

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



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SSCC's mission is to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality education to people in southern Ohio.

OCTOBER 2024 | DR. NICOLE ROADES, PRESIDENT

Ohio Department of Higher Education Efficiency Report

As a measure of compliance with the Ohio Revised Code, Section 3333.95, state colleges and universities must provide the Chancellor with an annual Efficiency Report. Designed to address affordability and efficiency, the report aims to sharpen our focus and set a course for increasing efficiency. This legislation was passed in 2017; the first reports were submitted in 2018. The report format has been consistent each year since inception.

The 2024 report highlights the College's efforts to improve textbook affordability, enhance efficiency through diversified use of capital resources, and maintain a disciplined approach to program vitality and course efficiencies. These recent efforts complement the major historical highlights, including reducing physical campuses in 2020 and 2022, expanding transfer pathways with local universities, and adopting a Program Vitality process to monitor academic program efficiency, effectiveness, and relevancy.

Annual Campus Security Report Completed

The Clery Act (Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act) was named in memory of Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old freshman at Lehigh University, who was violently murdered in her dorm room in 1986. This law requires colleges and universities to maintain campus safety and security protocols to eliminate campus crime. As a participating Title IV institution, Southern State must disclose crime statistics and safety and security policies by October 1 annually. These policies and statistics are prominently available on the College's website.

Special thanks to **Dr. Jessica Wise**, Interim Dean of Student Affairs, for completing this report and making the necessary submissions. Additionally, thanks to **Dr. Peggy Chalker**, **Gary Heaton**, and **Dr. Erika Goodwin** for their important role in campus security.

Governor DeWine Reappoints Rachel Cummings and Jeffrey Newman

Congratulations to **Rachel Cummings** and **Jeffrey Newman**, both of Adams County, on their recent reappointment to the Southern State Community College Board of Trustees. Rachel was appointed to her first term on April 11, 2018, and Jeff was originally appointed on August 16, 2019. The new term will end on May 11, 2030.

SB 94 | Campus Accountability and Modernization Act (Enact CAMPUS Act)

In July 2024, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine signed the Enact CAMPUS Act into law. This law requires the state's public and private higher education institutions to adopt and enforce provisions related to the prevention of racial, religious, and ethnic bias, harassment, and intimidation at higher education institutions, policies on racial, religious and ethnic harassment and intimidation. The effective date of this order is October 24, 2024, and includes a requirement that the Chancellor establish a committee charged with developing a model policy, guidance, and best practices. The Final Analysis Summary and Detailed Analysis are included for your reference. Until such models and best practices are available, Southern State will rest its compliance with existing policies and practices and bring forth any updated policy proposal once the model has been established.

CAMPUS Act Requires IHEs to...	Compliance or Partial Compliance ...
Adopt and enforce a policy regarding racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation. The policy must include a provision for training and procedures for accepting and investigating complaints. R.C. 3320.05(B).	Policy 3.6 Anti-Discrimination, Bullying, and Harassment Policy - Work required on training
Ensure that campus security/police collaborate with local law enforcement, the state highway patrol, and student communities to provide security functions for institutionally sanctioned student organizations that face threats of terror attacks or hate crimes. R.C. 3320.05(C).	Campus Safety actively coordinates with local law enforcement on all issues that threaten the safety of our students.
Create a campus task force on combating antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christian discrimination, hatred, harassment, bullying, or violence toward others on the basis of their actual religious identity or what is assumed	Awaiting guidance. The Behavioral Intervention Team model could help inform such a task force.

to be their religious identity at the institution. R.C. 3320.05(D).	
Submit an annual report to the Chancellor of all harassment and intimidation reports submitted to the federal government. R.C. 3320.07.	Not requested.
Publicize on its website any time, place, or manner restrictions it places on expressive activities (as defined in R.C. 3345.0211). R.C. 3320.08	Policy 3.5 Freedom of Expression Policy and Procedure

President's Activities and Involvement

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

- SE Regional Hub Super RAPIDS Launch Meeting
- Appalachian Ohio | Highland Co. Community Fund Event
- Strategic Enrollment Management Plan Meeting
- Healthcare Simulation Week Career Fair and Open House
- Police Academy Training Meeting
- Meeting and Photo with Wilson/Paeltz Scholarship Recipients
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce | Golf Outing
- Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions Calls
- Laurel Oaks Groundbreaking Event
- Consulting Kickoff Call with Ruffalo Noel Levitz (RNL)
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce | Rural Connections Event
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce | Board Meeting
- Choose Ohio First | Kickoff Meeting
- OACC's Auditor of State's Office Exit Audit Conference
- STEEL Conference Video Recording
- SOCHE Executive Board of Trustees Meeting
- SuperStart Scholarship Re-Alignment Discussion
- SSCC Faculty Senate Meeting
- Deep Data Dive | Safety First: The Jeanne Clery Act and Annual Security Reporting
- Adams County Medical Foundation Gala

- Meeting with Great Oaks Representative
- STEEL Conference Committee Meeting
- Meeting and Campus Tour with Congressional Candidate
- Cyber Skills for Full Cohort Monthly Meeting
- Brown County Chamber of Commerce | Business After Hours: Rural Connections

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Kudos to our RN and PN Nursing Programs!

We are happy to share the good news of our recent *successful site visit with the Ohio Board of Nursing* on September 24. I am pleased to announce we had a clean review with no concerns from the reviewer. Furthermore, the reviewer noted that *SSCC is above both the Ohio average and National average for NCLEX licensure pass rates for our Registered Nursing and Practical Nursing Programs!* Now that is truly impressive! Nursing is our largest program here at SSCC and clearly a premier program for us, but it is also a model for the State and even the country. This supports the findings of the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) that Continued Accreditation following a rigorous review completed in March 2022. We have a lot to be proud of with this program!

Accreditation visits are difficult, stressful, and require a lot of work, organization, and impeccable records/ records keeping. My thanks to our Dean of Health Sciences, **Dr. Julie Krebs** for her tireless work and leadership in the health science area and for leading an excellent site visit. Her knowledge and experience are incredibly valuable in leading our RN and PN programs through these reviews. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank all of the nursing staff and faculty for their work and participation in this successful visit. Many thanks to the staff – **Meg Storrs, Kim Tinnel, and Beth Manns**, full-time faculty – **Kelly Colliver, Bruce Fugate, Teresa Miles, Mel Foxx, Abby Storrs, Holly Momper, and Cailee Christman** and part-time instructors - **Elaine Storrs, Bethany Baker, Pam Barnett, Sara Dawson, Hannah Handra, Angela Hardy, Sharon Hughes, Heather Boblitt, Lynsee Fields, and Emily Webb.**

Again, Congratulations to the Nursing Programs. We should all be very proud of the quality nursing programs we have here at SSCC. Thanks again to our Dean of Health Sciences, **Dr. Julie Krebs**, and the nursing faculty and staff for the outstanding programs they deliver. Well done!

STUDENT AFFAIRS

#1 Speaker Series Lunch & Learn: Kick-Off | Bystander Intervention Training

Over 30 SSCC employees and students attended the September 11 Speaker Series Kick-Off and Bystander Intervention Training on Central Campus. Bystander Intervention is defined as the willingness of someone to intervene in a potentially harmful situation and de-escalate it in a position way. Attendees were encouraged to follow the 3D's when facing that type of situation: Distract | Delegate | Direct.

The second Lunch & Learn will be held on Wednesday, October 9. Adjunct faculty member James Pearn JD will present a session entitled "Election: Democracy in Action."



SSCC Celebrates CONSTITUTION DAY: September 17, 2024

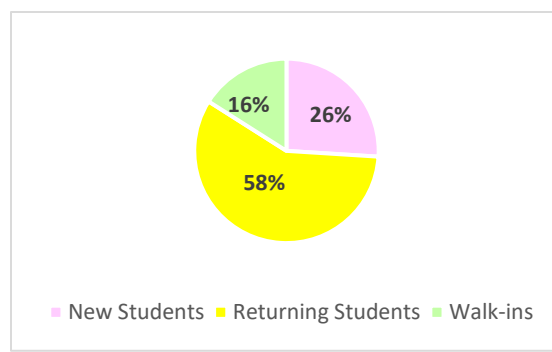
Student Affairs celebrated Constitution Day on September 17. Students and employees were encouraged to visit the display, play constitution trivia, and enjoy a snack. Special thanks to **Jaime Simmons** (Director of Financial Aid) and **Billie Powell** (Assistant Registrar) for organizing and setting up the display.



Academic Advisors

The Academic Advisors have been busy guiding students through the planning and registration process in preparation for the Fall term. The chart below gives an overview of how many students they have had contact with during the month of September.

NEW: TRAD/NON- TRADITIONAL	NEW: CCP	TOTAL NEW	RETURNING: TRAD/NON- TRADITIONAL	RETURNING: CCP	TOTAL RETURNING	WALK-INS	TOTAL ADVISING*
28	21	49	80	28	108	28	185



Accessibility and Learning Services

Accessibility Services (AS)

- Fifty-five students registered with Accessibility Services. That number is anticipated to increase this term. Students continue to connect and register with AS.
- Ten AS exams were proctored in September.
- **Ryan Hall** is working with **Cathy Zile** to audit Canvas to identify accessibility issues for Canvas to be accessible for all SSCC students. This will be an ongoing project. We met with a great vendor several times this summer and found a resource that would be tremendous for ALL of our students. A meeting was held with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) on September 12 to discuss possible funding options/resources.
- Faculty Senate invited Ryan and Cathy to share accessibility resources with SSCC faculty at their October 4 meeting.
- Brian Newton (OOD) visited Central campus on September 19 (was accessible via ZOOM as well) to share OOD resources with our campus community. He will return in October.

- Ryan continues to attend the Ohio Secretary of State's Accessibility Advisory Board meeting monthly. The Board is helping new leadership move forward.

Learning Services (LS)

- Tutors/Coaches have had 60+ tutoring sessions with students since the Fall term began.
- We are able to offer approx. 66 hours of tutoring services each week to students for the Fall term (serving both campuses and online students). These 66 weekly hours are approx. 60% increase in weekly tutoring hours compared to the same date in Fall 2023.
- Several faculty members have requested LS Coaches to come to their classrooms to talk about LS resources and provide writing and source citation tips and advice.

Admissions

Fall 2024 semester Admissions Department August 2024 data:

- NEW APPLICANTS:
 - Traditional/non-traditional students who submitted new applications or readmits:
 - 770 (159 were 2024 high school graduates)
 - Of those 770 students who applied, 262 registered for Fall 2024 classes (50 HS grads)
- CCP APPLICANTS:
 - CCP students who applied for the 2024-2025 school year: 1040
 - CCP applications completed and accepted: 871 (of the 871, 676 registered for Fall 2024)
 - CCP applications denied: 29
 - CCP applications that are still incomplete: 97

Financial Aid

2024-2025 FAFSA count to date: **1325** | 72 less than this time last year

The majority of Fall aid has already been disbursed. The breakdown is as follows:

Pell Grant	\$1,136,580
Federal Loans	\$ 694,047
SEOG Grant	\$ 48,450
Foundation	\$ 121,686
Trustee	\$ 59,891
State Grants	\$ 113,528
Outside Aid	<u>\$ 42,431</u>

Total Disbursed as of October 1 is **\$2,216,613.**

New Policies

Below are summaries of new policies required of higher education institutions. The full policy is included in the Board packet for your review. Upon approval of the President's Report, these policies will be published in the College Catalog and the website.

Conflicting Information Policy

In order to meet the standards for administrative capability at § 34 CFR 668.16(f), a school must have an adequate internal system to identify conflicting information that would affect a student's eligibility. An institution is required to resolve conflicting information regardless of the source or whether the student is selected for verification. Common examples of conflicting information include questions on the status of a student's high school diploma, academic progress, enrollment, and tax filing status. It can also arise from other offices such as admissions, the registrar, or academic affairs. If your school has conflicting information concerning a student's eligibility or you have any reason to believe the student's application information is incorrect, you must resolve the discrepancies before disbursing *Title IV* funds. If you discover discrepancies after disbursing *Title IV* funds, you must still reconcile the conflicting information and take appropriate action under the specific program requirements. Depending on the outcome, funds may have to be returned.

Though the requirements surrounding a school's requirement to resolve conflicting information have not changed, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) acknowledges the unique circumstances institutions are facing for the 2024-25 FAFSA processing year and announced in Electronic Announcement (GENERAL-24-11) that it would be significantly reducing verification requirements, while continuing key measures focused on avoiding identity fraud. The Department reminds institutions that they have the authority to select any Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) for verification if they suspect incorrect information or to resolve conflicting information.

Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment (FVT/GE)

New legislation has been enacted to create a transparency and accountability framework by which the Department of Education (ED) can assess "whether career programs meet the statutory requirement of preparing students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation." Per ED's fact sheet:

“Under the GE program accountability framework, the Department of Education assesses whether career programs meet the statutory requirement of preparing students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation using two separate and independent metrics...a debt-to-earnings rate and a new earnings premium test.”

The Financial Value Transparency (FVT) scope expands reporting requirements well beyond those programs identified as Gainful Employment (GE) programs. Under the July 1, 2024, regulation, institutions will be required to report all programs that share the same four-digit CIP code and have had 30 or more completers in total over the four most recent award years for both GE and non-GE programs. This includes the total number of recipients and non-recipients of Title IV and HEA funds enrolled in the program as well as student-level data for all recipients of Title IV and HEA funds.

These reporting requirements are a significant expansion over the 2014 GE regulations that were rescinded July 1, 2019.

Notice Regarding Financial Aid Fraud

Southern State Community College follows established guidelines for the prevention, identification of, and response to indications of identity theft and financial aid fraud. This notice provides a summary of student rights, responsibilities, and preventative measures regarding financial aid fraud.

Determining the Validity of High School Completion

New Regulations effective July 1, 2024, under administrative capability § 668.16(p), states that we have to develop and follow procedures to evaluate the validity of a student's high school completion if the institution has reason to believe that the high school diploma is not valid or was not obtained from an entity that provides secondary school education.

Records | Registrar

Summer Graduates

All diplomas have been mailed to students who completed their degree and/or certificate requirements at the end of the 2024 Summer Semester.

College Credit Plus

This Fall, 1,466 students have been funded through CCP, attending 50 different high schools (including home school), with 28 schools offering one or more SSCC courses on their campus.

Veteran Services

During the current 2024 Fall semester, 20 students have used their VA Education benefits. This is an increase from last Fall semester's student total of 15. The number of students utilizing their benefits has gradually been declining over the past 5 years, so it is good to see this number moving in a positive direction.

Registration

Spring semester is scheduled to begin on Monday, January 13, 2025. Registration for students will be opening on the following dates:

- Veteran and Services Members: Monday, October 21
- Sophomores: Monday, October 28
- Freshmen and New Students: Tuesday, October 29

Testing Center

The following chart shows the September 2024 testing activity of the testing centers in both Hillsboro and Mt. Orab. Testing is provided for those testing with Pearson Vue, taking an Accuplacer, the HESI exam for the nursing program application, ACT WorkKeys, Certiport, and proctored exams.

SEPTEMBER 2024 TESTING ACTIVITY LOG			
TEST	HILLSBORO TESTING CTR	MT. ORAB TESTING CTR	TOTALS
Pearson Vue	21	8	29
ACCUPLACER	19	0	19
HESI	11	2	13
ACT WorkKeys	3	0	3
Certiport	0	0	0
Proctored Exams	4	0	4
*ACCUPLACER	0	0	0
TOTALS:	58	10	68

*ACCUPLACERS given at high schools

Faculty Updates

Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs, **Dr. Erika Goodwin**, led an Efficiency Tool workshop on Friday, October 4 as part of the monthly Division Coordinator meeting. Faculty

Division Coordinators, other interested faculty, academic and student affairs administration, and staff gathered to learn about and use the new course break-even efficiency tool developed by **Dr. Steven Hinshaw**. Participants gleaned first-hand experience using the tool in their respective divisions to see what revenue courses made during the Fall semester. Dr. Goodwin explained how this tool would be an integral part of the Program Vitality review this Fall.

Dean of Academic Affairs, **Dr. Jeff Montgomery**, is working to finalize our first Co-curricular Assessment Report. This report takes a snapshot of what learning occurs among our students involved in non-academic endeavors at the College. Students and organizations involved in this year's Co-curricular Assessment Report include PTK Honor Society students, students involved in Theatre productions, Esports participants, and students taking part in our study abroad program. These students are assessed against our Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILO) in professionalism, culture and context, and communications using both direct and indirect assessment methods.

Calendar Highlights

- October 2024: Faculty Evaluation
- October & November: Program Review | Foreign Language and Psychology disciplines
- October 18: Assessment Committee
- November 22: Assessment Workshop | "Creating an Implementation Plan"

Study Abroad in Italy and Greece in 2025

Southern State, in partnership with EF Study Abroad, is offering current students and community members the opportunity to study abroad in Italy and Greece from May 18 to 27, 2025. Reservations are currently being accepted until February 1, 2025.

Aligned with the travel experience, Southern State offers a one-credit-hour lab-based course, Success on the Global Stage (COLL 1110), that runs concurrently with the trip and the weeks following. This course is highly recommended but only required to qualify for the \$1,500 scholarship, funded by the Sara M. Barrere Memorial Trust Study Abroad Scholarship.



A. Picture of the Colosseum in Rome

The study abroad program is led by Southern State's Professor of English, **Jeff Wallace**,

Philosophy Instructor **Sam Ginn**, and the Dean of Articulation and Transfer and Brown County Campus Director, **Dr. Peggy Chalker**. Professor Wallace has been leading these trips for the past 15 years.

For questions, and to learn more, please email Professor Wallace at jwallace@sscc.edu or call 800.628.7722, Ext. 3675. To view the planned itinerary and learn more about this great opportunity, please visit <https://www.sccc.edu/academics/study-abroad/index.shtml>.

Brown County Campus

Community Connections

Southern State is committed to our community partnerships. As a good neighbor and education partner, the Brown County Campus has provided needed venue space for public forums, chamber meetings, training space for court/peace officers, educators, and non-profit service groups, as well as meeting space for the county's Economic Development Office and potential companies for workforce growth. The College's willingness to accommodate with space not only showcases the resources of SSCC but presents the College as an educational anchor in the community.

Additionally, the College prides itself on participating in community events. During the most recent Brown County Fair Parade, our presence was recognized as many along the parade route shouted out with pride their recognition and connection to the College. Most notable of SSCC's impact on the community was the number of Fair Royalty attendants (8 of 10) who are current students (including the king and queen).

Southwest Ohio College Tech Prep Center

Grant Position

The College Tech Prep program works with both the Ohio Department of Higher Ed and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce partners to provide students access to career tech pathways. Students who start technical education in secondary education systems or adult training often earn credit that transfers as foundational courses into college technical programs. This program is grant-funded and managed through the ODEW's Office of Career-Technical Education and ODHE.

Southern State began its partnership with the Southwest Ohio College Tech Prep Center in 2018. That partnership provides a funded position to state higher education institutions in the region.

The employee is hired and housed by the partnering college and jointly managed by both the institution and the regional center. SSCC's Tech Prep liaison connects local career tech programs in high schools and career tech centers to the College's eligible twelve technical certificate and degree programs for this program. The liaison also connects College faculty to regional showcases to promote technical programs to potential students as well as professional development opportunities.

Southern State has committed to another year of partnership and is in the process of recruiting for the position.

Instructional Technology

September meetings and webinars of **Dr. Angel Mootispaw**, Director of Instructional Technology include:

- QM Ohio Executive Meeting
- Higher Ed Litigation Roundtable
- Transforming Curriculum
- Lorain County Community College: Simple Syllabus
- Quality Matters Coordinator Meeting
- HLC: Federal Compliance
- A Data-Driven Approach to Technology Adoption
- Quality Matters – Instructional Design Association Meeting
- Improve Accessibility with ScreenPal AI
- Instructure New and Next: Fall Product Updates for Higher Ed
- HLC: Open Pathway Overview
- United States Distance Learning (USDLA) Association Public Policy
- ACUE: Your Hub for Great Teaching, Explore the Commons

Updates from our LMS Administrator, **Cathy Zile**:

Enhancing our learning management system students use, Canvas, as well as researching better ways to utilize our syllabus management system, Simple Syllabus, has been an area of focus this past month.

Quick Glance: Canvas Enhancements -What's Changed?-Why?-When?

1. Speed Grader- Equation Editor: Added to Rich Content Editor
2. Assigning Modules: Available Now- On in our instance.

3. New Quiz Updates: Available Now On in our instance.
4. Enhanced Rubrics – (Phase 1): Available Now -On in our instance.
5. Enhanced Rubrics- (Phase 2): In Development
6. AI Updates: Smart Search: Available Now - On in our instance.
7. AI Discussion Summaries: Available Now- On in our instance.
8. AI Updates: Translations – In Development
9. Lucid Integration: Available Now - On in our instance.
10. Block Editor: Closed Alpha- moving into Beta next month
11. Edtech Collective Marketplace: Live Available Now -Instructure.com
12. Canvas Credentials: OB 3.0 In Development

Co-curricular News/ Events

Patriot Campus Ministries held a “See You at the Pole” event on September 25 as part of the Global Day of Student-Led Prayer. Interested students, faculty, and staff gathered at noon and 1:00 p.m. at our Central campus and 11:45 a.m. at our Brown County campus.



People In the News

Dr. Erika Goodwin was invited to be a panelist at the Wilmington College Women in Agriculture event on October 9. Goodwin has been a lifelong agricultural enthusiast, having grown up on a farm and been involved in various agricultural events and programs over the years. She and her husband and two daughters continue to farm, doing a small hay business and raising and showing cattle and other livestock.

Professor of English, **Jeff Wallace**, was recently selected as a reviewer for the Journal of Appalachian Studies and will begin editing texts for the journal in October.

Security

Gary Heaton, the College's Security and Emergency Response Coordinator, recently attended the "Everyone is a Recruiter" Workshop, the HFC Safety Council Meeting in Washington Court House, and participated in OP3 projects, with plans to attend the OP3 fall conference in October. He also attended a two-day Zoom Homeland Security/CISA 2024 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security, with sessions applicable to higher education as well.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Central Campus HVAC Renovation

Prospective Design-Build contractors conducted a pre-proposal site visit on September 27 to review existing equipment and conditions before submitting proposals by the October 4 deadline. Representatives from Sauer Group, Square 1 Heating and Cooling, and The Brewer-Garrett Company attended the walkthrough.

Southern State joined OFCC and Heapy Engineering representatives on October 8 to conduct proposal interviews for the overall project and contractor selection. All prospective Design-Build contractors are aware of the expedited need to replace the cooling tower with a startup by March 1.

Network Closet Power Upgrades

Our Central Campus in Hillsboro has several regional data closets with core network equipment to provide IT services for dedicated sections of the building. Several of these closets were recently updated to larger battery backup systems to allow increased operating times during building power outages.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Grants

Aspire

The state Aspire office recently released the FY24 end-of-year data. Our SSCC Aspire program had an increase of 19.25% in enrollment and an increase of 8.98% in measurable skill gain achievement compared to FY23 data. These two areas were both focal points of our PICP Program Improvement Plan for FY24. These superior results were accomplished by a unified effort of our staff members who participated in recruitment events to boost enrollment. The MSG achievement is attributed to student participation in regularly scheduled progress testing after completing 40 hours of class instruction.

Enrollment in the female Aspire class at the Clermont County Jail is dramatically increasing. Ten ladies are currently on a waiting list to enroll. Our next intake of new students for all classes will be the week of October 7.

Susan Armstrong attended the 2-day Aspire Director's Meeting on September 24 and 25. **Kathy Pierson** from the Business Office attended Day 1 when the Bruman Group provided information on WIOA updates. The Bruman Group is nationally recognized for its federal grant management and education practice. **Sally Orihood**, Lead Instructor, attended Day 2 when the state Aspire staff addressed topics such as state policy, budgeting, and LACES, our data management system.

Super RAPIDS

As a part of the Super RAPIDS purchase, an EV car was ordered through SWITCH Vehicles and was delivered in mid-September. The vehicle will be included in select Engineering and Computer Information Technology classes.

Choose Ohio First Scholar

On September 30, **Lisa Hord**, Project Support Specialist, hosted the Choose Ohio First Scholar participant for a "Pizza and Pictures" event at Central Campus. The event was used as a meet-and-greet of the cohort to discuss future events, take pictures for media usage, and speak with some of the program's and college's faculty and staff. All five students attended the event.

Ohio Code Scholar Program

As part of the Ohio Code Scholar program support, **Blaine Parker** recently joined the team to assist with the program's outreach and technical assistance and to assist the Computer Information Technology program with student retention and transferability. Blaine is a Southern State and University of Cincinnati graduate in Cybersecurity, Networking, and Programming, and he reports to **Amy McClellan**. This position is funded by Ohio Code Scholar-appropriated funding.

Workforce Development

Truck Driving Academy (Class A and Class B)

	2023/2024	2024/2025
July	43	8
August	14	17
September	25	9
October	17	
November	22	
December	2	
January	19	
February	18	
March	0	
April	26	
May	14	
June	17	
Y-T-D	217	34

JT Smith, Director of the Truck Driving Academy, attended his annual Training Managers classes in September. This training prepares other managers to learn and operate a truck driving academy by the rules and regulations of the governing bodies.

Executive Director of Workforce Development

Amy McClellan, Executive Director of Workforce Development, attended the September Safety Council Meeting, which was hosted at Central Campus. The topic was how to respond to policies regarding marijuana users and the workplace.

A team from Southern State participated in the Highland County Chamber Golf Outing. **Dr. Joshua Montgomery**, **Tyler Bick**, **Lisa Hord**, and **Amy McClellan** represented the College, and

while they did not win the tournament, it was a great event for networking. Amy McClellan also won the women's longest drive on the day!

In addition to attending the Adams/Brown Business Advisory Committee meeting, Ms. McClellan also participated in the SSLI two-day conference in Columbus, Ohio, including the Ohio Workforce League meeting.

Communications and Marketing

Southern State Voted Best Local Community College



CONNECT to a CAREER

Southern State offers a variety of **technical and transfer programs** that emphasize real-world skills.

We continually review curriculum to **align our academic offerings with workforce demand** and have recently **expanded programs** to keep pace in the ever-changing fields of health, human and social services, computing, engineering, business and more.

TUITION COMPARISON

College	Tuition
Southern State Community College	\$5,282
Average University Tuition in Ohio*	\$12,466

*Average tuition based on 2023-2024 data. Source: Fall 2023 Survey of Southern Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Connect with us today at **800.628.7722** or visit us online at **www.sssc.edu**.

SPONSOR PROFILE

Southern State is Your Community College

SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

With two campus locations—Brown County Campus in Mt. Orab and Central Campus in Hillsboro—Southern State Community College provides close-to-home convenience and a supportive community experience. The college also offers courses in aviation maintenance, airframe and powerplant at Laurel Oaks in Wilmington—Clinton County. Delivering on its mission to provide an affordable, accessible, high-quality education, Southern State offers associate degree programs, certificate programs, bachelor's degree completion through on-site partnership agreements, adult basic literacy courses, GED (ASPIRE) and workforce training programs.

Southern State graduates roughly 300 students annually with degrees and certificates. The college maintains relationships with many area high schools through Ohio's College Credit Plus program. As a percentage of our total credits, roughly 60% are taken by CCP students.

The college has over 20 four-year partners with a broad variety of transfer pathways. Southern State prides itself on developing relationships that encourage students to stay in the area even to finish a bachelor's degree. Beyond credit, Southern State offers a Truck

Driving Academy, Workforce Development training and an Adult Opportunity Center. Looking Ahead, Southern State's mission has remained constant: Affordable, Accessible, and High-Quality Education. Southern State's vision is to strive to be an indispensable entity in the community.

"I believe community colleges are often the hidden engine that can drive shared prosperity," says Dr. Nicole Boulton, SSCC president. "Too often we think of 'college' to mean four-year universities yet, community college enrollment accounts for nearly 40% of all undergraduate students."

Southern State would love to CONNECT with you. To learn more, please call at 1-800-628-7722 or visit www.sssc.edu.

Value of Community Colleges

- National Level: Nearly 1,000 community colleges across America
- Community Colleges enroll over 8 million students (credit and non-credit/ workforce students)
- In Ohio, there are 23 community colleges; roughly 170,000 students attend (university 26.9K branch campuses 14K)
- Southern State is part of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges
- Affordability, Accessibility, and Transfer: Ohio Community College average \$5,282 v. Ohio public 4-yr avg. \$12,466 (2021-2022). Community Colleges are open enrollment. Transfer is convenient and saves families money through Ohio Transfer 36 and numerous Articulation Agreements.
- Community Colleges serve a diverse audience: First-generation students, minority students, and adult students seeking to improve their economic prospects

GREATER CINCINNATI FAMILY CHOICE AWARDS WINNER

SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

August/September 2024 • www.cincyregion.com 33

Cincy Magazine – a local, veteran, family-owned publication in the Cincinnati area, opened nominations for their 2024 Family Choice Awards Campaign in early 2024. The purpose of the Family Choice Awards Campaign is to recognize those who are the best in providing services and products to Greater Cincinnati families. The nominations consisted of written responses in several categories by *Cincy Magazine*'s paid subscribers, with the top three mentions advancing to the finals. Southern State, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, and Beckfield College made the final ballot. Voting started on April 29 for three weeks. The public voted during that time in multiple categories with nearly 19,000 overall votes recorded. Southern State Community College was voted winner in the following category: **Local Community College!**

Southern State is featured in the magazine's August/September 2024 issue with a full-page spread (included image). This publication is delivered to approximately 15,000 mailboxes with about 3-4 times the readership that access the magazine via digital version.

Presence Report

Southern State Community College			
Marketing Area	July	August	September
Press Release	5	9	5
Advertising / Print	10+	10+	5+
Email Campaigns	1	1	1
Emails Deployed	25,000	25,000	25,000
Number Opened	4,071	4,391	3,924
Percentage Opened	16.28%	17.56%	15.70%
Clicks within content	515	729	735
Percentage of total clicks	2.06%	2.92%	2.94%
Social Media/Geofencing	1	1	1
Impressions/ads Deployed	46,799	50,746	45,824
Clicks	471	339	706
CTR (click through rate)	1.01%	0.67%	1.54%
Top 3 locations of activity	Wilmington, Clinton Co. Fair, Lake Waynoka - Sardinia (big event on 7/20 open to public)	Wilmington, Greenfield, Georgetown	Wilmington, Greenfield, Georgetown

Truck Driving Academy			
Marketing Area	July	August	September
Email Campaigns			
Emails Deployed	25,000	25,000	25,000
Number opened	4,904	3,902	5,234
Percentage Opened	19.62%	15.61%	20.94%
Clicks within content	553	612	629
Percentage of open and clicked	2.21%	2.45%	2.52%
Audience Management	1	1	1
Impressions/ads Deployed	54,171	57,311	63,632
Clicks	121	67	62
CTR (click through rate)	0.22%	0.12%	0.10%

Recent Southern State Appearances

Since the last report, Southern State has appeared in the following media outlets:

- **Press Releases**
 - SSCC Board of Trustees to meet September 19 (*Highland Co. Press*)
 - Southern State Wraps up Another Successful Patriot Palooza Campaign (*Highland Co. Press, Wilmington News Journal, WCH Record-Herald*) ([Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence](#))
 - Southern State to Host Healthcare Simulation Open House and Career Fair on September 18 (*Wilmington News Journal, Highland Co. Press, People's Defender*) ([Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence](#))
 - 2024 Fall Semester Experiences Enrollment Increase (*Wilmington News Journal, WCH Record Herald, Highland Co. Press*) ([Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence](#))

- SSCC Awards Dylan Philip Wilson and Nathan Paeltz Memorial Scholarship to Rebeca Roblero-Solis and Alicia Wagner (*Highland Co. Press, Times-Gazette*) (*Student Success*)
- **Advertising/Print/Direct Mail:**
 - September e-blast promoting the 2025 Spring Semester registration start date (*Enrollment*)
 - September e-blast promoting Oct. – Dec. start dates for the TDA program (*Enrollment, Workforce Development*)
 - September ads for the Highland Co. Press promoting spring semester reg. date of 10/29 (*Enrollment*)
 - Ripley Union Lewis Huntington yearbook and student newspaper ads (*Enrollment*)
 - North Adams HS Basketball Program ad (*Enrollment*)

- **Social Media:**

- **Facebook:**

Business Program Pathway Ad (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)

- Active- Sept. 26th-Oct.16th
- Post Engagements: 289
- Reach: 535
- Impressions: 589



Education Program Pathway Ad (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)

- Active- Sept. 30th-Oct.10th
- Reach: 383
- Impressions: 388

TDA Commercial Ad (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)

- Reach: 4,634
- Impressions: 5,490
- Link Clicks: 29
- Click-Through-Rate: 0.53%



Professional Development Series Ad (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)

- Reach: 4,569
- Impressions: 9,470
- Link Clicks: 271
- Click-Through-Rate: 2.86%

Attended the Brown County Fair Parade (*Relevance and Excellence*)

- Posted photos from the event
- Post Reached: 1,593
- Post Engagement: 205

LinkedIn

Search Appearances: 73 (+12.3%) (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)

- Page Views: 132 (+50%)
- Unique Visitors: 69 (+23.2%)
- Followers: 5,278
- New Followers: 75 (+36.4%)
- Post about student enrollment:
 - Impressions: 1,363
 - Engagement Rate: 4.33%

TikTok

- Post Views: 2,420 (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)
- Followers: 28 (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)
- New Followers in September: 4 (*Enrollment, Relevance and Excellence*)

• Events/Publications

- 2025 Spring/Summer Reg. Guide
- Water Workshop Brochures for Barnesville and North Canton (*Workforce Development*)
- OACC Advocacy Update: Southern State Sees Nearly 7% Enrollment Growth for Fall 2024 (*Enrollment*)
- School-day matinee theatre performance invitation letters (mailed to 20+ school districts across five counties)
- UC's Jack Miner speaks with WVXU on community colleges being a pathway to four-year degrees – and mentions Southern State specifically. (*Relevance & Excellence*)

Recruitment

Presence Report

September 1 – September 30

Campus Visits	
Central Campus	2
Brown County Campus	0
Program Information Requests	
Business	18

Law Enforcement	5
Health Sciences	28
Engineering	4
Computer Science	7
HSSR	5
Education	11
AA/AS	1

Events Attended & Professional Development

SSCC Recruiter, **Kaylynn Bell-Wolfinger**, attended the following events and professional development sessions:

- Brown L.E.A.D.S.
- Amazon Career Choice
- OMJ Fall Job Resource Fair
- Jenzabar Article: *How College and University Presidents are Navigating Uncertainty*
- Kick Off Speaker Series
- Webinar: *Shattering Enrollment Silos*
- Jenzabar Article: *Does Higher Ed Have the Tools to Overcome Future Challenges?*

Events Outcome

Everyone's a Recruiter Workshop—Dress Code and Table Set Up

Attendance: 17 total (11 in person, six via Zoom)

Faculty—1

Staff—16

Program Overview: The session was a reiteration of the previous presentation regarding table setup and dress code facilitated by the Communications Department two years ago. Good turnout that resulted in many questions and insight.

Other Projects

- Everyone's a Recruiter Workshop Series
- Team: Lead 50th Anniversary Committee
- Connect to College
- Highland County College Fair
- Aspire Outreach



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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 94
135th General Assembly

Final Analysis

[Click here for S.B. 94's Fiscal Note](#)

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Brenner and Landis

Effective date: October 24, 2024; appropriations effective July 24, 2024

Alyssa Bethel, Attorney and other LSC staff

UPDATED VERSION*

SUMMARY

Campus accountability and modernization

Policy on harassment and intimidation

- Requires state institutions of higher education and private for-profit colleges to adopt and enforce a policy on racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation.
- Requires private nonprofit institutions of higher education to adopt and enforce a policy on racial and ethnic harassment and intimidation.
- Requires that each institution's policy include related training, complaint procedures, creation of an anti-hate task force, and collaboration to increase security.

Committee on combating harassment and intimidation

- Requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish a committee on combating antisemitism and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation.

Harassment and intimidation reports

- Requires each institution of higher education to submit an annual report to the Chancellor of all harassment and intimidation reports submitted to the federal government consistent with the federal Clery Act.

Time, place, and manner restrictions

- Requires each state institution to publicize any time, place, or manner restrictions it places on its students' expressive activities.

* This version updates the effective date.

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DETAILED ANALYSIS

Campus accountability and modernization

Policy on harassment and intimidation

The act requires each state institution of higher education and degree-granting, private for-profit college to adopt and enforce a policy on racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation at the institution or college. Under the act, a “state institution of higher education” is any state university, university branch, or community, state community, or technical college. The act also requires each private nonprofit institution of higher education to adopt a policy on racial and ethnic harassment and intimidation at the institution.

The act defines “harassment” as unwelcome conduct that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies an individual equal access to the individual’s education program or activity. It defines “intimidation” as a violation of ethnic intimidation as described under Ohio criminal law.

Under the act, an institution’s or college’s policy must include training for all administration, faculty, and staff. The training must provide information on how to respond to hate incidents or harassment that occur during a class or event held at the institution or college at the time the incident occurs. The training may be provided online.

Each state institution and for-profit college’s policy also must include a procedure under which the institution accepts and investigates student complaints and allegations of racial, religious, or ethnic harassment or intimidation against any student, staff, or faculty member. Each private nonprofit institution of higher education’s policy must include the same, except that complaints of religious harassment or intimidation are excluded.

Each institution’s or college’s procedure must include an option for anonymous reporting of complaints and threats and potential disciplinary actions that may be taken after an investigation is conducted. The procedure must also include any mandatory communications, regardless of whether disciplinary action is taken. These communications may include educational information on the institution’s policy against harassment and intimidation.

The act requires each institution or college to ensure that, to the extent possible and as needed, its campus security and police department, if it has one, collaborates with local law enforcement, the State Highway Patrol, and student communities to provide security functions for institutionally sanctioned student organizations that face threats of terror attack or hate crimes. For private nonprofit institutions, the act specifies that those functions must be consistent with institutional policies.

Under the act, each state institution and for-profit college must create a campus task force on combating antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Christian discrimination, and hatred, harassment, bullying, or violence toward others on the basis of their actual religious identity or what is assumed to be their religious identity at the institution or college. Private nonprofit institutions of higher education are required to do the same, except that whether those actions are taken on the basis of one’s actual religious identity or what is assumed to be their religious identity at the institution is excluded.

The act states that none of the requirements related to a state institution or for-profit college’s policy on harassment and intimidation at an institution may be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Article I of the Ohio Constitution, or noncommercial expressive activity under Ohio law.¹ For private nonprofit institutions, the act states that in the event of a conflict between the policy requirements and the U.S. Constitution, any other provision of federal law applicable to nonprofit

¹ R.C. 3320.05, 3320.06, and 3320.07. See also R.C. 2927.12, 3345.011, and 3345.0211, none in the act.

institutions of higher education, or Article I, Sections 3 and 11 of the Ohio Constitution, the other provision of law controls.²

Committee on combating harassment and intimidation

The act requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to establish a committee on combating antisemitism and other forms of racial, religious, and ethnic harassment and intimidation. The committee must consist of representatives from each of the following:

1. Legal counsel from state institutions or private for-profit colleges;
2. Offices of student life from state institutions or for-profit colleges;
3. Institutionally sanctioned student organizations from state institutions and for-profit colleges;
4. The Inter-University Council of Ohio;
5. The Ohio Association of Community Colleges;
6. Organizations representing faith-based communities;
7. Organizations representing racial and ethnic communities; and
8. Any other stakeholders determined appropriate by the Chancellor.

The committee must develop a model policy, guidance, best practices, and recommendations for further action for policies adopted by state institutions and for-profit colleges. It must include all of the following in its model policy, guidance, best practices, and recommendations:

1. A review of current investigation procedures and recommendations to increase transparency of the process and outcome that is allowable under existing state and federal law;
2. Model training requirements for all institution or college administration, faculty, and staff providing information on how to respond to hate crimes or incidents of harassment or intimidation during a class or event at the time the incident occurs;
3. Best practices for collaboration with local, state, and federal law enforcement to enhance security functions for students that face threats of terror attacks and hate crimes;
4. A framework to promote an institution's conduct policies;
5. Recommended definitions to incorporate in policies adopted under the act; and
6. Model procedures for investigating student complaints submitted through procedures developed under the act including communication to students on complaints submitted to institutions.

The Chancellor must issue a report containing the committee's model policy, guidance, best practices, and recommendations by July 1, 2025. The Chancellor must submit the report to

² R.C. 3320.06(D).

the Governor, President and Minority Leader of the Senate, and Speaker and Minority Leader of the House.³

Harassment and intimidation reports

Under the act, each state institution of higher education, private for-profit college, and private nonprofit institution of higher education must submit an annual report to the Chancellor of all harassment and intimidation reports submitted to the federal government consistent with the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics or “Clery” Act.⁴

Information on time, place, and manner restrictions

The act requires each state institution of higher education to publicize any time, place, or manner restrictions it places on the expressive activities of its students.⁵

Campus Student Safety Grant Program

The act requires the Chancellor to establish and administer the Campus Student Safety Grant Program. Under the program, the Chancellor must award grants to state institutions, private nonprofit institutions, and private for-profit colleges to enhance security measures and increase student safety. The Chancellor must develop guidelines and procedures for the program, including an application process, criteria for awards, and a method to determine the distribution of awards. The Chancellor must give priority to institutions or colleges that demonstrate increased threats of violent crime, terror attacks, hate crimes, or harassment toward students and institutionally sanctioned student organizations. The act appropriates \$1 million in FY 2025 to support the program.⁶

Campus Community Grant Program

The act requires the Chancellor to establish and administer the Campus Community Grant Program. Under the program, the Chancellor must provide funding to institutionally sanctioned student organizations at institutions of higher education to support intergroup and interfaith outreach and cultural competency between institutionally sanctioned student organizations. The Chancellor must develop guidelines and procedures for the program, including an application process, criteria for awards, and a method to determine the distribution of awards. The act appropriates \$1 million in FY 2025 to support the program.⁷

Campus Security Support Program

The act appropriates \$2 million in FY 2025 to the Campus Security Support Program. Under the program, the Chancellor must distribute the appropriated funds to institutionally

³ Section 8.

⁴ R.C. 3320.07; see also 20 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1092(f).

⁵ R.C. 3320.08. See also 3345.0211, 3345.0212, and 3345.0213, none in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 3333.80 and Section 4.

⁷ R.C. 3333.801 and Section 4.

Conflicting Information Policy

Conflicting information occurs when information reported, either verbally or on any documentation submitted to any office at Southern State Community College, does not match the information being reported on the FAFSA or supplemental forms/documents and the discrepancy affects eligibility or is of sufficient magnitude to materially affect the amount and types of aid a student is eligible to receive.

Federal regulations mandate that a school must have a system of identifying and resolving discrepancies in all FSA-related information received by any school office. A school must resolve discrepancies for all students, not just those selected for verification. Resolution includes determining what information is correct and documenting the school's finding. Conflicting information must be resolved before awarding/disbursing aid or making a professional judgment adjustment. If conflicting information arises after a student's aid was originally disbursed, the school may remove any disbursements of aid from a student's account and require resolution of any conflicting information before disbursing any further aid. If this occurs, the student may be liable to the College for any balance owed as a result of receiving aid that he/she wasn't eligible for based on the conflicting information.

Common sources of conflicting information and possible resolutions can be, but are not limited to:

- Social Security number possible resolution: social security card
- Date of Birth possible resolution: official birth certificate
- Name change possible resolution: court documentation showing name was legally changed and/or social security card
- Dependency status possible resolutions: official birth certificate, court documentation showing orphan/ward of the court status, legal guardianship or legal emancipation, proof of income or support, proof of homelessness, DD-214, etc.
- Marital status (student and/or parent) possible resolutions: marriage certificate, divorce decree, proof of separation, proof of maintenance of separate residences for more than 6 months of the tax year in question (copy of lease, mortgage statement, etc.), and/or utility bills for more than 6 months of the tax year in question showing separate residences for the tax filer and/or the spouse.

Note: If marital and/or tax filing status was correctly filed for the tax year on the FAFSA, but the marital status is different as of the date the FAFSA was completed, then marriage certificate, divorce decree, proof of separation, and/or proof of maintenance of separate residences from the date of separation on the FAFSA or for 6 months, whichever is greater.

- Admissions status (and High School Completion) possible resolutions: proof of high school graduation, GED, proof of completion of a Bachelor's degree, etc.
- Income and taxes paid possible resolutions: IRS tax transcript, IRS Wage and Income Statement, W-2 Form, Schedule C tax form, 1099-C form, Amended tax return, paystub, etc.
- Tax filing status possible resolutions: marriage certificate, divorce decree, proof of separation, proof of maintenance of separate residences for more than 6 months of the tax year in question (copy of lease, mortgage statement, etc.), utility bills for more than 6 months of the tax year in question showing

separate residences for the tax filer and/or the spouse, IRS 1040X form and IRS Tax Account Transcript showing amendment to filing status was made.

Note: If marital and/or tax filing status was correctly filed for the tax year on the FAFSA, but the marital status is different as of the date the FAFSA was completed, then marriage certificate, divorce decree, proof of separation, and/or proof of maintenance of separate residences from the date of separation on the FAFSA or for 6 months, whichever is greater.

- Number in household possible resolutions: proof of support and/or income for household member(s), OH Dept. of Social Services (DPSS) statement of benefits, proof of residence, etc.
- NSLDS data possible resolutions: birth certificate, social security card, marriage certificate, legal court documentation of name change, letter from loan guarantor, etc.
- The student and/or parent transferred their IRS tax information into the FAFSA, however they also stated that they did not file taxes.

A student may be asked to submit written documentation and/or additional information to clarify or correct information. This action may be in conjunction with the Verification process or a separate request. Financial aid administrators have the authority to request any documentation they need in order to resolve discrepancies, per section 479A of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the regulations at 34 CFR 668.51(b), 34 CFR 668.54(a)(3), 34 CFR 668.54(a)(5), 34 CFR 668.60(a), 34 CFR 668.60(b)(1), 34 CFR 668.60(c)(2) and 34 CFR 668.60(d).

It is at the discretion of the Office of Financial Aid as to which documentation is necessary to reasonably resolve the conflicting information. If there is reason to believe a student has intentionally submitted incorrect data or withheld information to gain access to federal, state, or institutional student aid, their student financial aid package may be cancelled and/or additional administrative action taken. Additionally, other offices must notify the Financial Aid office or the individual responsible for administering Title IV program of all the information received that may impact a student's financial aid status, such as but not limited to the following:

- Admissions & Records Office- Residency Status, college transcripts, change of enrollment status
- Fiscal/Foundation Office- any outside assistance received toward educational expenses

If the Office of Financial Aid has reason to believe that a student may have engaged in fraud, including false statements of income, when that information is credible and affects eligibility for financial aid or the amount of financial aid, SSCC must report this to the Office of the Inspector General in accordance with 34 CFR 668.16(g). Fraud involves false information with intent to deceive

Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment (FVT/GE)

What is the Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment (FVT/GE) Act?

It is new legislation enacted to create a transparency and accountability framework by which the Department of Education (ED) can assess “whether career programs meet the statutory requirement of preparing students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” Per ED’s fact sheet:

“Under the GE program accountability framework, the Department of Education assesses whether career programs meet the statutory requirement of preparing students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation using two separate and independent metrics...a debt-to-earnings rate and a new earnings premium test.”

The Financial Value Transparency (FVT) scope expands reporting requirements well beyond those programs identified as Gainful Employment (GE) programs. Under the July 1, 2024, regulation, institutions will be required to report all programs that share the same four-digit CIP code and have had 30 or more completers in total over the four most recent award years for both GE and non-GE programs. This includes the total number of recipients and non-recipients of Title IV and HEA funds enrolled in the program as well as student-level data for all recipients of Title IV and HEA funds. These reporting requirements are a significant expansion over the 2014 GE regulations that were rescinded July 1, 2019.

What is the difference between the FVT and GE regulations?

Per Federal Student Aid (FSA) in its [FSA Dear Colleague Letter \(GEN-24-04\)](#):

“The FVT regulations are designed to improve the quality and availability of information provided directly to students about the costs, sources of financial aid, and outcomes of students enrolled in all title IV, HEA (Title IV) eligible programs. These regulations establish two measures: the debt-to-earnings measure and the earnings premium measure. The regulations also establish performance benchmarks for each measure to determine whether the program may have adverse financial consequences to students. These requirements apply to both Gainful Employment Programs (GE Programs) and Eligible Non-GE Programs, but do not affect program eligibility for Non-GE programs.

The GE regulations establish an accountability framework for GE Programs that uses the same earnings premium and debt-to-earnings measures to determine whether a GE program remains eligible for Title IV funds. These requirements can affect program eligibility and apply only to GE Programs. The GE regulations do not apply to Eligible Non-GE Programs.”

How does FVT/GE impact my institution?

Even if your institution does not offer ANY programs classified as GE-eligible under the new regulations, you must report any non-GE programs and the students attending those programs, including all recipients of Title IV and HEA funds. Essentially, this means that nearly EVERY participating institution will be impacted by the FVT/GE legislation reporting requirements and should anticipate having to meet the reporting requirements by the October 1, 2024, deadline

Notice Regarding Financial Aid Fraud

Southern State Community College (SSCC) follows established guidelines for the prevention, identification of, and response to indications of identity theft and financial aid fraud. This notice provides a summary of student rights, responsibilities, and preventative measures regarding financial aid fraud.

What are Identity Theft and Financial Aid Fraud?

1) The first is when unscrupulous individuals use personally identifying information of other people (identity theft) to apply for admission to college and to receive financial aid, and then enroll in classes. Often, the victimized “student” is not aware that they have been enrolled in classes, and the financial aid refunds in their name are sent to the individual who is perpetrating the fraud. This frequently results in the victimized student being left with unpaid debt at the institution and with the U.S. Department of Education due to student loans that were obtained in their name. These students must then go through the difficult and often expensive process of establishing that those debts are not legitimately theirs.

2) The second is when individuals use their own personal information to apply for admission to a college, apply for financial aid, and enroll in college courses with no intention of completing those courses. The student’s tuition and fees are usually paid by financial aid funds, and the student receives refunds of financial aid funds in excess of those costs. Perspective and current students should be aware that enrolling in classes and accepting financial aid with no intent to complete classes may be considered financial aid fraud. When you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), your signature certifies that financial aid funds will be used for educational purposes. This includes attending your registered classes, actively participating in those classes, and completing registered classes. Often these students continue to receive financial aid funds until they are no longer eligible due to their failure to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards (SAP). Based on guidance issued by the Office of the Inspector General at the U.S Department of Education, SSCC has instituted procedures designed to identify those students who may be committing financial aid fraud, as well as those at risk of being a victim of this crime.

What Happens When Identity Theft or Financial Aid Fraud is Suspected on My Account?

When a SSCC student is identified as being a potential victim or perpetrator of financial aid fraud, their account at the college is placed on a restriction. This restriction prevents the student from accessing their college records and prevents the disbursement of any pending financial aid funds. To have that restriction lifted, the student is required to meet in person with an official of the college. Initial documentation required during this meeting:

- A state issued photo ID
- Your Social Security Card
- Proof of High School Graduation (Official High School Diploma or GED)

The student may be asked questions particular to their status to positively determine their identity and intent as a student at SSCC. As a result of the meeting, the student may be asked to submit additional documentation to confirm their status as a student. This documentation may include, but not be limited to:

- Official transcripts from any other institution of higher education the student previously attended
- Proof of residency at address listed on the student's college records
- Utility bill or other documentation to confirm your status

Please note that SSCC reserves the right to leave the restriction in place until requested documentation has been submitted or otherwise confirmed the student's status. In recent years, Financial Aid Fraud has increased dramatically. This crime has the potential to cause extensive economic loss for students, the institutions, and the taxpaying public. In cases where SSCC finds that there is significant reason to be concerned that financial aid fraud is occurring, the institution has an obligation to refer that information to the Office of The Inspector General of the United States Department of Education. In these instances, the college will leave the restriction in place until instructed by the Department of Education that it is appropriate to lift the restriction. Students who are victims of identity theft and/or financial aid fraud are urged to file a police report and seek assistance from appropriate authorities outside of the college. This may include contacting credit bureaus and your banking institution. For more information, please copy/paste this link in your browser to learn more about how to protect yourself from identity theft.

Determining Validity of High School Completion

New Regulations effective July 1, 2024, under administrative capability § 668.16(p), states we have to develop and follow procedures to evaluate the validity of a student's high school completion if the institution has reason to believe that the high school diploma is not valid or was not obtained from an entity that provides secondary school education. Below is the written policy that describes the procedures Southern State Community College will follow to confirm validity of any questionable documents received related to high school completion.

Southern State Community College validates high school completion by receipt of a final high school transcript that includes the high school graduation date. If there is reason to believe a final high school transcript received is inauthentic or was granted by an ineligible post-secondary institution, SSCC will request a written statement from the entity to verify the authenticity. SSCC may also request a written description of course requirement or a written statement from the high school attesting to the rigor and quality of its coursework if needed.