

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



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER 2021 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

Governor and First Lady Visit Southern State

Governor and First Lady DeWine visited the Central Campus on September 8 for a meeting to discuss the recent Campus Safety Grant the College received and to take a tour of the newly opened Health Science Center. Accompanying the Governor was Chancellor Randy Gardner from the Ohio Department of Higher Education. We appreciate the Governor's interest in our College, the challenges we face and ideas for addressing those challenges.

Service Awards

At the All-College meeting last month, full-time employees were recognized for their faithful years of service to the College. The list of awards may be found in the Human Resources section of this report. I know the Board of Trustees joins me in thanking this group of individuals for the contributions they make to the College and to our students throughout the years.

Campus Visits

The first week of the fall semester brought more students to campus for face-to-face classes than we've seen in a while. Although community spread of COVID is quite high throughout our area, I've observed laudable efforts to protect one another's health through the practices we put into place last year. With universal masking, current guidance greatly reduces required quarantines. This promotes not only a healthy environment, but enhances the chances of our students finishing the term successfully.

HVAC

In anticipation of a Capital Bill and perhaps other resources coming to the College, Brian Rice has worked with a leading vendor to conduct an assessment to provide a solution for the aging HVAC system at Central Campus. The current system is original to the campus.

President's Activities and Involvement

- Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) Installation of New President
- Lunch with Governor DeWine and Ohio Community College Presidents
- SSCC Finance Committee Meeting
- Transition Planning Meeting with SSCC Board Chair and Vice Chair
- Hillsboro Rotary Club Meetings
- Workforce READi Hub Discussion
- Ascendium/Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) Grant Discussions
- OACC President's Weekly Meetings
- SSCC All-College Meeting
- Meeting with Health Network Representative
- SSCC Foundation Board Quarterly Call
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting
- Rural Briefs and Rural Pathways Project Discussion
- Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) Board Meeting
- Call with Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) President
- Meeting with TRANE Representatives
- Highland County Fair Gate
- SSCC Campus Visit from Governor DeWine and Chancellor Gardner

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

In the News

Dr. Gayle Mackay Completes Intensive Professional Development Course

The continuity of effective teaching and learning is more important today than ever in our history. The COVID 19 Pandemic has accelerated this priority. Through a partnership with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) and Achieving the Dream, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) Success Center generously offered Ohio's community college faculty the opportunity to participate in a highly regarded, intensely rigorous, professional development course aimed at improving online teaching. This 25-week course prepares faculty in evidence-based online teaching practices, proven through independently validated research, to

improve student achievement and close equity gaps. Faculty who complete the course earn a nationally recognized Certificate in Effective College Online Instruction, the only college teaching credential endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE). Southern State is proud to recognize Dr. Gayle Mackay, Professor of Business, for completing this course.

The second cohort of faculty members will begin this course later this fall. Among the participants include:

Mr. Travis Martin, Associate Professor, Accounting

Mr. Bob Krauss, Instructor, Mathematics

Ms. Alice Richmond, Adjunct Faculty, English

Mr. Jason Sharett, Adjunct Faculty, History

Dr. Jamie Harmount, Instructor, Education

Dr. Josh Montgomery, Associate Professor, Computer Science

Dr. Montgomery Featured on Project Management YouTube Podcast

Congratulations to Dr. Josh Montgomery for his guest appearance on “The Everyday PM” podcast series. The interview originally aired on August 30, 2021, with host and professional project management consultant, Ann Campea, of Los Angeles, California. Dr. Montgomery shared insight into how he integrates project-based learning into his classroom. A special part of this feature was the work that Dr. Montgomery has done with Star Wars and his recreation of R2D2 and the way he has invited students to join in this work. The recording of this interview is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/FppajmPmSM8>.

Southern State eSports Starts Strong

Team Director, Dr. Josh Montgomery reported that the Southern State Community College eSports hosted its first practice on September 2, 2021. Joined by managers, Russ Clark, Assistant Professor of Physics, and Dr. Sara Nielsen, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, the team welcomes nine team members. This is a varsity eSports team and will compete in the National Association of Collegiate ESports (NACE). For more information about the program, visit the team’s website at <https://www.sccc.edu/esports/>.

Instructional Technology

Introduction of Project Management Tools to Improve Processes

To meet the needs of the rapidly changing distance learning landscape, the Instructional Technology Department has implemented another new tool aimed at improving the operational processes carried out by the department and its partners. The adoption of the Mavenlink Project Management Suite will allow the team to manage projects, plan and schedule resources, and generally gain minute-by-minute control over the development and implementation of online and hybrid course offerings.

In the past year, this department, consisting of Director, Angel Mootispaw, Support Specialist, Cathy Zile, and Instructional Designer, Sam Ginn, has hosted nearly 140 unique training sessions aimed at improving the College's design and delivery of online and hybrid learning. This does not include the many drop-ins and impromptu sessions that they host. This delivery modality has become the College's lifeline during the pandemic. Special thanks to this team for their relentless effort to support faculty in delivering quality learning experiences for students.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and Admissions

Admissions application webpages have been updated with a video to show "start to finish" steps and explain acceptance letter. The videos were added to the first-time student, CCP student, transfer student, returning student, and veteran student webpages.

Recruitment

Campus Visits

We have implemented a Student Ambassador program utilizing work-study students. This program is designed to have a work-study student give campus visits at all three of our campuses. Currently, we have a Campus Ambassador for Central and Brown.

New Student Orientation

- Letters were mailed to students who are registered for fall classes.
- From August 4 (first letters mailed for fall semester) to September 1, 268 students have completed the orientation.
- Online New Student Orientation webpage was updated to help alleviate some confusion when accessing the orientation.

OACAC College Fair

Clinton County College Fair is set to be at Wilmington HS on Sept. 16 from 9:00am-10:30am. The final confirmations have been sent to higher education institutions and all military branches. Seventy-five college institutions/military branches plan to attend.

Recruiting Events

At this time, the fall travel schedule is filling up and events are still planned to be held in-person.

Financial Aid Office

2020-2021 Financial Aid Year Summary

SSCC Pell grant fund disbursements	\$2,099,162	Pell Grant recipients	648
SSCC Direct Loan fund disbursements	Subsidized: \$895,309 Unsubsidized: \$1,079,169	Subsidized loan recipients: 345 Unsubsidized loan recipients: 352 NOTE: students may have either or both types of loans awarded	
SSCC Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) disbursements	\$87,956	SEOG recipients: 358	
SSCC Federal Work Study Disbursements	\$34,372	FWS participants: 12	

NOTE: Use of Federal Work Study dollars were severely hampered by the pandemic and remote environment. For 2021/2022, Financial Aid is working with Marketing to advertise the program and increase student participation. The work study starting wage rate was increased from \$8.50 to \$9.00. Per federal regulations, the work study wage rate must be at least the federal minimum wage rate unless the state minimum wage rate is higher. The state of Ohio increased its minimum wage rate in January 2021 to \$8.80 so our current wage rate meets the federal aid requirement.

Audit

The annual A-133 audit is underway.

DocuSign

The Office of Financial Aid is continuing to push more financial aid forms with DocuSign capability out to students via the SSCC website.

Registrar

Summer Graduates

There were 30 degrees/certificates awarded at the end of summer semester. Student diplomas were mailed out to our summer graduates the first week of September.

Degrees/Certificates	Conferred 8/3/2021
AA	9
AS	11
AAB	2
AAS	5
CER	3

Fall Semester

Fall Semester began Monday, August 23. Over the next few weeks the Records Office will be reviewing the attendance reported from instructors and will be updating enrollments accordingly.

Student Success Center

Advising Center

The pandemic has changed the way services are provided to students. Virtual connections have become the primary means for interaction with students. The Advisors meet students by phone, email, Zoom, Navigate and face to face. This has allowed continuation of advising services to students regardless of the accessibility to the campuses.

Counseling Services

Counseling Services' transition to virtual communication with students continues to be well received. The counselor has been able to reach out to more students in need as a result of this accessibility.

State grants for mental health resources have benefited many students during the past 15 months and is expected to continue through this academic year.

Testing Center

The primary Testing Center relocated to Fayette campus with the North campus closure last summer. Renovation changes at Central resulted in a move and upgrade of that campus Testing Center. The ability to provide remote testing options has also been a great benefit for student placement as well as community members sitting for industry certification exams.

Tutoring Center

Tutoring for the most part was virtual all last year through Zoom and online submissions. Limited face-to-face options assisted students struggling with the virtual learning environment. This year's start continues with virtual walk-in sessions, as well as face-to-face access at Central campus' new location, as well as Brown and Fayette campuses.

Phi Theta Kappa

Leadership

Applications are being accepted for VP positions.

Events

The Ohio Region Honors in Action conference was hosted by Washington State Community College in Marietta. One student and two advisors attended virtually on August 21.

The Ohio Region Leaders in Action conference will be hosted by SSCC and sponsored by Wilmington College on October 15-16.

- This is the first conference that the chapter will host and WC has offered strong support, involving their leadership team as a transfer opportunity and being able to strengthen the partnership between the two colleges.
- The guest speaker is Krista Castillio, a civil war historian and director of Fort Nagley's facility in TN, whose topic is on emancipation.
- The focus will be on Leaders in Action: Moving Towards a Better Tomorrow.
- The Chapter would like to extend an invitation to SSCC leadership and the board to view the keynote speaker via livestream through WC's website.
- More details to follow.

Projects & Research

2021 College Project

PTK continues to lead the Health Ambassador project for the College. For fall semester, the health ambassador role has been coordinated with Liz Burkard transitioning into a welcome and navigational role for students and visitors.

The Honors in Action project – the 2021 theme will focus on the topic of resilience.

- Advisor Meg Storrs and Savannah Frost completed an application for a \$1,000 grant to complete the 2021 Honors in Action project. The chapter was awarded its first ever grant from PTK International.
- The project is in its early stages and will take a closer look at the resiliency of children during the pandemic. The funding will be utilized to acquire resources that are unavailable in our catalog and OhioLINK, collect data, and based on our research, find tangible ways to support children in our community. We hope to

make a difference for our students who are parents as well as those who are part of Patri-tots.

Scholarship

The PTK Trustee scholarship is now available. It will be awarded to PTK members at SSCC to complete their Associates degree. A total of \$5,000 scholarship funds will be awarded. One application has been received.

Membership

New summer-eligible invitations will be sent in September and 7 new members were added in August.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Security

Campus Safety Grant Program

The Campus Safety Grant Program was established to make grants to state institutions of higher education for eligible security improvements that assist in improving the overall physical security and safety of buildings on public campuses throughout Ohio. The Director of Public Safety administered the Campus Safety Grant Program and recommended awards in coordination with the Chancellor of Higher Education.

Funding for physical security improvements at the federal level has historically been limited to K-12 entities, and ODHE is not aware of a program ever being available at the state level to address higher education physical safety needs. Southern State Community College applied and was awarded a capital Campus Safety Grant in the amount of \$149,500. The funds will be used to upgrade the Security system, as well as external doors at Central Campus.

Service Recognition

At our fall All-College meeting each year, we recognize our faculty and staff who have reached service milestones. Please see below those who were honored this year:

5 Years

James Barnett, III

10 Years

Jody Bishop

Sarah Crump

Melanie Foxx

Reta Hamilton

Amy Perkins-McClellan

Jason Reynolds

Jeff Tumbleson

15 Years

Angie Devilbliss

Julie Krebs

Bryan McComas

Jessica Wise

20 Years

Kami Campbell

Brian Siemers

30 Years

Bill Henry

Ken Holliday

Don Storer

40 Years

Barb Fleming (*First in SSCC History to reach this milestone!*)