

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



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MAY 2021 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

Cruise-In Graduation Ceremony

We hope you will be able to join in the unique celebration of our graduates following the Board meeting. Please review the commencement information included in your packet.

HEALTH Consortium Approves SSCC as New Member

Following your vote last week and agreement by the SSEA through a Memorandum of Understanding, The HEALTH Consortium comprised of Cincinnati State, Clark State, Edison State, and Shawnee State voted to accept Southern State into its membership during its April 27 meeting. Our mutual consultant, HORAN, had provided them with a compelling report and recommendation for our acceptance into the Consortium. In reaching out to my colleague presidents both before and after their vote, I expressed our desire to work with them in serving as an example of institutions working together to achieve greater efficiency. Now the hard work of open enrollment begins so our employees are fully covered on July 1, the effective date of the new plan.

Biennium Budget Clears the Ohio House

The state's biennium budget was approved by the House last week and now moves to the Senate for further consideration. Key provisions affecting the College include:

- Slight increases in State Share of Instruction (1% in FY22, .9% in FY 23)
- Tuition flexibility permitting tuition increases of up to \$5 per credit hour in each year
- Extension of permission for Boards of Trustees to meet virtually through the end of 2021.
- Establishes the Commercial Truck Driver Student Aid Program to provide a combination of a grant and loan to eligible students enrolled in a certified commercial driver's license program.
- Approval of a pilot program involving Southern State and local high schools related to computer coding and workforce training.

President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Hillsboro Rotary Club Meetings
- Meeting with CCA Representatives re: Ascendium Grant Proposal
- Facilitated Strategic Planning Session for Highland County Visitor's Bureau
- OACC President's Bi-weekly Meetings
- Meeting with Wilmington College Representatives re: Collaboration
- Meeting with SSCC Board Chair and ACCT Representative
- Meeting with Prospective Realtor for Wilmington Campus
- Meeting with Hillcrest Solar Representative
- Facilitated Strategic Planning Session for Highland County Chamber of Commerce
- Call with Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) President
- RCCA Board Meetings and Strategic Planning Facilitation
- SOCHE Lunch and Learn: Tackling Racism One Book at a Time
- Fayette Campus Walk-Through with Prospective Partner
- League | EAB Virtual Strategy Summit for Community College Leaders
- Meeting with Central State University Representatives
- White House Rural Stakeholders Briefing
- SSCC Faculty Senate Meeting
- Call with Ohio House Representative Adam Bird
- AACC Commission on Small and Rural Colleges
- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) National Awards Ceremony
- EAB Leadership Team Call
- Tour of Fayette Campus with Ohio House Representative Mark Johnson
- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society Induction Welcome Remarks
- Wilmington Rotary Club Meeting
- SSCC Finance Committee Meeting
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
- SSCC Board Special Meeting
- SOCHE Seminar: Changing Perspective: A Self-Care Seminar
- SSCC Foundation Quarterly Meeting
- All-Ohio Academic Team Recognition
- Clinton County Virtual Planning Meeting

Upcoming Events

Campus events are generally not being scheduled until further notice.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Accreditation Activities

Institutional Update Submitted

As part of the College's ongoing relationship with the Higher Learning Commission, the College is required to submit an annual survey featuring financial, academic, and enrollment updates. The Institutional Update was submitted to the Commission on March 29. There were no significant deviations from the previous report and the College should expect continued monitoring of the Composite Financial Index (CFI) score.

In other related activity with the Commission, a small team recently participated in the Annual Meeting. Hosted virtually, April 5-9, participants were able to join conversations and presentations of diverse topics ranging from assessment to crisis response strategies to improving financial wellness.

From the Ohio Department of Higher Education

New Learning Outcomes Announced for Ohio Transfer Module (OTM)

The Ohio Transfer Module (OTM) was created 30 years ago to address issues and streamline the transfer of the General Education curriculum among all Ohio two- and four-year institutions. This module provided, and continues to provide, transfer assurance to students. Following the work of faculty panels and review from the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network (OATN) Oversight Board, there has been a shift from course guidelines to course learning outcomes.

A pilot rollout will go into effect Fall 2021 where institutions will be provided the opportunity to submit new courses. In Spring 2022 the oldest, current OTM courses will be submitted for review. The full revisions will be in place by Fall 2022.

Workforce Development

Truck Driving Academy

The Truck Driving Academy (TDA) is once again sponsoring several community organizations for the summer. Among those sponsorships include a youth knothole team from Hillsboro as well as a continuing partnership with David Howard Racing. Southern State will be the primary sponsor for the race team in 2021.

Pepsi continues to be a strong supporter for the TDA in their contract training opportunities. There has been a total of 19 participants who have participated in the contract training since the start of 2021.

Enrollment comparison:

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
February	17	16	14
March	24	0	23
April	13	0	10

Grants

RAPIDS Negotiations Resume for New Round of Funding

The State of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Higher Education have introduced the fifth round of RAPIDS funding. As the lead member of the southern Ohio delegation, the negotiation process was initiated by Amy McClellan, Director of Workforce Development and Interim Director of the Mt. Orab Campus. This delegation represents collaboration with Buckeye Hills Career and Technical Center, Hocking College, Ohio University, Pike County Career and Technical Center, Pickaway Ross Career and Technical Center, Rio Grande Community College, Scioto County Career and Technical Center, Shawnee State University, Southern State, and TriCounty Career and Technical Center. The specific Southern State requests in this round include investments in equipment and related resources for the Truck Driving Academy.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Student Success Center

The New “Normal” in Student Success: Lessons Learned

When the academic year started, expectations to get back to “normal” changed to discovering the new “normal” in daily functions. In all areas of Student Success – Advising, Tutoring, Testing, Counseling – technology has taken access from the confines of the office hours to virtual connections through email, Zoom, and phone at all times. Serving a relational-focused culture, staff mentor students through the challenges of a COVID college experience and focus on their individual needs for academic survival.

Advising: Advisors are in the middle of advising students through the Summer and Fall term registration process before students depart for summer. Future practices for student success include using Chromebooks with each advising session to teach students how to use the MySSCC portal technology to access all of the resources available to them.

Tutoring: Access to tutoring services expanded this year with the use of Zoom for the drop-in Math and Writing Labs. Tutoring also spent the first week of each term assisting students with their access to online technology resources. Their “Success in the Digital Age” approach helped techno-timid students through this barrier.

Testing Center: Access to the placement assessment could have had many COVID barriers, but remote access to this and many other assessments/industry exams has added convenience and safety options for students.

Counseling: A one-man operation, counseling services benefitted from virtual options for student access. Students appreciated the ease and quick access to the counselor through Zoom. The counselor also benefits from fewer miles put on his vehicle and more time to meet with clients.

Financial Aid

HEERF II/CRRSAA Funds

The second round of funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief/Coronavirus Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) has been received and student awards are underway. The total amount received on the student portion is \$659,789, the same as the CARES Act.

Through the CRRSAA Act, funds are to be prioritized to students with exceptional need to cover expenses related to the coronavirus pandemic and could include tuition. During the month of March, 457 Pell eligible students attending Spring were auto-awarded \$500 based on their need determined through the FAFSA. On April 12, the Emergency Grant Application was posted for all students attending Spring to access the funds. The grant application is similar to the application used to award CARES, but does include the option for students to authorize the funds to be transferred directly to pay student tuition and fees owed to the College. To date \$293,150 has been awarded from the CRRSAA funds.

New Financial Aid Assistant

The Financial Aid staff welcomed Kaylynn Bell to the team in April. Kaylynn is a recent graduate of Ohio Christian University and in her role as the Financial Aid Assistant will be working with students through the financial aid processes primarily at the front line.

Phi Theta Kappa

Leadership

Savannah Frost has been elected the 2021-2022 chapter president. Applications are being accepted for VP of Scholarship, VP of Service and VP of Communications.

Events

The Hallmark Regional Conference was held virtually on March 27. This activity contributes to the chapter goal of reaching a 5-star status for 2021. At this event, Brock Morris received a regional scholarship award and the chapter was recognized for 6 different Hallmark awards with its first 5-Star Chapter award, first Hallmark Awards in SSCC history and 4 scholarship awards!

The Catalyst International Convention was held virtually April 8-9 and attended by Susan Morris, Brock Morris, Alyssa Mays, Savannah Frost, and myself. The Chapter was honored there as a 5-Star Chapter, received 6 Chapter Hallmark Awards and 2 individual awards.

The virtual induction ceremony was held for new members on April 16 with 6 new members and their families attending. Thank you to the faculty and staff who attended to support our students.

The All Ohio Academic Team for Community Colleges will be held virtually on April 29. Southern State has 5 students named to the team, and all students are PTK chapter members.

The chapter will participate in the SSCC Cruise-in Commencement with a photo booth.

Projects & Research

PTK continues to lead the Health Ambassador project for the College and received an Ohio Regional Award and a 2020 International Hallmark Award.

- This project solidified the 4-star level for the chapter.
- This project has entered phase 2 by assisting with the vaccination deployment in 4 counties in partnership with our nursing department, to date 817.5 hours of support provided in this effort.

The Honors in Action project: “The Mask of Resistance: A 2020 Rebellion” was awarded the Ohio Region Theme #5 winner and 2nd runner up overall and was submitted for a 2020 International Hallmark Award.

Children’s book drive is underway on all three campuses, coordinated by Alyssa Mays, VP of Service.

2020 Awards Summary

International

- 5-Star Chapter Award
- Distinguished PTK Chapter and Top 100 International PTK Chapter ranking,
- Distinguished College Project and Top 50 International College Project ranking

- REACH Award
- The Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction for College Administrators - Dr. Kevin Boys

Ohio Region Hallmark Awards

- Most Valuable Member – Savannah Frost
- Best College Project – Health Ambassador
- Honors in Action Theme #5 Winner
- Honors in Action - 2nd runner-up overall
- Horizon Advisor Award – Susan Morris
- Most Distinguished Chapter

Scholarship

Students completed submissions for PTK international and regional scholarships announced in Spring:

- 2020 PTK Ohio Region Buckeye Scholar (\$500) - Brock Morris - President
- 2021 Coca-Cola All USA Academic Team Silver Scholar (\$1250) – Alyssa Mays – VP of Service

All Ohio Academic Team

- Alyssa Mays – 1st Team
- Ethan Crowder – 2nd Team
- Jenna Mcclanahan – 3rd Team
- Brock Morris – 3rd Team
- Christian Weseloh – 3rd Team

Currently underway is development of a trustee scholarship to be awarded to PTK members at SSCC to complete their Associate’s degree. A total of \$5,000 scholarship funds will be awarded. The officers have submitted a proposal for approval.

Membership

Twenty-four new members were added in January-March from those that received invitations for eligibility earned in Fall 2020.

The current invitation expires on May 31 with regional and local chapter fees waived. Spring eligibility invitations will be released in June.