

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



**SOUTHERN STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DECEMBER 2019 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

## Southern State Community College Foundation Update

The Board of the Southern State Community College Foundation met on Nov. 18 with a consultant that the Foundation has engaged to support its growth. After a consultant-led presentation and discussion, the Board established the following priorities: rebuild the Board membership, further develop the case statement and staff a part-time Foundation leader, partially funded by the Foundation.

The following day, we received notification that the College was the recipient of a \$50,000 donation from the estate of Alice Mae Smith, with the desire to provide assistance to students from Adams County.

## G.R.I.T. Grant Update

At the last meeting, I discussed a grant in which Southern State was the lead applicant in partnership with Highland County, Community Action of Highland County, and others. We received unofficial word that the College was awarded \$1.2M over the course of two years. As we are provided official notification and the details of the award, we will keep the Board informed as to the purpose and use of these grant funds to assist those who need short-term training in our area. Dr. Nicole Roades devoted significant attention to the preparation and writing of this grant in the midst of several other competing projects. Please join me in commending and congratulating her for her positive attitude, energy, and effective writing that resulted in this grant award.

## Chancellor's Visit

Chancellor Randy Gardner made the commitment to visit each college and university in Ohio during his first year. He visited our Fayette Campus on Friday, Oct. 25. Nicole Roades, Brian Rice and I had an hour-long conversation the Chancellor about our College, its challenges and strengths. As a former long-serving legislator, I believe he appreciated hearing about the

impact that years of frozen tuition and nearly flat subsidy have had on our institution, as well as the inequity of treating all institutions equally with tuition caps. He remarked that our meeting was among the most informative.

## Press Releases

You have probably seen these in your local paper, but several examples of press releases are included in your packet that highlight additional programs, faculty, and students or alumni. David Wright, former reporter for the Times-Gazette, has done an outstanding job researching and writing these stories that have appeared as a series throughout our region.

## President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Meeting with Fayette County Commissioners
- Hillsboro Rotary Club Meetings
- Grant Meeting Regarding Students with Intellectual Disabilities
- Facilitated Highland County Chamber of Commerce Strategic Planning Session
- Ribbon Cutting at LaRosa's in Hillsboro
- Advisory Council Meeting
- Visit with Chancellor Randy Gardner
- Meeting with Clinton County Foundation Representative
- ODHE Annual Trustees Conference
- Community Colleges of Appalachia Fall Board Meeting and Conference (Hazard, KY)
- Wilmington Rotary Club Meeting
- Exploratory Rotary Club Meeting at Brown County Campus
- Strive Together Cincinnati Meeting
- Call with AACC Executive Committee
- AACC Fall Board and Commission Meeting (Washington, DC)
- A White House Roundtable: Preventing Overdoses on College Campuses
- Adams and Highland County Business Advisory Council
- SSCC Foundation Board Meeting with Consultant from The Armistead Group
- Meeting with Executive Director, Clinton County Port Authority
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
- SOCHE Board Meeting

## Upcoming Events

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

### DECEMBER

Dec. 5            **Practical Nursing Pinning Ceremony**  
Central Campus Auditorium | 7:00pm

Dec. 7            **Respiratory Care Graduation Ceremony**  
Central Campus Auditorium | 2:00pm

### JANUARY

Jan. 8            **Men's Basketball Game vs. Miami U-Hamilton**  
Patriot Center | 7:30pm

Jan. 10           **Men's Basketball Game vs. Wright Patterson Air Force Base**  
Patriot Center | 8:00pm

Jan. 14           **Men's Basketball Game vs. Boyce College**  
Patriot Center | 6:00pm

Jan. 16           **Men's Basketball Game vs. Cincinnati-Clermont**  
Patriot Center | 7:00pm

Jan. 18           **Men's Basketball Game vs. Wright State-Lake Campus**  
Patriot Center | 3:00pm

Jan. 31           **Men's Basketball Game vs. The Crown College**  
Patriot Center | 7:00pm

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee Breakfast

On Friday, Oct. 25, approximately 60 committee members and administrators attended the Annual Advisory Breakfast at Central Campus. I opened the event with welcoming remarks and expressed appreciation for their participation. After breakfast, Dr. Roades gave charge to the committees and dismissed them to breakout sessions.

A campaign was launched beginning in June 2019, to enhance the Advisory Committees. Information was disseminated to the committee chairs about the purpose and role—encouraging committee assessment of program curriculum and requesting recommendations for improvements in an effort to better serve students and the needs of the community. Special thanks to Dr. Jessica Wise and Ann Ernst in their coordination efforts.

Advisory Committees include: AOC Aspire (Karyn Evans, Chair); Business (Jeff Tumbleson, Chair); Criminal Justice (Robin Roche, Chair); Computer Science (Josh Montgomery, Chair); Education (Becky Storer, Chair); Engineering (Jim Barnett, Chair); Human & Social Services (Cathy McClain, Chair); Medical Assisting (Rhonda Davis, Chair); Nursing (Dr. Julie Krebs, Chair); Respiratory Care (Chyane Collins, Chair); and Truck Driving Academy (Amy McClellan, Chair).

### **Strategic Scheduling**

Dean of Instructional Operations, Dr. Jessica Wise, has been working to restructure the schedule in an effort to better meet the needs of the students. Through collaboration with academic advisors, Dr. Wise created a block schedule to increase course offerings. This intentional approach will enable students to have more options for general education classes with minimal overlaps. Additionally, several condensed formats will be piloted in in Spring 2020. Eight-week course formats will be offered in three face-to-face math classes as well as two business online courses.

### **Faculty Senate Endorse Direction of Institutional Learning Outcomes**

During a day-long Assessment workshop, held during the Fall Symposium, faculty worked alongside an assessment consultant in the shaping of institutional learning outcomes. Building from our previous experiences with such assessment, the group reevaluated existing outcomes and identified some new directions in key areas. Among the four directions that were identified were: **communication, critical thinking, culture/context, and professionalism**. Faculty Senate endorsed these directions during the October 2019 meeting. Using these four main directions, the College will continue to shape the specific outcomes and begin collecting data for reporting purposes.

## **SSCC Alum Brings Play to Edward K. Daniel's Auditorium**

Southern State is proud to have showcased the original work of alumnus, Richard Farmer. "Nightmare in Suburbia" ran November 1-3, 2019. See attachment for an interesting story of inspiration and homecoming.

## **Around the Campuses**

### **Brown County Campus**

Among the various guests to the Campus: INNERGEX, a renewable energy company in Vancouver, Canada, held an open house. They are in the developmental stages of building a solar farm in Brown County. Also utilizing the space was the Ohio Connections Academy, the YWCA, Master Gardeners, Southern Ohio Basketball Organization, ACT, and finally AOC orientations.

On Oct. 23, the campus hosted the SSCC transfer fair, and over 21 colleges participated in the event. Thank you to Dr. Chalker and her organization and set up of the event.

### **Fayette Campus: Ohio Tech Hub**

Dr. Wise attended an event held by the City of Washington CH Makerspace Committee, Ohio Tech Hub, and the Fayette Co Department of Economic Development on Thursday, Oct. 10. The steering committee presented their vision to increase offerings to students, businesses, and the community while growing the economic prosperity of Fayette County.

### **Bringing a Big City Art Gallery Feel to Clinton County**

SSCC's North Campus hosted an Art Show on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 4:30-6:30 pm, which coincided with the Clinton County Chamber of Commerce's Business After-Hours. One hundred-fifty people attended the event, which featured the artwork of local students from: Wilmington City Schools, East Clinton



Elementary Schools, Wilmington Public Library, and Southern State. SSCC provided refreshments prepared by Shoelaces Catering, and Chrisman Water Conditioning donated bottled water. SSCC personnel involved in the Art Show included: Michelle Callender, Darlene Thacker, Kim Fitzpatrick, Brian Smith, work study student-Samantha Fletcher and Dr. Jessica Wise.

## Grants

### **Southern State Lands Two Open Education Resource (OER) Grants**

Ohio's Open Education Collaborative, of which Southern State is a partner, recently awarded a \$6,000 grant to support Southern State's OER efforts. Specifically, this grant will support the College's English Department and their efforts to fully develop OER materials by incorporating exemplary student examples. The second grant is a cooperative grant in partnership with Kent State University Geauga Campus. This \$15,000 award will assist both institutions in introducing accessibility statements for select courses designed by the first OER Cohort.

### **Carl D. Perkins Requires More Community Partners**

On Oct. 21, Amy McClellan attended the Fall Meeting for the Carl D. Perkins grant. The main topic was the introduction of Perkins V to the coordinators. This new version will require more community partnerships and input concerning the implementation of the Perkins money at the institutions. Performance measures were reduced from six measurements to three, which was heavily advocated for by the Ohio delegation. The final plan for implementation is due in April 2020 prior to July 1 funding.

## Workforce Development, Truck Driving Academy, and Continuing Education

### **Truck Driving Academy**

The Ohio Department of Public Safety did their annual audit of the TDA program on Oct. 24 at the Wilmington Campus. All the equipment passed the inspection, as did our records. An official letter will be sent to the Academy in the coming months.

Truck Driving Academy participated in its first Advisory Board Breakfast on Oct. 25 in Hillsboro. Industry partners discussed additional revenue opportunities, recruitment, and industry and college needs.

During the 2019 racing season, Southern State TDA sponsored a dirt track car for a local racer who traveled a circuit in and around Southern Ohio. The car was wrapped in our logo and the driver and crew had SSCC TDA T-shirts they wore to the events. The drivers “Thank You” note is attached.

Enrollment Trend Information:

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
<b>August</b>	14	18	6
<b>September</b>	27	16	19
<b>October</b>	13	18	10

### **Continuing Education**

Continuing Education Training has an October enrollment of 19 individuals with our partner company ed2go. The STNA program concluded Oct. 4 with five students completing. The next offering will be in January 2020.

Domtar (Washington Court House) took part in a WFD Electrical Training classes for eight employees. The feedback was very positive.

TDA contract training was busy in the month of October with trainings taking place with Pepsi (Columbus), Scholastic Book Fair, and Nutrien Ag Solutions.

## People in the News

### **Workforce Priorities**

Amy McClellan attended the first meeting for the National Council for Workforce Education New Professionals Academy to which Ms. McClellan was selected. The meeting was over the course of three and a half days and discussed resources, challenges, networking, advocacy, and best practices in the profession. The next meeting will be in February in Salt Lake City. Among other essential meetings, she participated in the Ohio Workforce League and the Ohio Manufacturer’s Associ.n Annual

Conference.

### **Quality Matters**

Director of Instructional Technology, Angel Mootispaw recently attended the national Quality Matters (QM) Connect Conference in Grapevine Texas. Held Oct. 27-30, this conference represented a global exploration of how institutions are committing to excellence for learners. It offered best practices in promoting engagement among faculty, data-driven policies and more. Alongside Ms. Mootispaw, Business Faculty member and online pioneer, Dr. Gayle Mackay, also participated in virtual sessions held during the same conference. QM is a global organization leading quality assurance in online and innovative digital teaching and learning environments. Southern State has embraced the QM model and leverages this relationship to strengthen our local commitment to quality assurance in online learning.

### **Connections Breakfast**

Leadership Adams and the Adams County Chamber of Commerce joined forces to host the Connections Breakfast. Denise Reading of the GRIT Project was the keynote speaker for the approximately 80 who were in attendance. Karyn Evans served on the committee for the event. Based on the positive feedback, the event will become an annual project.

### **Professional Development/Training**

Susan Armstrong and Sally Orihood represented the AOC at the Ohio Association for Adult and Community Education, which was held in Columbus. In addition to being instructors, Susan serves as the Curriculum Specialist, and Sally is the Lead Instructor. They will share the knowledge gained with other instructors at an upcoming meeting.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

### **Financial Aid**



## Default Prevention Task Force Meeting

The Default Prevention Task Force met on Nov. 1. Members of the committee are:

Vice President James Bland  
Stephanie Bartley, Coordinator of Student Success  
Josh Montgomery, Computer Science Faculty  
Brian Prickett, Board of Trustees member  
Linda Myers, Financial Aid Director  
Jaime Simmons, Department of Financial Aid

Representatives from different areas of the College bring awareness to the issue of default outside of the Financial Aid office.

Analysis of the most recent cohort group was reviewed which reflected a rate drop from 23.9% to 21%. Of those defaulting on their loans, 72% were not making satisfactory academic progress when they left the College. Current initiatives related to loan counseling and student loan indebtedness were reviewed. Student success in the classroom and the ability to transition to the next level either in continued education or the workforce are important factors in a student's ability to repay student loans. The College is no longer contracting with an outside vendor for default management services since the discontinuation of \$ALT.

## Financial Aid Outreach

Financial Aid Nights were conducted at East Clinton, Eastern Brown, Southern Hills JVS and Western Latham. Many follow up appointments from these visits have been conducted by the Financial Aid office to assist families in our communities with the FAFSA process.

## Registrar/Records

### Registration

Spring classes begin Jan. 13. Registration opened on the following dates:

- Veteran and Services Members – Monday, Oct. 28
- Sophomores – Monday, Nov. 4
- Freshmen – Tuesday, Nov. 5

## Student Success Center

### **Advising Center**

#### *Navigating through Registration Advising:*

Advisors put the EAB Navigate system to use this term with career planning and academic advising. Students have been encouraged to download the Navigate Student “app” for their phones or log on through the web portal. Interest in the resource increased as students discovered the ease of appointment scheduling, schedule reminders, and follow-up notes from their advising session. Interest will continue to grow as additional “care units” from other support services departments become fully functioning.

As students identify career interests, transfer institutions for bachelor degrees, and long-term goals, advisors are able to tag those students and manage them in selected groups for additional support and communication. Our transfer partners are excited to reach out to the self-identified students wishing continue their academic career, making us a very favored education partner. Students are able to self-manage their long-term goals with the directed guidance and assignments outlined in the Navigate advising notes following appointments.

Follow-up campaigns are now underway to reach out to students not registered for Spring term. The goal is to have most of the current students registered for next term before the College holiday closure.

## Athletics

### **Men’s Soccer**

Coach Pence is on the recruiting trail, and he is getting a good response from perspective student/athletes.

### **Women’s Basketball**

Coach Wells attended the SHAC girls preview in Ripley, and had some good discussions with senior and junior students/athletes.

## **Men's Basketball**

The Men's team recently had two home games vs. Cedarville JV and Owens C.C. The team is playing well, but have a few issues, due to lack of numbers.

Damote Bailey, a freshman who has played in four games, is averaging 33 points per game (he leads the USCAA Division II in scoring) and 16.7 rebounds per game (ranks second in USCAA Division II rebounds).

## **Athletic Department**

The Athletic Department is looking into promoting our Athletics to reach a broader community. They have spoken with some high school Athletic Directors and Coaches to discuss their student/athletes and what they are looking for in College Athletics.

## Student Clubs & Activities

### **Respiratory Care Club**

The Respiratory Care Club earned \$201.77 from the Nov. 6 fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings in Wilmington. The Club would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of those that participated in this fundraiser.

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November 13, 2019

Southern State College  
351 Brooks-Malott Road  
Mt. Orab, Ohio 45154

Re: Alice Mae Smith Estate

Dear Madam or Sir:

Please be advised that I represent the Alice Mae Smith Estate. I am in the process of having Robert L. Smith appointed Executor of the estate.

Per Alice's Last Will and Testament she left \$50,000.00 to Southern State College, Fincastle Branch, for Adams County students only.

I am enclosing a Waiver which the Probate Court requires to be signed by the authorized person of the school

Please sign the Waiver and return to me in the enclosed envelope.

After the Probate Court authorizes me to do so, we will disburse a check to the Southern State College, which is to be used for Adams County students.

Thank you and should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at anytime.

Yours very truly,

  
John B. Caldwell

JBC/bb

Enclosure:

cc. Robert L. Smith

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## Teacher inspired new teacher SSCC grad says it's never too late to reach your goals

By David Wright



Becky Storer, seated at left beneath whiteboard, sings with students at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro.

*Editor's note – This article is one of a series of feature stories from Southern State Community College highlighting alumni and the specific degree programs they completed.*

Lori Dove, a recent graduate of Southern State Community College, shared that watching a teacher interact with her son, who has autism, inspired her to pursue a career in education. Although getting an education was second in line to raising her son, Dove said she believed in what preschool teachers do and that she wanted to have a positive impact on young children just like her son's teacher.

Four years later, Dove graduated with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from Southern State. The degree normally takes two years to complete, but Dove said that spending time with her son was a priority.

"Enrolling in the early childhood program at Southern State was the best decision I ever made. I learned it is never too late to reach your goals," she said.

Now in her second year of teaching at a private preschool in Wilmington, Dove related how Southern State gave her the flexibility she needed to obtain her degree while also taking her son to therapy appointments. As a new teacher, Dove said she is very busy and that Southern State prepared her well to face the challenges and enjoy the rewards of teaching young children.

Becky Storer, SSCC associate professor, provides the leadership for the education program at the college. She explained that there are multiple options in the education department for people who want to work with

children via their completion of the associate's degree in applied science or through the completion of the associate of arts degree, designed to transfer to four-year teacher education programs.

"We have articulation agreements with many of our regional four-year institutions, which makes the transfer process easy for our graduates," said Storer. "Regardless of what age or grade level you would like to teach, you can complete your first two years of college here at Southern State."

"Our situation at Southern State is unique in the fact that our classes have the perfect combination of students," Storer continued. "For example, I have many high school students or recent graduates who are very tech-savvy, but do not have hands-on experience working with children. Conversely, my nontraditional students have children of their own and can easily relate to the child development concepts discussed in class. So while each group considers the other to have the advantage, they really just complement each other, which creates the perfect learning environment."

Storer said that the job market is looking promising with many of the baby boomers retiring from teaching.

"This is an exciting time for college students who want to enter the field of education. We need more people who have the desire to work with children of all ages," she said.

Personally, Storer said that she loves teaching children and adults alike, and that she sees that passion for teaching in her students.

"I think what has drawn me to this field is impacting future generations of teachers," Storer said. "Seeing students like Lori Dove succeed and reach their goals is so rewarding."

Dove added, "Going back to school and earning my degree at Southern State has enriched my life. I love my job working with young children."

For more information about Southern State's Teacher Education Program, visit [www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu), email Becky Storer at [bstorer@sccc.edu](mailto:bstorer@sccc.edu), or call 800.628.7722, Ext. 2628.

*David Wright is a local journalist and freelance writer.*

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POSTED ON [NOVEMBER 11, 2019](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

## **'Impact lives by caring for people' Mingee: Medical assisting changes lives**

*By David Wright - For Southern State - Community College*



Chelsea Michael, left, practices drawing blood from Lauren Brown, right, at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro.

*Editor's note – This article is one of a series of feature stories from Southern State Community College highlighting alumni and the specific degree programs they completed.*

In 2003, Leslie Mingee was working at an assembly job and felt like she had hit a dead end.

“It made me think, ‘I can do better,’” Mingee said, “so I decided to reach out to the local community college and see what I needed to do to change my career.”

Mingee had to first obtain her general education diploma from Southern State. Then, she enrolled full-time at the college to obtain her associate’s degree in medical assisting.

Mingee said her family’s financial challenges were immense. Her husband had recently completed police academy training, which drained already thin finances, and with two children to raise, having enough money for another education proved to be too great an obstacle.

“We were both determined to do better. It was very difficult. Sometimes, you just have to swallow your pride and say, ‘You know, we don’t need all this stuff. We need a foundation to build from.’ So we focused on our education.”

Mingee said that decision put her and her husband on a trajectory for success. After qualifying for free tuition, Mingee continued full-time classes until she graduated in 2005. Even before completing school, Mingee landed a job as a medical assistant in Highland District Hospital’s hematology/oncology department. She has worked there ever since.

Rhonda Davis, program director for the medical assisting and phlebotomy programs at Southern State, said many students get jobs in the medical assisting and phlebotomy fields before they graduate. Medical assisting students can attend classes for one year and obtain the appropriate certificate, sit for a credentialing exam, and, if successful, can get a medical assisting job and finish their associate’s degree while working.

Davis said medical assisting students can get jobs as front- or back-office staff at doctor's offices; front-office being mostly paperwork, data entry, and some medical coding and billing; back-office being blood pressure monitoring, injections and drawing blood. Medical assistants can also work in labs, pharmacies, hospitals, clinics and other outpatient facilities.

According to Davis, the program includes hands-on experience in the classroom followed by 210 hours of practicum experience in the outpatient clinical setting.

Davis said patients, physicians and nurses rely on medical assistants as an integral part of the administrative and clinical health care team.

"You get to make a difference and impact lives by caring for people," Davis said. "If you've got that caring, nurturing characteristic, you can satisfy that need here."

Another benefit of being a medical assistant are the working hours – usually daytime shifts with weekends and holidays off – leaving plenty of time for life outside of a career.

"Many of our students are parents transitioning from current employment, or from being a stay-at-home care-provider, to a very rewarding career in the health care field," Davis said.

Coming from that background can often mean financial challenges, which Southern State is able to offset with financial aid for those who qualify. The college also has resources for non-traditional students who are returning to work after being laid off, Davis said, as well as those who are technologically challenged.

Whether it means daycare services for children or computer courses for non-traditional students seeking a degree, "We really try to accommodate our students," Davis said.

Davis said she loves what she does. As a former medical assistant herself, Davis said she understands the benefits of that career path.

"This was a career that let me help people and be home with my kids in the evenings," she said. "Those hours let me help others and still be a wife and a mom... Helping people get there has been very rewarding. I can't think of anything I'd rather do."

Mingee said if it hadn't been for Southern State, she would still be working a dead-end job.

"Southern State is the foundation of my career today," she said. "I wouldn't be where I am today if not for them."

Mingee said people should never rule out college education. "Don't think you're not smart enough to go to college," she said. "In my mind, college was always for the smart ones, not for people like me who dropped out of high school. But you can do anything you set your mind to."



For more information about Southern State's Medical Assisting Program, visit [www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu), email Rhonda Davis at [rdavis@sccc.edu](mailto:rdavis@sccc.edu), or call 800.628.7722, ext. 2639.

*David Wright is a local journalist and freelance writer.*

POSTED ON [NOVEMBER 4, 2019](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

## 'The glow on their faces'

### Day: SSCC offers 'really good foundation' in education

*By David Wright - For Southern State - Community College*



Jeff Tumbleson, associate professor of business, lectures on business at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro.

*Editor's note – This article is one of a series of feature stories from Southern State Community College highlighting alumni and the specific degree programs they completed.*

Shelly Day's youngest child was beginning kindergarten when Day decided it was time to leave her cleaning business and return to school. As a non-traditional student from Adams County, her first choice was the local community college.

Day, 35, graduated in 2015 with an associate's degree in accounting from Southern State Community College and quickly got a job as a certified public accountant. Day said she felt a greater aptitude for accounting than some of her colleagues with more education.

*"When I came out with my associate's degree, I knew more than people who had their bachelor's degrees," she said.*

Day said her education at Southern State prepared her for both the workforce and to eventually return to college to obtain her bachelor's degree, which she did. Now a manager at the accounting firm, Day said she gets paid to do what she loves.

But Day's education was not easy. As a non-traditional student with two children, Day had to shuffle her priorities as she worked her way through classes – and there were other challenges she didn't anticipate.

*"I'm older, so when I went to high school, we weren't allowed to use calculators," she said. "I'm going in there with all these young kids... and I had to say, 'Hey, show me how to do this.'"*

Day said faculty and staff offered Day the flexibility she needed to prioritize her family, and even as she neared graduation and classes narrowed, “they did their best to make it as accommodating as possible.”

Jeff Tumbleson oversees SSCC’s business program, which offers associate’s degrees in business and accounting, as well as an associate’s in business with a real estate broker option. Tumbleson said his program also offers a one-year certification in accounting and business focuses for students obtaining other degrees.

“One of the things we’ve done is the business degree is primarily online,” Tumbleson said, “so if a student is working a job and wants to come back to school, they have that flexibility of taking an online course and reaching completion without the extra commitment of driving to campus.”

Tumbleson said that there is an associate of arts guided pathway developed by the state which allows a student to take six approved business courses that will transfer to any four-year college in Ohio, “so it’s to their advantage to take as many courses here at our tuition rate as they can, compared to whatever college they’re going to. It’s just a way to save students money.”

According to Tumbleson, accounting graduates can go on to become entry-level accountants, accounting clerks, bookkeepers, payroll clerks and bank tellers. Business grads can become entry-level managers in a wide variety of businesses, and real estate students take three courses setting them up to successfully pass the real estate salesperson licensure exam.

Tumbleson said students get a wide variety of courses and experiences that give them a well-rounded knowledge of the business world. He added that the college has “very good faculty members who are student-oriented. We try our best to help students achieve their goals.”

“We try to tie in a lot of real-world ideas and experiences into the courses so the student gets a grasp of what it’s going to be like,” he said.

Day said she recently had the opportunity to hire several people for her firm, and she was most impressed with the candidates who had degrees from Southern State.

“We had some resumes come in and I just really wasn’t impressed, so I reached out to my old instructor at Southern State because I know the education they offer,” she said.

Tumbleson said overseeing these programs is important to him because it’s satisfying to see a student achieve their goals, “whether it’s solving a problem or completing a course or actually completing the degree.”

“It’s very satisfying to see that glow on the student’s face when they’ve accomplished any one of those criteria,” he said.

Day said she wouldn’t be where she is now had it not been for Southern State.

“I know community colleges get a bad rap, but I got a real quality education,” Day said. “Even when I went back and got my bachelor’s degree, I was well-prepared. They offer a really good foundation.”

For more information about Southern State’s Business Program, visit [www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu), email Jeff Tumbleson at [jtumbleson@sccc.edu](mailto:jtumbleson@sccc.edu), or call 8000-628-7722, ext. 3678.

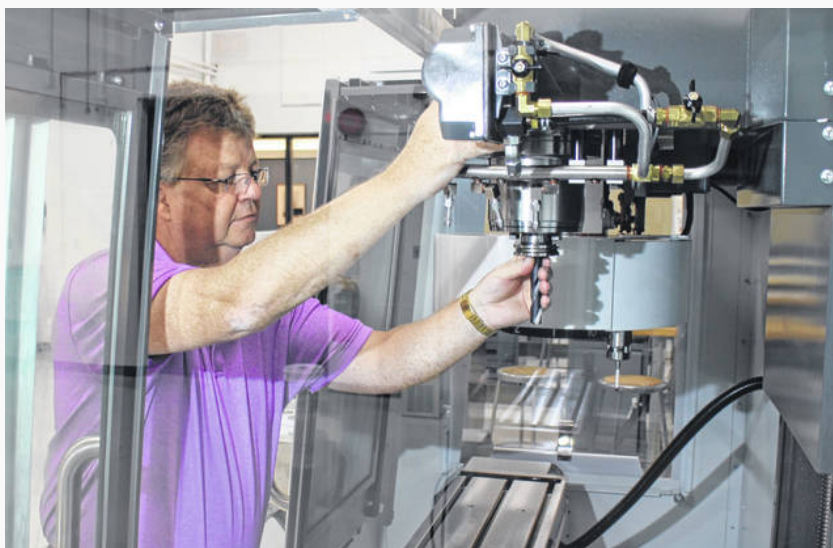
*David Wright is a local journalist and freelance writer.*

POSTED ON [OCTOBER 25, 2019](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

## Time, effort and elbow grease

### Southern State education leads to engineering opportunity

*By David Wright - For Southern State - Community College*



Jim Barnett, assistant professor of engineering, works with CNC equipment at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro.

*Editor’s note – This article is one of a series of feature stories from Southern State Community College highlighting alumni and the specific degree programs they completed.*

As a youngster growing up on a farm in the Lynchburg area, Seth Walker probably did not expect he would be instrumental in the process of repairing and manufacturing aircraft components just a year into his 20s — but thanks to resources from the local community college and a lot of elbow grease, that’s exactly the way it went.

Walker, 21, is now a process engineer at StandardAero, where he repairs and manufactures aircraft components and develops automation systems.

Walker was only 15 when he started studying electro-mechanical engineering at Southern State Community College, inspired to enter the field by work he had done on the farm.

“I was born and raised on a farm, so I’ve kind of had a thing for toying around with electrical and mechanical things,” Walker said.

At the time, his sister was teaching at Southern State and he had other connections at the college, which also happened to be a short drive from Lynchburg. Walker said his biggest challenge was working around his high school schedule, but he made it work.

“Other than that, it wasn’t too hard for me,” he said, adding that his education was almost entirely paid for by the College Credit Plus program.

Walker graduated high school in 2016, and in 2017, he graduated from Southern State with his first associate’s degree. When Walker turned 18, SSCC had just begun its co-op program, and he landed a job at Candle-Lite in Leesburg as an electronic technician.

Two years later, he enrolled in a partnership program with Miami University to obtain his bachelor’s degree and got a job at PAS Technology in Hillsboro.

“It has its ups and downs,” he said. “I miss the electrical stuff, but recently I’ve been getting into more lean manufacturing, so I’ve developed some automation systems.”

Jim Barnett, assistant professor of engineering, who runs the Mechanical Design Technology, Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology and Aviation Maintenance programs at the college, said his students get invaluable hands-on experience in both the classroom and the workplace thanks to new machines and internship opportunities.

Thanks to a recent grant, Barnett’s programs boast a variety of new CNC machines, including automatic and manual mills and lathes and a plasma cutter on a water table.

“When you do an internship or a co-op, you get on-the-job experience,” Barnett said, “so you don’t just graduate, you get a year or two of experience. Internships and co-ops really alleviate the problem of graduating with no experience.”

Barnett said the fields his students enter are diverse.

“A lot of my mechanical design technology students can go into product development,” he said. “Lots of local businesses are looking for somebody to do their custom projects.”

Mason Fence is one company with customized needs, Barnett said, and representatives often come to the college looking for internship candidates – and if a student can land an internship, they have good chances at getting a job even before they graduate.

“If you can get one of those internships and they like you and you show your willingness to learn, chances are they’re going to offer you a job even without a degree,” Barnett said. “We’ve had lots of students who have been hired on full-time prior to graduation.”

Barnett said he has more internship and co-op opportunities than students at this point.

“I need more students,” he said. “We’re wondering if anybody is interested in a day program, since our night program is so successful, but second- and third-shift people don’t have the same opportunity to take classes because they’re at work or getting ready to work.”

Barnett said he loves what he does.

“The guys that were around 20 years ago gave me the opportunity I needed,” Barnett said. “I wasn’t the greatest student in the world, so they kind of grabbed me by the back of the shirt collar and guided me through my associate’s degree... I guess I’m just trying to give that back to the next generation.”

Walker encouraged those who do not have a degree to consider looking into it.

“Just because you think you can’t afford college doesn’t mean you can’t go,” he said. “If you do your research, look at places like Southern State and see who they might have agreements with and you can get scholarships. You can do just about anything as long as you put time and effort in.”

For more information about Southern State’s Engineering Program, visit [www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu) or email Jim Barnett at [jbarnett@sccc.edu](mailto:jbarnett@sccc.edu).

*David Wright is a local journalist and freelance writer.*

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POSTED ON [OCTOBER 18, 2019](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

## **SSCC: ‘A sense of community’ Jackson says nursing program is close to home**

*By David Wright - For Southern State - Community College*



Julie Krebs sets up a nursing mannequin at Southern State Community College in Hillsboro.

*Editor's note – This article is one of a series of feature stories from Southern State Community College highlighting alumni and the specific degree programs they completed.*

When Emily Jackson graduated high school in 2003, she wanted to pursue a career in nursing, but she did not want to go too far from home.

Since her mother worked at the local community college, Jackson said attending classes there was a no-brainer.

“I just felt like there was a sense of community that I wasn’t sure I would get somewhere else,” Jackson said.

Jackson is still close to home, working full-time as a nurse practitioner at Adena Hillsboro, and she said those in a similar situation would do well to start at Southern State Community College.

Jackson said from a young age she knew she wanted to take care of people, and that was what led her to eventually pursue an associate’s degree in nursing from Southern State.

“I come from a very nurturing family and lots of people around me were ill,” she said. “Part of me just wanted to nurture people and be able to take care of my family. That was the key factor for me wanting to become a nurse.”

Jackson said one of her biggest challenges in school was academics.

“Even as a child, it was hard for me to succeed in school without having to study, study, study,” she said. “I think Southern State took some of the burden... I had family support and all these people around me. I felt like if I ever had a concern, I had somebody to link onto and I kind of got over my academic fear.”

Jackson said Southern State's small class sizes gave her space to ask questions without feeling judged by a hundred or more students.

"Just knowing a lot of the people I went to school with was important," she said. "When I got in the nursing program, I had other people from other counties, but with so many classes together, we felt like a family."

Jackson said Southern State was also a good choice for her financially due to low tuition rates.

"It's very affordable," she said, adding that taking classes at the community college then transferring credits to larger schools for further education is a financial boon. Jackson went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Ohio University and a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati.

Jackson, who also fills in as an instructor in the Southern State nursing department, said she's "proud of our program."

"It's continuing to thrive and it's just a blessing to see it continue so well," she said.

Julie Krebs, who oversees the nursing program, said the associate's degree in nursing prepares students to take the National Council Licensure Examination to become a registered nurse. Alternatively, students can enroll in the practical nursing program to attain practical nursing licensure in one year.

Krebs said many students go on to complete their bachelor's degree in the following two years after graduation from Southern State, adding that there are "many opportunities" for RN students in surrounding hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Opportunities for practical nursing graduates abound in long-term care facilities and acute care offices at hospitals and doctor's practices.

Krebs said starting pay for some nursing degree graduates is \$28 per hour, while PN graduates can earn at least \$19 per hour.

According to Krebs, students in both tracks gain practical experience from skill labs and simulation labs where they work on mannequins and live patients. Krebs said these skills prepare would-be nurses and health care providers for the field, where they need to be "ready to provide safe and efficient care... from learning how to apply knowledge and skill." Krebs, a longtime nurse herself, said she is passionate about the profession because it "improves lives."

Jackson said she feels the same, adding that dreams, whether big or small, are worth following.

"Sometimes they feel like they're far-fetched and hard to hold on to, but we have so many resources on a local level that can help you reach what you want," she said.

For more information about Southern State's Nursing Program, visit [www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu), email Sue Leach at [sleach@sccc.edu](mailto:sleach@sccc.edu), or call 800.628.7722, Ext. 2640.

*David Wright is a local journalist and freelance writer.*

POSTED ON [OCTOBER 11, 2019](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

## Learning how to wear blue

# HPD sergeant says SSCC made all the difference

*By David Wright - for Southern State - Community College*



Robin Roche, far right, teaches law enforcement students at Southern State Community College in Washington C.H.

*Editor's note – This article is one of a series of feature stories from Southern State Community College highlighting alumni and the specific degree programs they completed.*

Aaron Reynolds was working as a corrections officer at a prison in Lebanon when he decided he wanted to become a police officer, but with a family and a full-time job, enrolling full time at a police academy seemed daunting.

Having settled in the Highland County area, Reynolds looked into classes at Southern State Community College and found the flexibility he needed to complete academy training while working full time.

Reynolds, now a sergeant with the Hillsboro Police Department, eventually went on to complete his associate's degree in law enforcement in 2009. He said the experience "wasn't as difficult as I thought it would be."

Reynolds said with the help of the college's advising department, he was able to leverage his prior military and law enforcement experience into credit toward his degree, and he took his time finishing it.



“They were very accommodating,” he said. “They weren’t pushy in the classes; they said, ‘These are the classes you need to complete by this time.’”

Reynolds said the biggest challenge in getting an education was balancing his work and family life while attending classes.

“Southern State understands the people who go to school there have other things going on in their life,” he said. “We’re not full-time students. They were very willing to work with me.”

Longtime peace officer and former Greenfield Police Chief Robin Roche oversees the law enforcement program at Southern State, which includes the state-sanctioned peace officer academy and two-year associate’s degree in law enforcement.

Roche said his students have gone on to dozens of agencies and careers, including probation, parole, investigation, general policework and case management. According to Roche, one student went on to investigate complaints against hearing doctors, and another became an investigator for the state gambling commission.

Roche said coursework for the associate’s degree includes constitutional law, prisoners’ rights, search and seizure, current issues, crime scene investigation and many other topics. Roche added that while the Crime Scene Investigation Module of the police academy is limited, the associate’s degree includes extensive crime scene investigative training, including analyzation of blood spatters and ballistics.

According to Roche, studying current events and trends is essential to law enforcement education – whether that means studying what causes prison overcrowding or radio communication issues on 9/11.

“Previously, officers in a crisis situation were taught to let it die out and do negotiations,” he said. “Now, they’re taught to go in immediately and neutralize the threat.”

Knowledge of these trends and events could mean life or death for future peace officers and civilians, Roche said.

Roche said he finds most students’ biggest challenge is funding, and for those students, Southern State is able to offer financial assistance. There are also many benefits for veterans like Reynolds, Roche said.

Roche said no two students are the same, especially when it comes to practical skills like shooting and driving. Students who have never shot a gun before can be the best learners, he said, “because they don’t have any bad habits.” Students who grew up on a farm are better at backing up a vehicle than students from urban areas – a skill that makes up about 70 percent of the state driving test.

Roche said he enjoys watching his students’ progress and achieve their goals.

“It’s like watching your children get their driver’s license,” he said. “Watching them grow is very rewarding.”

Reynolds said while getting an education in law enforcement is challenging, it is worth it in the end. “It can be difficult at times,” he said, “but don’t be afraid to take a couple classes and try it out. You never lose the education you receive.”

For more information about Southern State’s Law Enforcement Program, visit [www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu), email Robin Roche at [rroche@sccc.edu](mailto:rroche@sccc.edu), or call 800.628.7722, ext. 5657.

*David Wright is a local journalist and freelance writer.*

POSTED ON [OCTOBER 4, 2019](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

## ‘I just love helping people’ Breaking stigma of mental illness is Patton’s passion

*By David Wright - For Southern State - Community College*



Charlie Gorman, an associate professor, teaches students at Southern State Community College in Wilmington.

*Editor’s note – This article is one of a series of feature stories from Southern State Community College highlighting alumni and the specific degree programs they completed.*

It was not until Mariah Patton dug into her coursework at Southern State Community College that she realized substance abuse counseling is her passion.

“I loved it,” Patton said. “I would do it all over again.”

Patton graduated in May from Southern State Community College with an associate’s degree in human and social services with a focus on chemical dependency, and is now a full-time substance abuse counselor in

Batavia. The 20-year-old from Peebles said she leads two recovery groups during the week and one on Saturdays, during which participants share their experiences and do related activities.

“I am so happy to be here,” Patton said.

College was not easy for Patton; she said she lost several family members and totaled her car while enrolled at Southern State. With help from family, classmates and professors, she was able to complete her degree and find her passion along the way.

“When I first got into the program, my heart wasn’t totally set on it. As I went through, I realized it is my passion. I just love helping people,” she said. “I love breaking the stigma of addiction.”

Charlie Gorman, who oversees the human and social services program at Southern State, said the college offers a social service track and a chemical dependency track. Those who complete the social service track qualify to register as a social worker assistant. Those who complete the chemical dependency track can become a licensed chemical dependency counselor after 2,000 hours of supervision at a counseling agency.

Many students are already working in their fields well before graduation, Gorman said, thanks to partnerships with area facilities and a need for staffing in the area.

“There are just not enough qualified people in the field,” Gorman said. “It doesn’t take rocket science to realize just how many clients there are and how few people there are to help them. There are too many people and not enough providers... It’s reaching a crisis state.”

Gorman said with partnerships between Southern State and other four-year universities, students who want to pursue higher education in their field are able to attain a bachelor’s degree in two years after graduating from Southern State.

According to Gorman, associate’s degree graduates can go into the developmental disability field, children’s services, mental health counseling and chemical dependency counseling.

Gorman said some students come from a recovery background themselves wanting to help others who have experienced the same thing.

“Some of our students have been caught in the cycles of domestic violence, the cycles of poverty,” he said. “They are coming from the very groups and systems they are going to be working in.”

Gorman said his students often “become very connected to one another and help each other through the stuff of life over the two-year period.”

Gorman said when he began in the counseling field in 1987, 80 percent of the client population he served abused alcohol. When he left the field to pursue teaching in 2005, the majority of the client population were polysubstance users.

“Why I chose to come here was the fact that I knew my contemporaries were getting older and we needed to put new people in the field – people with a high sensitivity to our clients and who won’t discriminate against those who use drugs or alcohol... We like the idea of training these students to take our place.”

Patton said getting an education of any kind is not easy, but she encouraged would-be students to follow their dreams – just try higher education.

“I would just say go for it and don’t give up,” she said. “There will be challenges, and there will be days when you want to give up and quit. But in the end, it’s so rewarding.”

For more information about Southern State’s Human and Social Services Program, visit [www.sccc.edu](http://www.sccc.edu), email Charlie Gorman at [cgorman@sccc.edu](mailto:cgorman@sccc.edu), or call 800.628.7722, ext. 4625.

*David Wright is a local journalist and freelance writer.*

# SSCC alumnus brings original comedy play to college Nov. 1-3

Farmer: 'I just want people to laugh'

*By David Wright*

*For Southern State Community College*

Richard Farmer, a former area resident and Southern State Community College alumnus, is returning to the college this weekend (Nov. 1-3) for the world premiere of his play, "Nightmare in Suburbia," a comedy that first began as a series of characters and stories he developed while under the tutelage of the late Edward Daniels.

Farmer's comedy will play out in the college's auditorium, which bears Daniels' name in honor of his contributions to Southern State's theater program and other accomplishments. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday matinee will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Farmer was raised in West Union and studied business at Southern State beginning in 1980. After a brief stint at Ohio University, Farmer returned to Southern State to study electronics, and after obtaining his degree, he continued his service in the Army National Guard, eventually becoming a Department of Defense electronics technician in Newark, Ohio.

During Farmer's time at Southern State, he studied theatre under Daniels and developed a variety of funny characters and storylines that he said occupied the back of his mind throughout his career in the military.

"Everything kind of went to the back of my mind and sat there," he said, "but I never forgot them. I just didn't know what to do with them."

It was not until 2015 that Farmer returned to theatre, joining the Licking County Players as a cast member in several plays. Once, while waiting to audition in an original play written by a fellow Players member, Farmer said he wondered if he could write a play using the characters and storylines he developed in college.

"I had to figure out how to put all these independent storylines in one story," he said. "And there are some things in these stories that are hard to see on stage: penguins are very important to the story and a Sherman tank is pretty important to the story. I thought, 'How am I going to put a Sherman tank on stage?'"

Taking a cue from radio dramas, Farmer opted to create a "theatre of the mind" experience and let the penguins and tank appear only in the minds of the audience rather than on the stage.



*Cast members Jacob Bice and Hannah Hengler rehearse on the set of "Nightmare in Suburbia," an original play set for this Friday, Saturday and Sunday (Nov. 1-3) at Southern State Community College.*



*Former area resident and playwright Richard Farmer watches a rehearsal of his new play, "Nightmare in Suburbia," at Southern State Community College.*

Farmer said his only hope for the play is that it makes people laugh.

"If you get a moral out of it, that's on you," he joked. **"I just want people to laugh."**

The play follows protagonist Tom, whose attempts at spending a quiet weekend at home are foiled by crazy relatives and a bad dream brought on by a bad burger.

Farmer said Daniels helped him find the courage to write the stories in the beginning.

"He told me I was a good writer," he said. "I stayed with it and he encouraged me and kept pushing me... He made a big impression on me in more than just theatre."

Farmer said he has "fond memories" of Daniels, whom he described as "a great guy" and "fun to be around."

"He is probably one of the most influential people in my life," Farmer said.

Daniels passed away in 2002.

Farmer said a fellow Southern State alumni encouraged him to send his manuscript to the college for a possible production, and he reached out to Rainee Angles, SSCC Theatre Director and Associate Professor of Speech and Theatre, who coordinated readings and is now directing the play.

Angles described the show as a "playful farce," adding that the designers, cast and crew have worked diligently to move Farmer's characters from page to stage.

"The ensemble has gained first-hand knowledge of what it takes to workshop a new script to a polished production," Angles said. "Mr. Farmer came to many rehearsals, graciously providing feedback and sharing theatre stories. It has been a joy to connect with a former SSCC Theatre student/actor and now playwright."

Angles said those interested in the production process can attend a "talk back" session following the Sunday matinee. Farmer and the cast will be on hand for the session.

Tickets for the play can be purchased at the door or online at [www.sscctheatre.com](http://www.sscctheatre.com). Southern State Community College is located at 100 Hobart Dr. in Hillsboro.

*David Wright is a freelance writer.*



**Date:** Friday, September 13, 2019 2:57:01 PM

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Just wanted to share! :-)

Elizabeth Burkard  
Director of Marketing  
Southern State Community College

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Elizabeth, the 2019 season is coming to a close with only 3 races left. I have received a lot of attention due to the car. I have had many asking about the Truck Driving Academy and how to enroll. I have met several who plan to enroll, including a fellow racer, and they couldn't be happier with their decision to start a new career. I couldn't be happier with the college giving me the opportunity to spread their message while getting to do what I enjoy. I have also connected with many fans that may not necessarily be interested in the academy but are fans of the car and the way I race. I have been approached constantly outside the track by folks just asking to take a picture with the car and some have even ventured to the track to experience their first race. I love the fact that I have been able to reach so many people with my racing program.

That being said, this season has not worked out as I expected. Equipment failures, racing incidents and a temperamental car have all provided their fair share of adversity. Despite all that, I have not finished out of the top 5 and I have had a couple heat wins and some second place feature finishes. The competition is tough but I have learned a lot. I plan to take those experiences into next year to provide a more competitive package. I would like to also inform you that I will be moving into a larger class next year. This means that I will be eligible to run any track in the southern Ohio region and it allows me the liberty to expand our opportunities to gain regional recognition. Some tracks included are: Bruschkreek (Peebles), Moler (Williamsburg), 35 Raceway (Franfort), Atomic (Chillicothe), Portsmouth, Florence (Florence, KY), Lawrenceburg (Lawrenceburg, IN) and Edgewater (Cleves, OH).

I appreciate everything you and the Truck Driving Academy have done this year and I look forward to the opportunity to expand our relationship to next season. I look forward to speaking with you again in the near future and hope to see you at the track.

Thank you again,

David W Howard

HOWARD FAMILY RACING