

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



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

Additional CARES ACT State Appropriation

The state Controlling Board released another \$100M of CARES Act funds to colleges and universities. Southern State's formula share is \$154,606. This funding source has been crucial to providing the funds for PPE, sanitizing materials and labor, and different kinds of support for virtual platforms. The first required reporting of Federal funds from the beginning of the pandemic through the first quarter of the fiscal year has been posted on the web site and reported to the US Department of Education. Additionally, we have distributed all but approximately \$40,000 of the funding earmarked for direct aid to students.

Vice President of Financial Services

As you may recall, Mr. Buck is retiring at the end of January 2021. We have posted this vacancy on several job search sites and are confident of attracting a solid pool of candidates for consideration. I am in the process of assembling a committee to assist in the search. It would be our hope to conclude the search this calendar year and employ a Vice President of Financial Services by the first of January.

Routine Approvals on the Agenda

We typically bring policy revisions to the *Policy and Information Manual* during the summer months. Due to the extensive work flow surrounding our COVID response, we are just now bringing these to you. This year's policy recommendations are included in your packet. Also, in your packet is a copy of the Board of Trustee Policy Manual. This manual simply needs to be reaffirmed if there are no changes. I have no changes to recommend for the Board's consideration at this time.



November Board Meeting

I would suggest that the Board reserve the regularly scheduled November 18 board meeting in case it is needed for continued discussion regarding property. It could be an abbreviated meeting agenda given the earlier November meeting.

Southern State in the Spotlight

In case you missed them, included in your packet are several news articles from local press, USA Today, and Cincinnati Enquirer. Congratulations to associate professor Josh Montgomery for being selected as one of the recipients of the 2020 Jenco Award for his leadership gathering partners and supplies to manufacture and supply PPE to local first responders.

President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Calls with Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) Executive Director
- Discussion with Kettering Health Network Representative re: Fayette Campus
- OACC President's Meetings (via Zoom)
- Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Board Meetings (via Zoom)
- Call with Ascendium and CCA Representatives
- Interview with USA Today National Reporter
- Meet with Highland County Commissioners re: Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Walking SSCC Tour with Shawnee State President and Provost
- Southern State 22+ Marketing Plan Meeting via Zoom
- Meeting with Clark State Community College President
- CARES Act HEERF Reporting Requirements Webinar
- Meeting with Ohio Christian University Representative (via Zoom)
- "Confronting Financial Challenges in Higher Education" Webcast
- Facebook Live: Transfer Opportunities
- Interviews for Highland Co. Chamber of Commerce & Highland County Visitor's Bureau Executive Director Position
- Meeting with Shared Resource Center Representative (via Zoom)
- SSCC Foundation Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

Upcoming Events

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

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Strong Start to Finish

Southern State will be represented at the Ohio Department of Higher Education's *Strong Start to Finish* (SSTF) Virtual Roundtable on October 22. Two staff members from Student Success, Peggy Chalker and Paula Campagna, will present "Evaluating Multiple Factors for Successful Placement". SSTF is an initiative to reduce the number of semesters spent in developmental courses (English and math) and move students into their academic program sooner as a retention effort. Southern State has been successful in using multiple indicators of a student's academic ability beyond the placement assessment only, and Ms. Campagna and Dr. Chalker will share the strategies employed to realize this success.

Truck Driving Academy (TDA)

Enrollment in the TDA, like other education and training programs, has been hampered by the pandemic, however, a rebound appears to be in the making. Through successful partnerships, like the one the TDA shares with Pepsi, more driving professionals are hitting the roads.

TDA Three-Year Enrollment Comparison

	2018/2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
July	14	21	16
August	18	6	7
September	16	19	20



Grants

Carl D. Perkins

The Carl D. Perkins Mini-Grant program is actively accepting project proposals from Southern State faculty and staff. The Perkins Mini-Grant program will be able to support up to 5 mini-grant proposals at a maximum contribution of \$5,000. The grants aim to support career technical programming and specific populations.

RAPIDS IV

The RAPIDS IV Grant made it through the controlling board and was approved for purchasing. The College is also the fiscal agent for partners Pickaway Ross and Scioto Tech. Thank you to Mr. Jim Buck and his team for the assistance of putting the information before the Controlling Board. Also, a special thanks to Bruce Fugate and Beth Manns for their assistance in getting quotes. The equipment to be purchased will be assisting the Nursing program, and will also be available to address industry partner training needs.

College to Career Experience Program (CCEP)

The CCEP Coordinator, Sonja Wilkin, noted that October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Sonja met with Fayette, Clinton, and Highland County Commissioners regarding the initiative. All three counties have made a proclamation recognizing the initiative; Sonja and I were present for the announcement and newspaper coverage. The current grant funding has been allowed an extension and an additional 2021 TPSID grant has been approved for the term of October 2020 to August 2021.

Workforce READi Highland County

This grant project derived from Ohio's Growing Rural Independence Together (GRIT) grant program. Funded by the Ohio General Assembly and administered through the Governor's Office of Appalachia within Ohio's Development Services Agency, this

project represents multiple Highland County partners and is administered through Southern State Community College. This \$939,292.20 award is aimed at supporting the growth and economic health of the Appalachian Ohio region of southern Ohio by addressing current barriers to employment, training, and education experienced by the region while also preparing the workforce for high-wage, in-demand careers. This award represents a 25% overall reduction of the original \$1.2M award announced in early 2020, prior to necessary corrections resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within the overall grant, there are ten major project areas. Over the past several months, Southern State, in collaboration with area partners, including Highland County Community Action and Ohio Means Jobs, has been articulating partner Memorandum's of Understanding and launching various projects. Among the early projects include renovation support for multi-generational space and early Head Start in Greenfield, career assessment implementation, drug-free initiatives among local schools, and curriculum development for Southern State's engineering and computer science programs. Also launching will include funding mechanisms aimed at mitigating barriers for education, training, and work at the individual level as well as training resources for business partners.

People in the News

Tony Evans

Tony Evans, an instructor in Southern State's Truck Driving Academy, attended a regional training seminar as part of his professional development that provided him the necessary training and classroom time to operate as a training manager.

JT Smith

JT Smith, Director of the Southern State Truck Driving Academy, was elected to serve a two-year term on the Ohio Department of Public Safety Advisory Board which represents all 32 CDL schools in the state of Ohio. JT will act as a liaison for the schools bringing forth concerns and issues related to public safety and the truck driving profession. Congratulations to JT for this honor.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Financial Aid

Official Cohort Default Rate 2017

The College has received the official cohort rate for 2017 of 18.1%. This is a reduction from the 2016 rate of 21%.

Included in the default rate are students who entered repayment October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017 and defaulted on their student loans by September 30, 2019.

Fall Financial Aid Disbursed

The Financial Aid office began disbursing financial aid for fall semester the week of September 21. To date, a total of \$1,757,445.00 in federal, state and scholarship aid has been processed.

Additional applications for the CARES Act funds have been awarded for this fall semester to 212 students for a total amount of \$193,587.00.

Of the \$659,789 received at the College in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, a total of \$614,427 has been awarded.

FAFSA Opens for 2021-22

The FAFSA is now available for the 2021-22 school year that begins in August 2021. Financial aid nights or visits to assist families with the FAFSA application process have been completed or scheduled for Greenfield McClain, Hillsboro, East Clinton, and Fairfield high schools.

Admissions & Recruiting

Miscellaneous

Fall Orientation letters have been sent to all students that needed to complete.

SSCC Face Masks and Welcome Back Brochures have been mailed to all registered students.

College Credit Plus

A College Credit Plus Focus Group is scheduled to meet on Oct. 28 at 10:00am via Zoom and in-person in room 403.02 at our Hillsboro Campus. Anyone interested is invited to attend. This group will discuss updates, challenges, strategies/methods, and much more. The plan is to meet twice per year. We have invited internal staff/administration and several area guidance counselors to attend.

CCP Info night requests are coming in. We plan to attend in-person, if the district allows, but also have a recorded presentation complete and ready to share, as well as attend virtually if preferred.

Admissions and Advising joined forces in preparation for the CCP recruitment process.

Recruitment

Since the launch of the social media “Request More Info” campaign in March 2020, we have received nearly 675 requests for more information.

OACAC college fairs have been cancelled for the upcoming recruiting season. OACAC has partnered with StriveScan and there will be 2 virtual sessions available that SSCC will participate in. The first session on Oct. 1 is complete. Prospective students that could not attend can find the recorded presentation on the OACAC website. The second session will be on Nov. 12 at 7:00pm. All information pertaining to registration, how to attend, etc. is being shared with area high school counselors. We will also promote on

social media.

School visits have been completed with the following districts: Manchester, Paint Valley, Western Latham, Westfall and Peebles

The Annual Counselor Luncheon will be virtual for the first time in 2020. In Lieu of “lunch” each counselor that attends the virtual event will receive a \$10-\$15 lunch gift card. At this time, 26 counselors have responded that they will attend, 5 counselors are tentative, and 6 have declined.

Registrar/Records

Student Body Profile Report

Enclosed is the Fall 2020 Student Body Profile Report, with a 7-year comparison.

Transcript Requests

An additional option for students to submit a request for their official transcript has been implemented using the online student portal, MyRecords. Students may now log into the portal using their student username and password and submit their official transcript request online.

This option has been made possible by leveraging the tools within our current student information system, which means there is no additional cost to the student or the institution to provide this option.

Student Success Center

Spring Registration

Spring Semester registration has begun and communication has been shared with every student reading texts or SSCC emails. Postcard announcements are on their way to students' homes as reminders.

Advisors saw an immediate uptick in advising appointments and are now maintaining a full and steady flow of advising sessions. Students are not only planning their spring term but evaluating their overall academic goals and confirming their career pathways in these sessions. The goal of an earlier registration start is to have most of the current students registered for spring term before the Thanksgiving break. This allows for more time spent with incoming students on college transition, career discovery and academic planning.

Counseling Services

An in-house revamp of web-based career information (formerly through Career Coach) is providing real-time, local opportunities. Students not only discover career pathways within their academic program, but also connect to local employment opportunities. This revised platform uses free resources through Ohio Means Jobs and other state and federal agencies.

Testing Center

The Testing Center is in the process of moving the Hillsboro center and taking it off line for the interim.

It is also in the final stages of compliance for PearsonVue certification for the Washington CH campus.

Accuplacer testing remains steady and keeping pace with the demand.

Student Clubs & Activities

Phi Theta Kappa

Leadership: 2020-2021 Officer applications remain available for open positions through the Canvas course with active recruitment efforts.

Events: The Leaders in Action Regional Conference will be held virtually on Oct. 16 & 17 and will be attended by the chapter advisor and the chapter president. This activity contributes to the chapter goal of reaching a 5 star status.

The fall semester virtual induction and orientation is in the planning process.

College Projects: PTK is leading the health ambassador project for the College. This will serve as the chapter's college project for submission as a Hallmark Award and will also contribute towards the 4-star requirements.

Currently there are 2 federal work study students hired as health ambassadors: one for Central campus, one for our Mt. Orab campus, and one in-process for Fayette campus.

The chapter will be coordinating a leadership initiative in the form of a lunch and learn.

Membership: Two additional new members were added to the chapter's membership for September. Invitations were released to 299 students who achieved eligibility after completion of Summer semester 2020. Updates were made to contribute to our chapter total of 1,093 SSCC Alumni.

Scholarship: The Golden Opportunity Scholarship is awarded to 300 PTK eligible students who demonstrate financial need. The chapter has submitted the maximum allowed (3 students per chapter) for this scholarship that provides a \$60 waiver for the national portion of the total \$99 membership fee. Winners will be announced in November.

POSTED ON [OCTOBER 22, 2020](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

SSCC professor wins 2020 Jenco Award

NEWS



Josh Montgomery of Highland and Ross counties recently received a 2020 Jenco Award.

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis we are all hearing stories of incredible acts of kindness and dedication to community. The Jenco Awards have long existed to recognize those who rise to the occasion time after time to serve their local community. Whether responding to the pandemic or committing themselves to service in other ways, six individuals received recognition through the 2020 Jenco Awards.

This year's Jenco Awardees include Roberta "Bobbi" Bishop of Hocking County, Crystal Cole of Athens County, Lillian Ford of Belmont County, Karen Kumpf of Washington County, Josh Montgomery of Highland and Ross counties, and Clinton Nowicke of Gallia County.

"We are pleased that the Jenco Awards are here to celebrate the stories of those who are engaged in service to respond to the pandemic or continuing to serve their communities in other ways," said Sharon Hatfield, fund representative for the Jenco Foundation Fund. "The COVID-19 pandemic and its many social, economic and health ramifications have

made it more important than ever to lift up the work of those who are so selflessly giving back to their communities and serving others."

Each 2020 awardee was recognized for their service to their respective region.

Josh Montgomery of Highland and Ross counties was recognized for the quick mobilization and creation of the Southern Ohio Makers Against COVID Coalition (SOMACC).

Montgomery is an associate professor at Southern State Community College. With his connections to the educational community and access to a 3D printer, he was able to quickly mobilize a coalition of educators across several counties to create protective face shields with 3D printers and distribute

the face shields to medical personnel, first responders and others at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19. For example, 400 face shields were distributed to Highland District Hospital.

“I am honored to have been nominated and to be one of the winners of the 2020 Jenco Awards,” Montgomery said. “When we decided to start SOMACC, I was just happy to be helping our first responders during a difficult time.”

Nominated by fellow community members who witness their visionary leadership in the service of others, Jenco Awardees are selected through a formal committee process and review. They receive an individual cash award to use in the manner most appropriate to their leadership.

Founded in 2001 by journalist Terry Anderson, the awards are named after Father Lawrence Martin Jenco. A Catholic priest who was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon while serving as a director of Catholic Relief Services, Jenco was an inspiration to many, including fellow captive Anderson, because of his compassion and service to others.

The Jenco Foundation joined the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) in 2011 as an endowment to ensure that it can forever honor Jenco’s legacy by recognizing unsung heroes throughout Appalachian Ohio who have devoted themselves to direct, caring action in the service of others. Jenco Award nominations are encouraged across areas essential to quality of life, including arts and culture, community and economic development, education, environmental stewardship, and health and human services.

If you know someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty in service of others, nominate that individual for the 2021 Jenco Awards. The nomination window opens annually in the spring. In the meantime, sign up for the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio’s e-newsletter at www.AppalachianOhio.org or follow FAO on Facebook or Instagram to hear when the call for 2021 nominations is released.

Gifts to the Jenco Foundation Fund are tax deductible and can be made in a number of ways, including cash, gifts in wills, and life insurance. To make a gift today or learn more, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Jenco. To learn about the Highland County Community Fund, a fund of FAO that serves Highland County communities, visit www.AppalachianOhio.org/Highland.

Submitted by Daniel Kington, communications and programs associate, Foundation For Appalachian Ohio.

NATION

COVID-19 pushes college students to drop out, which could devastate economy and their lives

Lindsay Schnell USA TODAY

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Oct. 16, 2020 | Updated 6:50 p.m. ET Oct. 19, 2020



Jasmine Justice hit her breaking point during the last week of September.

Overwhelmed at the juggling act of three full-time gigs – [as a community college student](#), an employee and a mom – Justice crumbled. She ignored reminder emails from her instructors to send in her assignments. “I wasn’t comprehending what I was reading. I was looking at diagrams that made no sense.” On Zoom work meetings, she noted her pale complexion and dark under-eye circles. Her appetite disappeared. She snapped at her 17-year-old daughter, Josiah, a high school senior also cooped up inside their small apartment.

“Being a community college student, it’s a balancing act,” says Justice, 39, a student at Pierce College in Lakewood, Washington, about 50 miles south of Seattle. “And at any moment, the scales could tip.”

Across the country, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to upend normalcy and infects Americans, students of every level are trying to [adjust to virtual learning](#) and socially distanced schools. But the virus and the ensuing recession have taken a particularly hard toll on community college students like Justice. They’re [often older](#), balancing school and full-time work. Many are single parents. Statistically, they’re often the [first in their family](#) to pursue post-secondary education and likely to come from a [lower socioeconomic bracket](#) – which impacts access to distance learning necessities like [high-speed internet](#).

And during the pandemic, [they’re dropping out](#) or sidelining their education plans. For these students, delaying their education could have devastating consequences.

Race- and class-based gaps already rampant in college achievement could grow to a gaping chasm, experts fear, long after the virus is under control.

“We’ve never experienced anything like (the pandemic) in our lifetime. ... The majority of our students are lower-income earners, and if faced with, ‘How am I going to put food on the table?’ versus ‘How am I going to take a class at community college?’ we know what one they’re going to pick,” says Martha Parham at the American Association of Community Colleges. “We already see evidence that the gap is widening – but how do you plan for that when you’re building the plane in flight for the students you have?”



Enrollment is already down 8% nationwide – unusual during a recession – and the economic impact could be significant. Community college programs tend to graduate students who feed directly into the workforce, people like nurses, electricians, mechanics and dental hygienists. In 2012, for example, community college-educated workers [added roughly \\$800 billion](#) to the U.S. economy.

For Justice, now in her third year at Pierce, the possible effects of the pandemic are more personal.

“College degrees show you are capable of completing something, that you have technical knowledge and not just on-the-job training,” she says. “You wanna be a boss? Then you need letters after your name.”

Online learning brings unexpected expenses

By August, a number of things had gone wrong for Justice. After living with and caring for her sick grandmother the last three years, she and Josiah were forced to move into their own apartment – an expense they hadn’t budgeted for – when her grandmother’s health deteriorated and she moved to a nursing home. When it became clear schools were going to stay online, Justice purchased at-home internet, another unexpected expense.

She’s fortunate, she says, to have a work laptop that she uses for school, though she admits she’s not sure if that’s technically allowed. And the bills are piling up. She’s paying off a car she bought in January. (“It seemed like a good purchase at the time, but now we’re stuck at home,” she says wryly.) She recently spent \$300 on books. A new computer system at Pierce has delayed many loan disbursements, and Justice is still waiting, impatiently, for the rest of her financial aid to come through.

At Pierce, Justice is studying to get her [bachelor’s of applied science](#) and business management after earning her associate’s degree in 2016. The three-year gap in her education came because of caring for her grandmother. She works full time at Pierce’s equity and diversity office, constantly counseling students on the brink of giving up to hang on just a little longer.



At Pierce College, Jasmine Justice (far left) counsels fellow students to stay in school despite the struggles. "I don't want them to be my age and still trying to get their associate's degree. It's like with smokers who quit: If you give in and give up, it's so hard to start over." *Courtesy Pierce College*

"I don't want them to be like me, stopping and pausing their education. I don't want them to be my age and still trying to get their associate's degree. It's like with smokers who quit: If you give in and give up, it's so hard to start over," Justice says.

But she recognizes the challenges. Students have panicked about a lack of financial aid, worried about an economy hanging in the balance. At least one confessed to Justice that she'd slept in her car in the school's parking lot because of money issues. She knows two students who couldn't come back this fall because of COVID-19-related issues.

"I don't know how we're all holding on, I really don't," Justice says. "Community college is like a second chance at life. We all want to better ourselves and our situations..." Her voice trails off, and she starts crying.

For some, it's a brutal climb.

No internet, long commutes: Rural students hit especially hard

Community colleges have long prided themselves on access, ideal institutions for someone who might not have the time, money, or knowledge to navigate the ins and outs of higher ed. Rural schools have been hit especially hard this fall, as they frequently serve a population of students who commute, sometimes long distances, and often don't have internet service at home. According to the University of Alabama's Education Policy Center, 584 of the nation's 970 community colleges are in rural areas.

During the pandemic, leaders like Kevin Boys, president at [Southern State Community College in Ohio](#), worry about students who already were teetering on the edge, deciding college is too hard,

and too confusing, to navigate during COVID-19. At Southern State, enrollment fell by 16% this semester compared with last fall.



“We have a lot of first-generation college students who are trying to muddle their way through the admissions process and learn the language of college,” says Boys, whose college consists of three campuses in an agricultural area about an hour east of Cincinnati.

“We try really hard to make it user friendly, but I’ll be the first to say it doesn’t always work. ‘What’s the bursar’s office?’ The lack of personal touch right now is tough for community colleges. That’s part of our DNA – the hand-holding, the face-to-face interaction.”

Many students across the country are missing that hands-on teaching.

About an hour south of Atlanta, Noah Jones and his mom, Pamela, are trying to adapt to a mostly online model. It’s not going well.

“I’ve never been good at classes online,” says Noah, 20, who is on the autism spectrum and working to get his heating and cooling certificate from Southern Crescent Technical College. Noah and his mother have no internet at their home in Griffin, Georgia. “\$600 just to install the satellite dish is not an option when you’re on a fixed income,” Pamela Jones says. So she has to drive her son to campus twice a week to the school library, where scheduled appointments are the only way to access Wi-Fi.

Because of delayed financial aid, Noah didn’t get his books until five weeks after classes had started. The \$170 laptop they splurged on when classes went online has held up OK so far, but they don’t have the money to put any anti-virus software on it. The school loaned out its limited supply of laptops in a matter of days, Pamela Jones said. If Noah’s breaks, she’s not sure what they’ll do.

“This virus,” she says, “has really done a number on our country.”

'What if I can't achieve my goals?'

Just outside of Portland, Oregon, Peter Lance is in his third term of nursing school at Mount Hood Community College. When the pandemic hit and schools closed – which meant [no in-person labs](#) – Lance was worried his whole cohort would be set back. But this fall, Mount Hood has brought back in-person clinical studies at a local hospital, with students wearing masks and staying socially distanced. Lance is relieved to practice tasks like drawing blood, but being around other nursing students from other schools has been eye-opening.

“It’s been good for us to recognize we’re not the only ones behind,” he says. “There’s going to be a whole generation, nationwide if not worldwide,” in the same situation.



College students across the country need access to laptops to complete online learning this fall. At many community colleges, students are borrowing laptops to complete their coursework. Access to Wi-Fi remains an issue. Here, a Ball State University student works on the four-year campus in Muncie, Indiana. *Michael Conroy, AP*

Lance is fortunate, he says, to have been able to adjust. He knows every student is not in the same position.

“Most people think of college students as young adults who are from upper-middle-class backgrounds who go off to some nice looking dorm on a leafy green campus,” said Doug Shapiro, executive director at the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. He pointed out that recently, Harvard announced [20% of its first-year students](#) decided to defer their enrollment.

“The 20% of Harvard’s freshman class will be fine,” Shapiro says. “Those are students who have a choice.”

Others don’t, and they’re already worried they’ll never catch up.

In Ohio, Destiny Smith is also studying nursing. But when the pandemic hit and everything pivoted online, the 19-year-old had to drop out of Southern State. “Not being able to have the teacher explain stuff to me in-person, it messed me up,” she says. Because she abruptly dropped out of both spring and summer classes, she’s still unsure if she’ll get her full financial aid for the fall semester.

Last week, another obstacle arrived. Smith is pregnant, due in late December, and her doctor just put her on bed rest. That means what little in-person interaction she could have on a socially distanced campus is gone.

Already behind, she’s worried she’ll have to drop out again – and potentially be sidelined for at least a year. She’s on academic probation after missing spring and summer.

“I’m really determined to get the degree I need and want,” she says. “But it’s really stressful – what if I can’t achieve my goals?”

Story from 2020 Fall College Guide ⓘ

SSCC readies COVID-safe classrooms, so great education can continue safely

“We don’t want students to give up on their dreams”, SSCC Coordinator says.

Southern State Community College

Published 6:02 a.m. ET Oct. 12, 2020



Amid the drastic changes COVID-19 has brought to daily life, many prospective college students in the area have been left uncertain about classes this fall — but Southern State Community College officials say the pandemic won’t force students to give up their dreams.

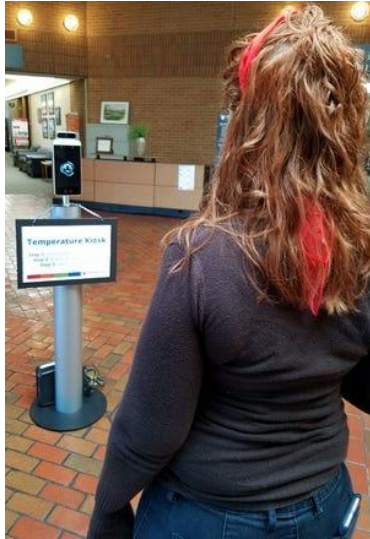
As community college classes resume in Hillsboro, Mt. Orab and Washington Court House in a matter of days, SSCC President Dr. Kevin Boys said the college’s goal is to meet or exceed best health practices while continuing to provide accessible, affordable and high-quality education to area residents.

“We’ve now survived a most unusual spring semester and the ‘Summer of COVID-19,’” Boys said in a letter to students. “Now it’s time for us to responsibly restart our face-to-face classes, but we must do so in the safest way possible.”

While some classes will be face-to-face, the college is also offering a variety of online and hybrid learning courses. Where virtual learning is not possible, face-to-face courses will take place in classrooms reconfigured to accommodate social distancing practices with masks required at all times.

The college has also hired a COVID-19 coordinator to implement the college's health plan.

Susan Morris, an adjunct faculty member in the college's nursing department, took the coordinator role Aug. 1. She said her position is evolving as the college's health protocols expand in alignment with Ohio's Responsible Restart program for higher learning institutions.



"I am here to coordinate any activities related to the college's COVID-19 response," Morris said, "and I'm working with the president's council to create and implement procedures creating a healthy environment for students."

Morris said the heart of the college's health plan is allowing students to continue pursuing their goals in higher education despite the disruption.

"We don't want them to give up on their dreams because of this pandemic," she said.

Morris said Southern State is selecting "health ambassadors" to help students navigate the college's precautions, such as masks, social distancing and sanitization.

Boys noted that the health ambassadors are not "mask police," but students "who care for one another," and assist others with understanding and adhering to the college's safety protocols.

"If we each do our part, then our risk of personal illness is reduced, as is the possibility of any one of us spreading the virus to others who may be at higher risk for grave illness or even death," he said.

Morris added that the college wants to create an environment of cooperation with students and staff.

"I just want students to know that we care not just about the physical effects of the pandemic, but also the emotional and mental things that go along with it," she said. "Some people are going to be anxious about the mask mandate and other things, so we're here to help them in those areas."

For more information on the college's precautions and other news, go to sscc.edu, email covid19@sscc.edu or call the college directly at 937-393-3431.

"We're staying focused on what's important," Morris said. "We want to create a safe environment to enhance the students' learning experience at Southern State."

POSTED ON [OCTOBER 16, 2020](#) BY [TIMES GAZETTE](#)

SSCC's Clark part of 1st leadership academy

NEWS



Pictured is Russel Clark, assistant professor at Southern State Community College.

Russel Clark, an assistant professor at Southern State Community College, has graduated as a fellow of the first Ohio Leadership Academy for Student Success.

He was among more than 40 leaders representing all of Ohio's community colleges that graduated Oct. 2, as part of the academy, organized by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC). It is the first of its kind in the nation to gather mid-level administrators, faculty and staff for a year of training, exchanging ideas and immersion in how to promote student success.

“The fellows learned how to more effectively lead the many changes underway at our colleges — transformational changes — to improve student success,” said Laura Rittner, executive director of the OACC’s Success Center for Ohio Community Colleges. “We brought together people who have different roles at colleges so they could have a deeper understanding of how college leaders can work together to usher in these student success models.”

The president of each of the state's community colleges could nominate prospective fellows. They met six times throughout the year for two-day meetings, first in person and then online, as the pandemic took hold. Sessions were relevant to Ohio specifically and included aspects of the Aspen Institute's presidential leadership curriculum. Fellows also worked on projects in small groups between sessions.

"I am so pleased that the OACC put together this kind of opportunity for tomorrow's community college leaders," said SSCC President Kevin Boys. "In speaking with Mr. Clark, it is obvious that he has walked away with a commitment to our students' success and an appreciation for a research-based approach to solving the challenges at Southern State and across our sector."

Clark said, "I've come to understand that as a community college, a two-year institution, we are uniquely situated at a convergent point between high schools, job opportunities, four-year universities and continuing education opportunities. In this position, our customers are places of employment and four-year institutions. The product that we 'sell' is our graduating students. Our job is to, in the most efficient and most economical way, provide four-year institutions and employers with high-quality, properly trained individuals."

The academy was funded by several national organizations, so colleges had minimal expenses to participate. Next year's academy will begin early in 2021, Rittner said, in the hopes that some sessions can be held in person.

For more information, visit www.OhioCommunityColleges.org.

Submitted by Elizabeth Burkard, director of marketing, Southern State Community College.



POSTED ON [OCTOBER 2, 2020](#) BY [GARY HUFFENBERGER](#)

Calling forth their abilities: Southern State starts program for people with intellectual disabilities

NEWS, TOP STORIES

College program for students with intellectual disabilities

By Gary Hufferberger - ghufferberger@wnewsj.com



The Clinton County commissioners have proclaimed October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The proclamation calls upon people to advance the important message that people with disabilities are equal to the task throughout the year. From left are Clinton County Commissioners Brenda Woods and Kerry Steed, Southern State's College to Career Experience Coordinator Sonja Wilkin, Clinton County Board of Developmental Disabilities Employment First Coordinator Shanon Bene, Southern State President Dr. Kevin Boys, and Clinton County Commissioner Mike McCarty.



At the Clinton County Commissioners Office are, from left, Southern State Community College President Dr. Kevin Boys and Sonja Wilkin, program coordinator for the new SSCC College to Career Experience Program.

WILMINGTON — Southern State Community College (SSCC) is offering a new program for high school graduates with intellectual disabilities to continue their education and better prepare them for fulfilling work while also meeting employers' needs.

Called the SSCC College to Career Experience Program, SSCC President Dr. Kevin Boys introduced the program coordinator to Clinton County commissioners this week.

The College to Career Experience (CCE) Program at Southern State is one of only 10 such programs in Ohio, made more distinctive with the rural area served by Southern State, said Program Coordinator Sonja Wilkin.

As suggested by its name, the College to Career Experience is very workplace-g geared, and one goal is to place students in an internship in their first or second term.

Inclusive college classes are taken for audit or credit by the students.

There are misconceptions about individuals with intellectual disabilities, Wilkin said. For one thing, the attitudes of individuals with intellectual disabilities rank as high or higher than people without intellectual disabilities.

Having an employee with intellectual disabilities can improve the worker morale in some environments, said Wilkin.

Although people with intellectual disabilities have challenges as individuals, they also bring a lot of benefit to a workplace, she said. The key is to find the right environment.

And for the student participant, a key to ultimately landing a successful job placement is finding his or her true interest and ability, according to Wilkin.

The transportation piece is a hurdle in executing the College to Career Experience Program. Southern State will be offering the program at its central campus in Hillsboro, which, as Boys said, is “a bit of a trek” for a young person in Clinton County.

The county commissioners are enthusiastic about the new program. Clinton County Commissioner Mike McCarty said he loves it, noting that after high school, all too often formal education and skills building disappear for young people with intellectual disabilities.

Clinton County Commissioner Brenda K. Woods brought up she has a brother-in-law with Down syndrome, and she’ll be eager to hear how the program goes.

Wilkin hopes everybody embraces this post-high school education and career exploration transition program.

The program is available to students with an intellectual disability who qualified for IDEA services in their secondary education, and who would otherwise be unable to obtain access to post-secondary education due to entrance testing requirements and/or the need for modifications to post-secondary course work.

IDEA stands for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a law that makes free appropriate public education available to eligible children with disabilities.

Post-secondary transition programs were made possible by an amendment to the Federal Higher Education Act.

Wilkin said the University of Cincinnati had a recent graduate of its transition program who obtained a bachelor’s degree in journalism.

“Nobody would have thought that possible,” she remarked. “If given an opportunity, you just never know.”

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HEADCOUNT	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
FEMALE	1386	1605	1602	1709	1757	1715	1679
MALE	632	796	853	1006	948	832	790
TOTAL	2018	2401	2455	2718	2705	2547	2469
FULL-TIME	565	701	771	900	949	1007	1126
PART-TIME	1453	1700	1684	1818	1756	1540	1343
FEMALE FT	394	450	479	557	589	653	711
FEMALE PT	992	1155	1123	1152	1168	1062	968
MALE FT	171	251	292	342	360	354	415
MALE PT	461	545	561	664	588	478	375
AGE							
MEAN	21	21	21	21	23	24	25
MEDIAN	18	18	18	18	19	20	21
<=16	272	551	565	665	510	379	210
17-20	1128	1191	1113	1223	1241	1073	997
21-24	224	247	286	287	335	359	394
25-28	105	124	170	162	180	206	216
29-32	85	82	88	106	98	137	169
33-36	61	63	73	78	97	94	120
37-40	53	49	54	54	73	87	106
41-50	62	66	83	112	130	155	168
51-60	25	25	22	28	37	53	74
61+	3	3	1	3	4	4	15
COUNTY							
ADAMS	272	307	247	311	326	282	313
BROWN	374	417	431	477	520	465	399
CLERMONT*	152	140	159	257	267		
CLINTON	298	355	398	409	407	494	446
FAYETTE	285	344	366	334	304	360	400
HIGHLAND	447	596	575	611	567	551	608
OTHER	190	242	279	319	314	395	303
RANK							
FRESHMEN	1462	1750	1750	1997	1980	1771	1590
SOPHOMORE	556	651	705	721	725	776	879
MAJORS							
GEN MAJOR	1567	1879	1798	1981	1976	1724	1503
TECH MAJOR	451	522	657	737	729	823	966
DEGREES (7/1-6/30)							
AA	68	59	87	91	84	66	69
AS	67	47	97	87	77	82	53
AAB	28	34	27	32	39	29	44
AAS	120	128	166	145	176	198	170
ATS	2	4	1	7	8	6	3
CERTIFICATES	29	30	74	64	51	78	71
<ONE YEAR CERT	43	17	11	31	20	11	25
ETHNIC							
BLACK	31	38	37	45	49	34	35
AM IND/AL NAT	5	5	2	7	15	9	8

HISPANIC	35	24	20	26	24	26	23
CAUCASIAN	1857	2232	2276	2520	2492	2369	2295
ASIAN/PAC ISL	11	5	6	7	5	5	6
NATIVE HAW/PAC ISL	2	1	4	3	5	10	4
NON-RES ALIEN	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
TWO OR MORE RACES***	45	51	56	45	44	40	31
UNKNOWN	32	45	54	64	70	53	67
ENROLLMENT STATUS							
FIRST-TIME UNDERGRAD	162	183	271	280	359	398	397
FIRST-TIME PSEO/CCP	476	701	632	741	713	600	338
CONTINUING/RETURNING	1320	1442	1486	1606	1536	1449	1659
- CONTINUING	1211	1284	1337	1445	1308	1328	1284
- CONTINUING UG	575	727	842	911	894		
- CONTINUING CCP	636	557	495	534	414		
- RETURNING	109	158	149	152	228	121	375
- RETURNING UG	97	113	108	144	177		
- RETURNING CCP	12	45	41	8	51		
TRANSFERS	60	75	66	91	97	100	75
APPLICATIONS							
APPS APPROVED	1181	1431	1673	1978	1938	2034	1544
APPS NOT ENROL	623	672	893	913	923	1064	754
% APPS NOT ENROLL	52.7	46.9	53.3	46.1	47.6	52.3	48.8
*Prior to 2016 counted under OTHER category under COUNTY							
**Continuing and Returning totals combined 2015 and prior							
***No longer valid							