financial Aid Nights were conducted at North Adams, East Clinton, Southern Hills JVS, Eastern Brown and Lynchburg-Clay over the past month.

Spring financial aid was disbursed totaling over \$5 million.

The office is working with the financial aid software to begin packaging financial aid for the fall semester.

Records/Registrar

The Records office submitted all fall enrollment reports to HEI.

The Records office submitted all enrollment IPEDs reports; they have been locked.

There has been an improvement over last year's graduation rate of 19%. The graduation rate is now 22% with a transfer rate of 21%.

Recruitment ✓

The College Credit Plus (PSEO) presentation at Central Campus was fairly attended. High school counselors have requested it be repeated next year.

SSCC will be in attendance at the Adams County Expo on March 6.

Post-Secondary presentations took place in 19 different high schools within all five service counties as well as Clermont and Ross.

Student Success Center ✓

In an attempt to encourage students to register earlier for summer and fall classes, the Student Success Center will sponsor Steps to Success Arena Scheduling on April 21-24. The staff will travel to each campus during that week to set up arena scheduling and provide activities and gifts for current students. Heather Miller and Anthony Carson will plan fun activities and snacks for students and staff at each campus. Tutors, AmeriCorps coaches, and advisors will be available to sign students up for tutoring and to schedule classes. Tom Payton will be available to talk about careers. Other student services staff will be available to assist with the scheduling and to answer questions about financial aid. The arena scheduling will run from 12 noon until 6 p.m.

How do I register? Who do I talk to? Where do I start? Am I eligible for financial aid? These are some of the many questions that students and parents have about enrolling in college. Immediately following the arena scheduling, the staff will remain on campus from 6-8 p.m. to meet with prospective students and their parents to answer these questions about becoming a student at Southern State Community College. The Student Success Center has been working in conjunction with the Communications Department in targeting 4,500 high school seniors and other cohorts who might be interested in enrolling this fall to attend the Steps to Success event.

Tutoring Center

Tutoring Sessions for Spring Semester as of Feb. 15:

- 114 Tutor Requests
- 79 Lab Sessions
- 96 One-on-One Sessions
- 37 students served via embedded tutoring*
- 212 Total Sessions from 01/08 – 02/15

The Writing Associate tutor was embedded in Allied Health courses to assist students as they created documents using the APA style and in one English 1102 class to assist students with a major paper.

Tutor Success Workshops:

Mentor Tutors Erin Smith (writing) and Joe Gruber (math) are developing a tutoring center workshop to prep students for the Accuplacer tests. The workshop is designed to prepare students for taking the placement assessment in an effort to help them raise their scores and accelerate through developmental education math and/or writing. The workshops will provide a review of those skills needed to be successful on the test and will provide test-taking tips. Data shows that students who accelerate quickly through developmental courses have a higher completion rate.

Retention

248 Early Warnings were submitted to the Student Success Center between the start of the spring semester through Feb. 24. Staff members contacted all students and provided information to the instructors regarding the student status.

The Center also sent out 182 letters to students on academic warning. The letter informed students about the warning and probation process and encouraged students to meet with an advisor to monitor progress.

AmeriCorps coaches continue to work with students in the College Success classes to create academic completion plans. Coach Sarah Miller will be accepting a full-time position elsewhere and is leaving her position effective April 28. The staff extends their

sincerest appreciation for Sarah's work at SSCC and wished her the best as she pursues a career requiring her baccalaureate degree skills and professional development.

Advising Center

Advisors conducted 708 advising sessions between the start of spring semester through Feb. 24.

In addition to warning letters, advisors have emailed and/or called 119 of students on warning. Advisors have been reviewing transcripts for errors in conversion that have led to the placement of students on warning or probation who should not be.

19-23 Central campus students on academic probation have met with an advisor. Advisors at the other campuses have also been meeting with students on academic probation to monitor progress.

Advisors continue to work on student follow-up and are preparing for the April arena scheduling and new student information session.

Career Services

Community Presentations

Career & Counseling Services along with the Communications Department conducted two presentations at STAR Community Justice Center in Scioto County. STAR is a recovery treatment center that serves as an alternative to incarceration. The presentation covered the necessity of education due to changes in the workplace and economy, as well as the need to guide one's own career rather than the employer. Also, covered were various campus locations, programs, and the benefits of attending Southern State Community College.

The residents were very receptive and participated well in the discussion. Many of them were from our service area and familiar with SSCC. Below is a portion of an email from Jeff Augustin, STAR Resident Services Manager, following our visit:

“I just wanted to say thanks again for the wonderful presentation you made to our residents! I believe you inspired a lot of hope in many of them. I was very encouraged by all of the positive feedback I received. Education is one of the seven criminogenic needs we try and meet at STAR. As you can imagine, and as we discussed, furthering and/or completing one’s education goes a long way in reducing recidivism. We truly appreciate your time and effort and we look forward to bringing residents to Hillsboro for a tour of the campus, hopefully mid-March.” - Jeff Augustin, STAR

Class Presentations

Career & Counseling Services also presented information to Sue Brunacini’s Early Childhood Education class and Chyane Collins’ Respiratory Therapy class on “Cover Letters, Resumes, and Interviews.”

Change in Case Load Trend

The trend in the counseling case load has normally been a 60/40 ratio of career versus mental health clients; however, there has been a substantial increase in the number of clients requesting mental health consultations during January and February. During the past two months, 56% of the case load has been mental health, an increase of 16%. This seems to be due to increased discussion during new student orientation about mental health services, increased participation in College Success Classes, and increased promotion on the SSCC digital signs.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Communications

Marketing | Public Relations | Web

Adult Opportunity Center | ABLE and GED Direct Mail/Elementary School Stuffer

Know someone who needs a GED?

The **Adult Opportunity Center** at Southern State Community College offers a range of **FREE SERVICES**. We can assist you with:

- Basic Academic Skills
- Workplace Literacy
- College Readiness
- GED Preparation
- Life Skills



Slated to arrive in homes in early March, a direct mail solicitation will be distributed to nearly 2,000 Highland County individuals ages 18-45, as reported by national data, that have not declared to having a high school diploma or GED – education status is

unknown. The intent is to guide these individuals to the services of Southern State's Adult Opportunity Center. Highlighted is a powerful testimonial and photo of a recent student of the program who is now attending Southern State and working toward an Associate Degree. In addition to the direct mail card, a flyer was also created for distribution to families via first and second grade students in Adams, Brown, Clinton, Clermont, Fayette, and Highland counties.

Affordability Direct Mail | HS Seniors

Arriving in homes the first week of March, a direct mail piece will be distributed to approximately 4,500 high school seniors residing within a 30-mile radius of each of the college's campus locations, including Mt. Orab. Aimed at promoting transferability and SSCC as an affordable option to begin college, the mailer features two Southern State alumni who completed course work and then transferred seamlessly to four-year institutions. Their stories are testimonials like thousands of others who have also saved time and money by attending Southern State first.



Affordability Direct Mail | Parents of HS Seniors

With a parent's perspective in mind, a follow-up affordability mailer will arrive to the parents of those targeted in the high school senior affordability direct mailing. Scheduled to arrive in homes in late March, this mailer highlights four parents who have testified to the significant savings their families have realized by choosing Southern State. The piece speaks to both affordability and transferability and includes an invitation to new student information sessions slated for April.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Wellness

Smoking Cessation Program

January kicked off the smoking cessation program offered to employees. ASPIRE Wellness Coaching is a 12-week program coordinated by TriHealth. The program consists of one-on-one telephonic coaching and is free of cost for participants. Those employees who successfully complete the program will be exempt from the tobacco surcharge on their medical premiums for fiscal year 2014. Three participants are currently enrolled in the program which is expected to conclude in early April.

Workplace Weight Management

The Wellness Connector Work Place Weight Management Program is an individual health improvement program with pre- and post-biometric measurements and weekly educational activities. These activities are designed to provide the tools and resources necessary for making healthy lifestyle changes to facilitate weight loss. On Feb. 13, participants had their measurements and weight recorded. Participants will do a final weigh-in at the conclusion of the program during the last (10th) week. During the 10-week program, two educational sessions will be offered and participants will receive weekly educational emails. In order to receive wellness credit for fiscal year 2014 participants must submit a nutrition tracking sheet and attend at least one of the two education sessions. The education sessions being offered include a presentation by licensed dietician, Nancy Wilson, and a licensed personal trainer, Melissa Frampton. There are 18 participants from Central Campus, six from South Campus and a combined six participants from Fayette and North Campuses who are enrolled in the program.

In order for an employee to receive the College's contribution to either a Health Savings Account (H.S.A) or Health Reimbursement Account (H.R.A) for the plan year July 1, 2014, employees must participate in a wellness event and complete the Health Risk Assessment by June 2014. Both the Smoking Cessation Program and the Workplace Weight Management Program qualify as a wellness event for employees.