

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



**SOUTHERN STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JUNE 2020 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

## Call with Governor DeWine

Prior to new guidance and health orders being released to specific sectors as Ohio reopens for business, Governor DeWine schedules calls and virtual meetings with representative stakeholders to share concerns and seek input. On Saturday, May 30, Governor DeWine held such a call with the 23 community college presidents to hear from each of us about our plans and challenges as we begin to bring staff and students back to campus. We have been given ample opportunity to weigh in on specific recommendations that will allow us safely restart campus operations. We have not received the specific guidance for Colleges and Universities from the Ohio Department of Health, but in the interim are following the guidance issued for general offices while courses remain online during the summer term.

## Responsible Restart of Campus Operations

Enclosed in your packet is a memo that outlines for faculty and staff the general requirements for a gradual return of operations on campus. We began to invite students on an individual basis to campus on June 15 for very limited activity. On July 6, we will restart campus operations four days a week. Signage, face coverings, cleaning supplies, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, Plexiglass partitions, and various procedures are being put in place to make our campuses as safe as one would reasonably expect.

Also enclosed is a PowerPoint presentation that served as the outline for a “kick-off” meeting with deans, directors, and other leaders on campus so requirements could be discussed prior to employees returning on a more regular basis.

## Year 1 at Home Campaign

Several of the state's 23 community colleges have joined together in a promotional campaign, Year 1 at Home, that emphasizes the certainty and affordability of enrolling in online courses at a community college. If you have not seen this in your local paper, my guest opinion is



enclosed. Additional communications on this theme is being distributed through social and print media.

## COVID-19 Testing

During the call with Governor DeWine, he did alert us to the likelihood that some COVID testing of students would be required prior to fall semester, although it has not been determined the extent to which it will be required. We believe it may be limited to students and staff who are symptomatic. Highland Health Providers has received a federal grant and will be able to test our staff and students with the cost being covered by the grant for as long as the funds remain.

## President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Hillsboro Rotary Club Meetings (via Zoom)
- OACC Presidents Meeting Weekly Conference Calls
- Video Message for Nursing Pinning Ceremony Video
- Teleconference Call re: ARC Grant
- SSCC All-College Meeting (via Zoom)
- Higher Learning Commission Conference Call
- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Legislative Conference Call
- AACC and American Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Boards Check-in re: COVID-19 (weekly virtual meetings)
- Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) Awards Presentations (via Zoom)
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting (via Zoom)
- Conference Call with Governor DeWine and the 22 other Community College Presidents
- AACC Annual Final Board Meeting (via Zoom)
- AACC Executive Committee Transition Meeting (via Zoom)
- EAB SSCC Leadership Team Call
- Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) Board Meeting (via Zoom)
- Meeting with Highland County Commissioners regarding transition space needs
- Conference Call with Attorney General's Office
- Conference Call re: CCA Fall Conference
- SOCHE Board of Trustees Meeting (via Zoom)
- Senator Sherrod Brown's Annual Presidents Conference via Conference Call

- Meeting with Brown, Highland and Fayette County Health Commissioners (via Zoom)

### Upcoming Events

Campus events have been cancelled through the remainder of the summer.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### Preparing for Fall Semester

Spring term 2020 is in the history books and summer is underway. While survival was the priority, the term actually yielded better outcomes than anyone might have expected given the circumstances. While there are still a few students working through course completion, preliminary reports suggest that the number of withdrawals and instances of academic warning or probation were consistent with other terms and in some cases, more favorable. Clearly, this is a positive testament to the outstanding faculty and support services.

Through the challenges experienced in moving learning to the virtual environment nearly overnight, there have been a variety of valuable lessons learned that are informing preparations for fall. Among the most important lessons are these:

1. Be flexible.
2. CANVAS everything.
3. When possible, be proactive.

These lessons, when applied to planning for fall 2020, result in a solid academic schedule that features variety, stability, and the ability to adapt to an unpredictable environment—all of this against the backdrop of 6' of separation. Of the roughly 290 (not including courses offered at local high schools) sections, the schedule includes approximately 100 course sections that will remain face-to-face, 120 online sections, and nearly 70 hybrid sections. All courses will include use of CANVAS, the College's learning management system, to some degree whether it be to simply post grades and the syllabus or, in the case of online courses, all instructional content. The College continues to rely extensively on Zoom and this will continue through fall and beyond. Above all, faculty are encouraged to structure their course in preparation for possible rolling "Stay Home" orders, sickness, and any other obstacle that might surface.

Looking forward through the remaining summer months, the Academic team will continue to support instructional technology training aimed at incorporating flexibility into their course sections. Communications with students and faculty regarding expectations in the fall will become the next biggest priority.

### **Higher Learning Commission Accepts Four-Year Assurance Argument**

On May 22, the College received notification from the Review Team Chair that the College's Four-Year Assurance Argument was accepted with no concern or additional monitoring required. Such a review is unprecedented for Southern State and speaks to the hard work extended by all faculty, staff, and administration. Further, it affirms, in particular, the investment of time and energy devoted to improving the Colleges' assessment of student learning and institutional effectiveness planning and monitoring. The next comprehensive visit is scheduled for 2025-2026.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT**

### **Financial Aid**

#### **CARES Act Funding**

On May 3, the College received \$659,789 in funds under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to provide emergency grants to students impacted by COVID-19. To receive the grant, enrolled students are required to complete the CARES Act Emergency Grant Application, and demonstrate eligibility for federal financial aid.

To date, 399 students enrolled in spring semester have received a total of \$304,563. Students enrolled in the summer semester have been notified of this funding opportunity and applications are currently being processed. Additional information on CARES Act funding may be found at <https://www.sccc.edu/cares-act-funding.shtml>.

## Admissions & Recruiting

### Admissions/College Credit Plus

The Admissions team has been going into the Central Campus every other week to mail out admissions acceptance letters. The information on the letter is crucial so students move forward in the enrollment process. Emails are also being sent, but the Admissions team has found not all students check email and they notify us that they have not received any information on next steps.

Applications Processed between March 24 – June 11:

Accepted CCP:	596
Accepted Non-Resident:	21
Accepted:	94
Accepted Provisional:	38
Applied CCP:	26
Accepted Readmits:	<u>176</u>
Total Applications:	951

New Student Orientation (Online Only) Summer Completion:

Completed:	154
Incomplete:	40
Started:	194

### Recruitment

Since the launch of the social media “Request More Info” campaign, we have received 200 requests for more information.

Mail and email campaigns continue to be rolled out by Director of Marketing, Liz Burkard. More recently, an email was sent to students who attended in the spring and did not return for summer semester. This was sent to students’ personal emails, as they tend to check those more frequently. This went to 2,051 students. An email was also sent to students who have applied but not registered. This was also sent to their personal emails, and went to 2,110 students.

Social media campaigns for individual programs have been launched by Director of Marketing, Liz Burkard and Social Media Coordinator, David Wright in hopes to spread awareness of what SSCC offers. The marketing and social media team have been vital in recruitment efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual Campus Tour Experiences are now live for Central, Brown, and Fayette. Check them out here <https://www.sccc.edu/admissions/visit.shtml>.

## Registrar

### **Online Submission of Class Attendance**

Beginning this current summer semester, we have implemented a process that allows faculty to submit the first two week's class attendance online using the MyRecords portal. This attendance is used for compliance with federal aid policy. The new online process replaces the paper class lists that were filled in by faculty and submitted to the Records Office for review. Many faculty have commented on the simplicity of the process and it has proven to be much more efficient, especially during this time of working in a remote environment.

### **2020 Spring Semester Diplomas**

The Records Department is currently in the process of preparing Spring diplomas to be mailed to graduates by July 1. The current number of degrees conferred for Spring 2020 is 149 compared to 195 for Spring 2019. Due to the change in course modality and closure of many practicum sites, many students were given incomplete grades and have been working with their instructors to complete the course requirements. For this reason, we can anticipate the graduate number from this term to increase over the next few weeks and be more comparable to last Spring's graduate number.

## Student Success Center

### **Advising**

Now that Summer Term is underway, advisors have focused on students with academic actions and incompletes (I/IN), as well as advising students through courses and modes of delivery for fall term.

As advisors encounter students who are resistant to any instruction outside of face to face (F2F), students are connected with resources and services (Distance Learning and Tutoring) that will walk them through the various virtual platforms (Zoom/Canvas). Patience and encouragement have been a successful formula.

Navigate communication platforms are assisting with tracking the outcome of outreach efforts on registration and retention with students. As staff and faculty communicate with students through Navigate, analytics tracks responses and enrollment outcomes. The creation of “Watch Lists” for courses altering delivery modes will allow the College to track the long term effects of these actions. From this information we will have a better idea as to how to better assist and prepare our students in their academic path.

### **Career & Counseling Services:**

Our SSCC counselor, Tom Payton, is providing a three-part virtual workshop series for SOCHE on mental health and coping mechanisms. The “Lunch and Learn” series is available to regional Higher Education partners in Southwest Ohio.

Training of students in coping techniques with a focus on Positive Psychology has been the primary theme. Whether one-on-one, groups, or classes, coping and positive mental health has been the major issue. Even when calling current students about fall registration, many conversations are redirected to family wellness and stress over employment status.

Counselor training the last few months have included topics in: Teletherapy, Ethics, Grief, and Projective Techniques for Trauma Clients.

## **Student Clubs and Activities**

### **Phi Theta Kappa**

2020-2021 Officer elections were held in May. Thank you to Gary Heaton and Margaret Storrs for volunteering to serve on the interview panel. Three open officer positions were filled. The Vice President of Scholarship is open. The following students will serve as PTK officers:

- Jennifer Music – President
- Brock Morris – Executive Vice President and Communications
- Shaniah Page – Vice President of Service

The new officer team will conduct meetings with the goal to increase awareness and engagement for the chapter.

The Ohio Regional Conference on March 7 at Marion Technical College and the Virtual International Catalyst Convention on April 16 were attended by Susan Morris, Chapter advisor. These activities will contribute to the chapter goal of reaching a 5 star status.

The PTK Chapter activities are currently suspended. This has been a difficult time for our chapter, as well as other chapters, to complete end of year projects due to the stay at home order.

PTK volunteered in the SOMACC project under the leadership of Josh Montgomery and Nate Luke to make masks for healthcare workers.

The new officer team will be implementing a college project to prepare students to become future leaders. The plan is for the project to expand to meet the requirements of the Honors in Action Project for 2021.

Vice President of Communications, Elizabeth Booth, was among the 786 PTK Scholarship Applicant semifinalists selected to move forward to the final round of judging. Results are still to come.

PTK awareness activities will be conducted virtually. Invitations for those that will become eligible in Spring 2020 semester will be sent in summer term once final grades are posted.

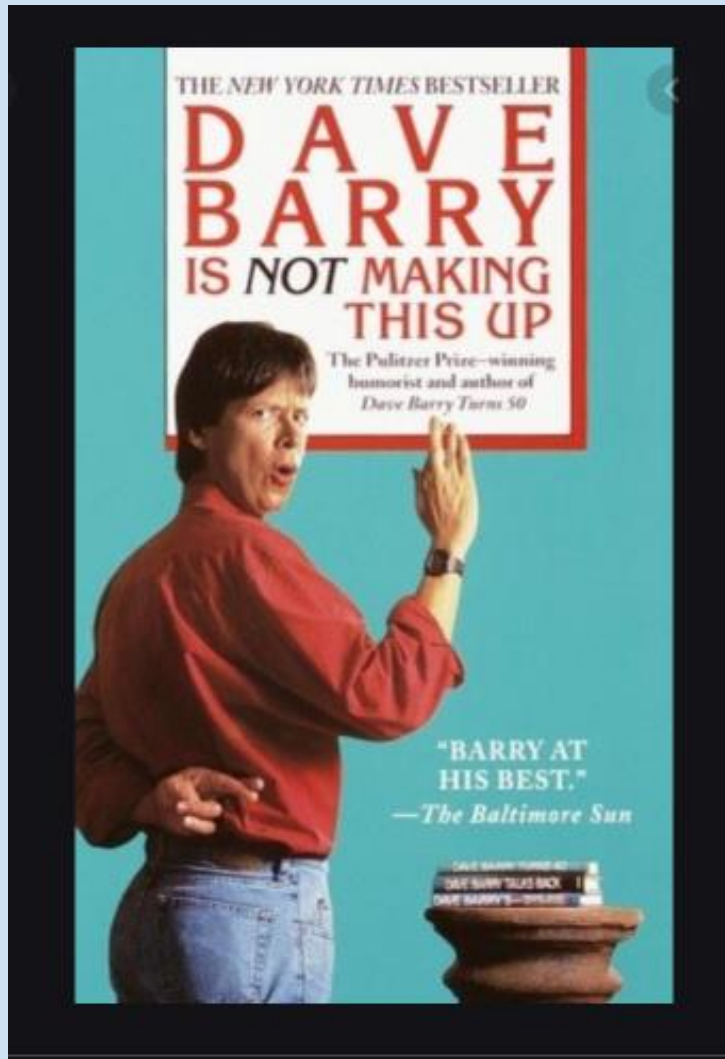


To: All Faculty and Staff  
From: Kevin Boys  
Date: May 28, 2020  
Re: Ohio Health Department Requirements

As we begin to gradually resume campus activities in the coming weeks, it is imperative that we follow the orders issued by the Ohio Department of Health in order to promote the safety and well-being of our students, visitors, faculty and staff. We continue to ask everyone who can work from home to do so. Beginning June 15, we will be inviting individuals, including students, who have need to visit campus to access certain services. Barring any changes in health orders, we are planning to reopen offices and campus operations on Monday July 6. Although we are not encouraging anyone to come to campus now, those who find it imperative to do so must observe the following mandatory requirements per the "Responsible RestartOhio" guidance for general office environments:

1. Prior to leaving home conduct a daily symptom self-assessment. Per the CDC, symptoms include elevated temperature, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. If you have any symptom, you **MUST** stay home.
2. Stagger entering the building so that you are not arriving in a group.
3. Until further notice, when you arrive on campus, you must sign in at the front reception desk on each campus. Sign out when you leave. We need to know which areas need to be sanitized and when.
4. All employees **MUST** wear a mask **UNLESS** you work in an enclosed office and are alone. Masks will be provided to all employees and can be obtained from maintenance at the campus prior to July 6.
5. Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people. Barriers are being installed where this is problematic and where possible.
6. You must regularly wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
7. Frequently disinfect your work stations. Sanitizing wipes will be available in your area. Contact maintenance when you are getting low.
8. **ANY** employee who has been on campus and developed symptoms is **REQUIRED** to immediately self-isolate, and notify your supervisor. Supervisors **ARE REQUIRED** to report such exposures or suspected cases to your respective Vice President **AND** the local County Health District.
9. Report any unsafe conditions or compliance issues to your immediate supervisor.

With everyone's cooperation and faithful adherence to the guidance, we will be able to maintain a safe and healthy work environment.



Neither are we!

# Remember This?

- Flexibility, flexibility, flexibility
  - Still awaiting ODH GUIDANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
  - Still awaiting approval of SharedWork Ohio Plan
  - Still awaiting state budget reduction target
- Gratefulness



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BROWN COUNTY CAMPUS  
751 Evans-Meyer Road  
M.A. Davis, OH 45134

CENTRAL CAMPUS  
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Millsboro, OH 45133

SAVETTE CAMPUS  
1270 U.S. Route 62  
Washington C.H., OH 43160

NORTH CAMPUS  
1890 Skyles Drive  
Wilmington, OH 45177



MIKE DEWINE  
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Ohio

Department  
of Health

#IN THIS  
TOGETHER  
Ohio

#RESPONSIBLE  
RESTART  
Ohio

# Responsible RestartOhio

## General Office Environments



- <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/General-Office-Environments.pdf>




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CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

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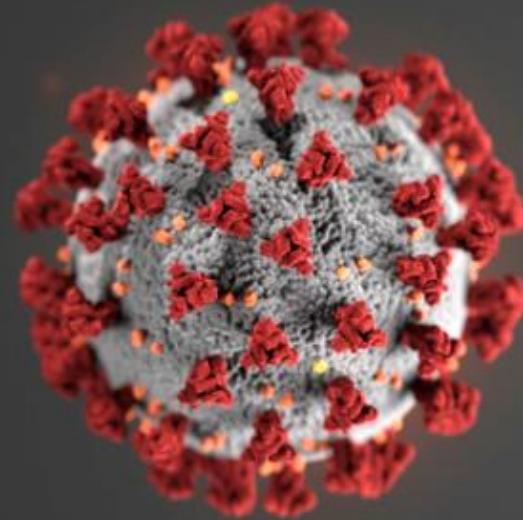
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## Coronavirus Disease 2019

CDC is responding to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

[Learn More About COVID-19](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>

# IHE General Settings

- **Lowest Risk:** Faculty and students engage in virtual-only learning options, activities, and events.
- **More Risk:** Small in-person classes, activities, and events. Individuals remain spaced at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes).
- **Highest Risk:** Full-sized in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.

# Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- **Staying Home or Self-Isolating when Appropriate** If a decision is made to have any version of in-person classes, before returning to campus, actively encourage students, faculty, and staff who have been sick with COVID-19 [symptoms](#), tested positive for COVID-19, or have been potentially [exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19 (either through [community-related exposure](#) or [international travel](#)) to follow CDC guidance to [self-isolate or stay home](#).

# COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

- Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea

# Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**

- Recommend and reinforce [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Encourage students, faculty, and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.

# Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- **Cloth Face Coverings** Recommend and reinforce use of [cloth face coverings](#) among students, faculty, and staff. Face coverings should be worn as feasible and are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to [wash their hands](#) frequently. Information should be provided to all students, faculty, and staff on [proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings](#).
- [Cloth face coverings](#) are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. [Cloth face coverings](#) are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.

# Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- **Adequate Supplies**

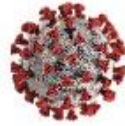
- Support [healthy hygiene](#) behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible), and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans.

# Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- **Signs and Messages**

- Post [signs](#) in highly visible locations (e.g., building entrances, restrooms, dining areas) that [promote everyday protective measurespdf icon](#) and describe how to [stop the spreadpdf icon](#) of germs (such as by [properly washing hands](#) and [properly wearing a cloth face coveringimage icon](#)).
- Include messages (for example, [videos](#)) about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 when communicating with faculty, staff, and students (such as on IHE websites, in emails, and on IHE [social media accounts](#)) in accordance with the [Clery Actexternal icon](#).

# What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others



## Know about COVID-19

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.



## Know how COVID-19 is spread

- You can become infected by coming into close contact (about 6 feet or two arm lengths) with a person who has COVID-19. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person.
- You can become infected from respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- You may also be able to get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then by touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.



## Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Stay home as much as possible and avoid close contact with others.
- Wear a cloth face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



## Practice social distancing

- Buy groceries and medicine, go to the doctor, and complete banking activities online when possible.
- If you must go in person, stay at least 6 feet away from others and disinfect items you must touch.
- Get deliveries and takeout, and limit in-person contact as much as possible.



## Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but you can seek medical care to help relieve your symptoms.
- If you need medical attention, call ahead.



## Know your risk for severe illness

- Everyone is at risk of getting COVID-19.
- Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more severe illness.



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# What You Can do if You are at Higher Risk of Severe Illness from COVID-19

(Print Resources Web Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/communication/print-resources.html>)

## Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?



Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility

People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised
  - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
- People with severe obesity (body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

## Here's What You Can do to Help Protect Yourself



**Stay home** if possible.



**Wash your hands** often.



**Avoid close contact** (6 feet, which is about two arm lengths) with people who are sick.



**Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces.



**Avoid all cruise travel** and non-essential air travel.

Call your healthcare professional if you are sick.

For more information on steps you can take to protect yourself, see CDC's [How to Protect Yourself](#).



Printed on 4/1/2020 12:30 PM

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



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Saturday, June 13, 2020

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- All hat, no cattle, 1964 (5 comments)
- Dr. Amy Acton resigns as Ohio Department of Health director (4 comments)
- Hillsboro City Schools board revises policy on student cell phones; hears updates on COVID-19 procedures, construction, graduation (4 comments)
- Highland County Justice Center discontinues public visitation for inmates (2 comments)

## Southern State Community College introduces 'Do Year 1 at Home'

**By Kevin Boys**  
President  
Southern State Community College

The only thing to come on us as suddenly as the pandemic was something equally unexpected – the recession. With unemployment topping 16 percent in Ohio, the pandemic's impact on our state's economy will likely be significant and long.

Fortunately, with Ohio's opening back up, many businesses will begin to restart and rehire, but nothing will return to the way it was anytime soon.

The sudden changes we are all experiencing are especially difficult for those preparing to start college in the fall. Not only did graduating seniors have celebratory end-of-high school traditions pulled out from under them, but now, after saving, researching, decision-making and finally expecting to start college this fall, that seems far from certain.

Like us, the large, four-year residential colleges and universities are trying to figure out how to safely provide on-campus experiences and instruction and are beginning to announce those plans. One thing is certain, the cost of that experience is significant. And as much as we all plan, we also recognize there is uncertainty surrounding the possibility of a worsening scenario or "second wave" of COVID-19. The likelihood is great that, after all is said and done, many will be relying on online instruction for part of their course offerings.

If that is the case – or even a possibility – how can the high cost of that tuition be justified I'd be hard pressed to answer that. After all, first-year general education courses are essentially the same at every two- and four-year institution in Ohio. **Southern State** is joining our state's other 22 community colleges to promote the idea that you consider Year 1 at Home.

It's an effort to remind incoming first-year students that the best option for getting their first year's general education courses under their belts at a low cost, in a safe setting, free of fears of what may or may not happen, is to enroll in their local community college for online instruction in the fall.

Yes, we too, are planning to offer some classes on our campus, but even many of those classes will be offered in a hybrid fashion, with less time being spent on campus and some time via remote tools. As a result of the CARES Act, we even have limited funds available to assist students with some technology, hotspots, or WIFI access.

Ohio's community colleges are built for the ease, convenience and support of students. We know how to work around students' needs and the biggest need they have right now is certainty, and that's something we can supply.

Credits can be easily transferred later to four-year institutions once the public health situation has stabilized and, and we all agree, the sooner the better.

In addition to the certainty, convenience and low cost of Year 1 at Home at **Southern State** Community College, perhaps its most important benefit is this: students stay on track with their college careers.

I've heard that more students than usual are thinking about taking a "gap year." Losing momentum in education can derail even the most qualified, motivated student. Don't let the pandemic or the uncertainty of the fall be a barrier to acquiring the skills that will be essential to being a competitive candidate in a tight job market.

There are too many things right now clouding our individual and collective futures. When we have the chance to find certainty, therefore, we should grab it. It makes the way forward that much easier on other fronts.

Education is too important to leave to the unknown, but Year 1 at Home can provide the certainty students need to keep their college plans moving forward. Don't get me wrong. If your plan is to attend a residential college and university to earn a bachelor's degree, I hope you do just that and even more. After all, I have degrees from three of Ohio's public and private universities. This fall, it just makes sense to join us for Year 1 at Home.

Submit a comment

\* indicates a required field

Please fill out the form below to submit a comment.



• •

Our app is now available!

