

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.

MAY 2025 | DR. NICOLE ROADES, PRESIDENT

Closely Monitoring an Active Legislative Agenda

In addition to following Ohio's budget process, the State and Federal legislative developments are certainly keeping higher education leaders busy. While there are many orders and proposals to consider, the most recent to garner our attention include the following:

- **Federal Reconciliation Bill** - The House Education & Workforce Committee on Monday, April 28, released its portion of the [reconciliation bill](#), which proposes several extensive changes to Department of Education (ED) programs and initiatives, including the federal Pell Grant program, federal student loan system, need analysis, and more. This Bill includes far-reaching changes that will certainly alter financial aid from a student and institutional standpoint.
- **HB62 | College Credit Plus** – As OACC expected, the House Education Committee held a 4th hearing this week for interested party testimony on [HB 62](#) which deals with CCP textbook cost-sharing and default reimbursement rates. We continue to monitor this bill closely. Representative Pizzulli has graciously accepted my request for a meeting on Tuesday, May 6.
- **HB 96 | Operating Appropriation FY 2026-27** – The Bill rests in the Ohio Senate where much of the attention will be devoted to budget hearings. These committee meetings are expected to run through mid-May. OACC will be advocating for the House version of the budget, highlighting community colleges' impact, and advocating for the commonsense compliance amendment.

Ohio Code Scholar Third Annual Showcase

On Tuesday, May 13, Southern State will host the third annual end-of-year celebration for students, faculty, and staff involved in the Ohio Code Scholar (OCS) project. This event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. The project showcase and awards will be featured in the Patriot Center in addition to workshop experiences for students that will occur throughout campus.

OCS is a program introduced in 2021 by then Representative Shane Wilkin, now Senator Wilkin, in House Bill 166 of the 133rd General Assembly. OCS aims to create a robust learning opportunity for secondary students across southern Ohio to equip them with essential technical skills, including coding, afforded to students in more affluent districts. Ultimately, we joined with Mr. Wilkin to ensure that children across Appalachia are competitive in the 21st-century workplace.

This celebration is an annual culmination of work among Southern Ohio students, faculty, and staff, supporting the OCS program. It has grown from a couple of hundred students across a few schools to over 700 students across 17 schools. Past showcase celebrations have featured student creations of dome projects (2023) and battle droids (2024). This year, students will feature their creativity around wearable droids.

Special recognition is extended to computer science professor **Dr. Josh Montgomery**, his students, and his dependable colleague and event organizer, **Mrs. Amy McClellan**, for their outstanding efforts in sustaining and growing an exceptional technology-based program across southern Ohio.

Strategic Enrollment Planning Process Reaches Halfway Marker

I have been reporting since early 2025, on the progress our institution is making toward the development of a strategic enrollment management plan with the assistance and consultation of Ruffalo Noel-Levitz. I am pleased to report that this major strategic priority is reaching a halfway marker and key elements of the plan are taking shape.

The most recent onsite consultation was hosted on April 10-11. During that engagement, the Executive Leadership Team, upon recommendation from the Steering Committee, agreed to extend the project into July to give the teams more time to work through their proposals. These teams will share a virtual work session in late May and will finalize strategy/plan development in mid-June. The final goal development and implementation meeting is slated for July 8-9.

I can't express enough the gratitude I have for those who are fully embracing this work and stretching themselves to develop strategies and ideas that will support our enrollment targets necessary for long-term sustainability.

Southern State Students Named to All-Ohio Academic Team

The All-Ohio Academic Award is a collaboration between the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society, and Honda, the event sponsor. Awards are extended to top-performing students nominated by college faculty, staff, and campus leaders. There are first, second, and third-team honors, all with varying levels of financial award.

The College is pleased to announce that **Alanna Mays** of Winchester was assigned not only to the All-Ohio First Team but has also been recognized as a New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar in the All-USA Academic Team competition. This competition was held on April 15 in Nashville, TN at the Phi Theta Kappa's President's Breakfast held during the American Association of Community College's Annual Convention. Alanna received the highest score in the state of Ohio in the All-USA Academic Team competition.

Also being named to the All-Ohio Academic Team as part of the Third Team are: **Chandra Dean** of Greenfield, **Adam (Joshua) Heizer** of Hillsboro, and **Madison Newman** of Washington Court House.

These students were recognized during a virtual recognition ceremony held by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges on May 1. We are proud to have them representing SSCC!

Exploring Strategic Planning Consulting Options

You may recall my interest in realigning the strategic plan to coincide with the fiscal year start (July) rather than the calendar year. As such, this timeline adjustment has changed our regularly scheduled March retreat. I recognize the sensitivity of everyone's schedule to make time for such an extended meeting, and I hope to have a definitive timeline in the coming weeks.

Recognizing the rapidly evolving higher education environment and the vulnerability, particularly of small colleges, I believe the next strategic plan may be among the most important that we have ever cast. As such, I believe we need expert facilitation among experienced and knowledgeable professionals capable of helping us revisit our vision and mission and shape strategies that position us to weather the tumultuous higher education landscape. In the next few weeks, we will be speaking with potential consultants.

President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Meeting with Congressman Dave Taylor | 50th Anniversary Proclamation
- Maysville Chamber Women's Leadership Summit Participant Call
- Maysville Chamber Women's Leadership Summit | Maysville, KY
- Meeting with Veregy Representatives
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce | Board Meetings
- Cincinnati Reds Opening Day Event | Brown County Campus
- Networking Breakfast Meeting
- SEP Strategy Action Team Virtual Kick-Off Call with RNL
- Op-Ed Partnership Discussion
- Marketing Meeting | SOESC Regional "Grow Your Own" Education Pipeline
- Meeting with Brown Co. Commissioners re: Community College Awareness Month and 50th Anniversary
- Strategic Planning Meeting
- Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Annual Meeting | Chicago, IL
- OACC Legislative Day
- Meeting with Senator Shane Wilkin
- Photo Opportunity with SSCC's PTK All-Ohio Academic Team Members and New Century Transfer Student
- RNL Phase 1I Site Visit | Action Plans
- SOCHE Exclusive Briefing: Understanding & Implementing Ohio's SB1
- Meeting with Adams Co. Commissioners re: Community College Awareness Month and 50th Anniversary
- STEEL Conference Committee Meeting
- Meeting with Highland Co. Commissioners re: Community College Awareness Month and 50th Anniversary
- Brown County Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet
- Call with Wilmington High School Representative
- March Madness Pizza Party
- Southern Hills Career Center | Welding/Engineering Lab Groundbreaking
- Meeting with Clinton Co. Commissioners re: Community College Awareness Month and 50th Anniversary
- SSCC and Adena Partnership Call
- GRIT/Future Plans Meeting

- Community Health Assessment (CHA) Planning Meeting
- SSCC Foundation Quarterly Meeting
- Hillsboro High School Track Meet | Concessions - 50 Tasks Unsurpassed
- Campus Visit with Governor Mike DeWine
- Highland County Day | Columbus, OH
- Higher Ed. Today Discussion with University of Cincinnati-Clermont Representative
- 2025 Higher Ed Outlook: Driving Financial Health, Value, & Change
- dotEDU Live: The Trump Administration's Pressure Campaign Continues
- 2025 All-Ohio Academic Team Virtual Recognition Ceremony
- SSCC Faculty Senate Meeting

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Study Abroad 2025

An energetic group of first-time travelers are Italy-bound in May. Philosophy Instructor, **Sam Ginn**, has joined the team of faculty supporting and guiding study abroad opportunities. A world traveler himself, Professor Ginn is leading 5 new travelers and 2 returning students on an adventure to Italy and Greece. This trip is the eighth hosted opportunity since the first adventure in 2014 to England. Student outcomes from these experiences include experiencing the treasures of history and art, a global perspective of the United States in relation to other cultures and governments, and an emboldened self-confidence from navigating through countries with language, currency, and lifestyle differences.

Brown County Campus Activities

Programs this past month have focused on sexual assault, domestic violence, and personal safety. In conjunction with our community partner, Women Helping Women, lunch-hour sessions have focused on personal and professional resources related to domestic violence. Three academic programs at the Mt. Orab campus produce future professionals who will encounter clients subjected to potential violence. Helping these students to be aware of abuse indicators now will assist them in their careers later.

Other themed activities included the “Chalk the Walk” for victim support messages, Prom night fun and safety, and Stress Reduction and Management as Finals week is approaching.

Security

Security and Emergency Response Coordinator, **Gary Heaton** reports the following activity for April:

- Brown County Campus to monitor U.S. Representative Taylor’s round table
- Due to concerns of the cast, secured off-duty police detail for the production of the *Othering*
- Attended HFC Safety Council
- Attended the Ohio Emergency Managers Assoc. conference
- Attended Ohio Emergency Management Conference
- Attended April Lunch and Learn
- Participated in OP3 Zoom on disaster management and mutual aid
- Fire inspection of Brown Campus with Mt Orab Fire Dept.
- Attended BWC Safety Congress at Columbus Convention Center

Spring Theatre

Theatre Director and Professor of Theatre and Speech, **Rainee Angles** had the world premiere of her own play, *Othering*, featured as the Spring production in April. Congrats to Rainee!



Othering weaved together the cast and crew’s personal experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic with their poignant performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Through diaries, news

stories, social media, and powerful original dialogue, *Othering* examined deep-rooted social inequalities and the challenges that arise from them in today's landscape, while not comparable in severity to Anne Frank's world, share some unsettling similarities. This innovative performance fused video, sound, and projections to create a compelling narrative that reflected humanity's resilience and struggles in 2020 creating a unique and thought-provoking journey that connected past and present in an unforgettable theatrical event.

In recognition of Earth Day on April 22, the Theatre had an encore performance of *Voices of Earth*, which ran last summer. *Voices* is a staged reading of quotes about nature compiled by Rush Rehm and Charlie Junkerman of Stanford Repertory Theatre. In lieu of an admission ticket, the Theatre Department collected canned goods for the local Samaritan Outreach.



SSCC Theatre Company's summer production is *Tiny Beautiful Things*. The play is based on Cheryl Strayed's bestselling book and adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos brings to life the deeply moving and often humorous exchanges between an anonymous advice columnist known as "Sugar" and the readers who turned to her for guidance. Drawing from Strayed's own experiences, the play explores the raw, unfiltered moments of being human, reaching out when you feel stuck, healing after heartbreak, and facing life's toughest questions with empathy, honesty, and courage. *Tiny Beautiful Things* will be performed on Saturday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m.



Engineering Looking to Expand Enrollments

Southern State offers engineering Associate degree options in Mechanical Design Technology and Electro-Mechanical Technology. Southern State also has transfer agreements with Miami University and Franklin University. In an attempt to grow the program, SSCC worked with TPMA consulting to develop an enrollment plan and better alignment with advanced manufacturing. TPMA notes that while “the curriculum is aligned with industry standards... the equipment available... is somewhat dated” and “that there is a need for design/ CAD-related skills...” In addition to investing in new equipment, TPMA suggested a variety of other solutions including updating the engineering pathway with stackable credentials like a one-year certificate in advanced manufacturing. They noted a part-time program coordinator or student navigator could also help with the recruiting and administrative burden on the single full-time faculty member in the department. TPMA’s updated equipment suggestions included items in additive manufacturing, robotics/automation, EV/Battery manufacturing, and general manufacturing. Additionally, TPMA noted that “the most common feedback is that the community is unaware of SSCC’s engineering program and what it covers.” They recommended an “aggressive awareness campaign.” In addition to updating our current engineering webpage and increasing marketing/ recruiting, they also recommended focusing on our CCP outreach. We currently have 2 high schools teaching SSCC engineering CCP courses: Hillsboro and Scioto CTC. Scioto West has requested courses for next year as well. Associate Professor, **Jim Barnett**, continues to recruit high schools into engineering for CCP courses. The College also has three manufacturing courses approved as developed by the OACC and OSCN in collaboration with Ohio community colleges. Barnett has also drafted a certificate proposal. Recent Super RAPIDS grants are supporting new equipment such as 3D printers for CAD, AMATROL Fluid Power Learning Systems (hydraulic/pneumatic training system), a vacuum training system for advanced manufacturing, and an EV car. TPMA is a consulting firm that assists with workforce development and education out of Indianapolis, Indiana.

eSports Team Sets New Record with 20 Members

Southern State Community College is proud to announce its eSports team has become the largest in the institution’s history, marking a new milestone for its growing competitive gaming program. With a record number of student-athletes participating this season, the team has not only expanded in size but also in competitive success. Southern State's eSports program currently has 20 student members with five different teams competing in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). These teams include Valorant, Madden, Chess, Smash Brothers, and Mario Kart.

Directors of the eSports team are **Dr. Joshua Montgomery**, Professor of Computer Science, and **Russ Clark**, Assistant Professor of Physics. The managers for the team are current students **Sevrin Florek** and **Paige Fетters**.

Instructional Technology

The Department of Instructional Technology continues to support academic excellence and student success through strategic initiatives, faculty development, and instructional design support. Below is a summary of **Dr. Angel Mootispaw's** recent activities and accomplishments.

Quality Assurance and Professional Development

- Represented the institution at Ohio Quality Matters (QM) Executive Committee meetings, as well as Quality Matters Coordinator (QMC) and QM Instructional Designer Association (IDA) meetings, ensuring alignment with national best practices for distance learning course quality.
- Attended Division Coordinator/Academic meetings
- Attended the Canvas Customer Success Manager (CSM) monthly webinar to stay informed on learning management system enhancements and best practices.
- Attended Ohio QM Annual Member Meeting participating in professional development sessions focused on AI, Quality Assurance, RSI, and Instructional Innovation.
- Facilitated the Instructional Technology Committee Meeting, to drive initiatives supporting faculty development, quality assurance, and compliance with emerging standards and regulations.
- Attended SOCHE webinar on Understanding and Implementing Ohio's SB1.

Accreditation and Compliance

- Submitted draft reports for Higher Learning Commission (HLC) report contributing to institutional accreditation efforts and compliance with federal and state regulations.
- Attended Higher Learning Commission Conference.

Curriculum Development and Faculty Support

- Provided guidance and support for the development of a new online asynchronous Political Science course for both accelerated and full-term offerings, using a newly selected Open Educational Resource (OER) textbook.

- Initiated updates to summer Blueprint courses to maintain consistency with curriculum changes, design quality, and compliance with regular and substantive interaction standards.
- Provided multiple support services for faculty in instructional design and andragogical best practices for online learning, including course revisions, accessibility compliance, and innovative engagement strategies.
- Delivered six individual Zoom coaching sessions, providing faculty with targeted instructional design guidance, RSI compliance strategies, and best practices for effective online teaching.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Affairs sponsored two seminar/workshop events over the past two months which led to the Changing Campus Culture initiative. They included:

DATE	EVENT	TOPIC	SPEAKER	ATTENDANCE
3/19/2025	Lunch & Learn	Sexual Assault Sexual Violence Awareness	Tom Payton Elizabeth Crabtree PSYC Students: Claire Logan	20: 4 students; 16 staff & admins
4/9/2025	Lunch & Learn	Drug & Alcohol Abuse Awareness	Tom Payton Elizabeth Crabtree	15: 1 student; 14 staff & admins

Academic Advisors

The chart below gives an overview of academic advising appointments at Central and Brown County Campuses during March and April 2025.

MONTH	NEW: TRAD/NON- TRADITIONAL	NEW: CCP	TOTAL NEW	RETURNING: TRAD/NON- TRADITIONAL	RETURNING: CCP	TOTAL RETURNING	TOTAL ADVISING*
MAR '25	34	14	48	115	30	145	193
APR '25	51	40	91	111	77	188	279

Records | Registrar

2025 Commencement

The Records Department is currently preparing for the upcoming 2025 commencement ceremony that will be held on Friday, May 9. At the preliminary count, 261 students have

petitioned to graduate within this 2024-2025 academic year (Fall, Spring, and Summer terms). Below are a few interesting details pulled from the preliminary data.

Of the 261 students who have petitioned to graduate:

- The age of our graduates ranges from 17 to 68.
- 146 of our graduates got their start at SSCC while in high school.
- Of the 146 who started while in high school, 60 will be graduating with an Associate degree before graduating from high school this year.

Accessibility and Learning Services (A&LS)

Accessibility Services (AS)

- We have 62 students registered with Accessibility Services for the Spring term. Student registration is ongoing.
- The dedicated computer lab for proctoring students has worked wonderfully in supporting our students and their testing needs.
- We proctored 20 total AS exams in March (across both campuses).
- We updated the Accessibility Services website with some language to help clarify the Accessibility Services intake process and student responsibilities relative to the intake and reasonable accommodation process.

Learning Services (LS)

- Spring term Tutors/Coaches have now approx. 100 tutoring sessions with students since the term started on January 13. We are offering between 70-80 hours of tutoring a week. We are offering these hours at both campuses and through online sessions.
- LS is partnering with the Nursing department on the launch to help students attain a passing score on the Nursing HESI Entrance Exam. Academic Coach, **Stephanie McKinney** has experience assisting students with this exam and is taking the lead on this project for LS. Stephanie is also training PAM's **Riley Cook** and **Alicia Wagner** on how to assist students with preparing for this exam. The departments that are partnering together on this initiative are Nursing, Learning Services, and the Testing Center. The goal is to help students who do not pass this exam on their first attempt remediate so they can pass on their second attempt to help gain admission to the

Nursing program. There are about 6 students that have expressed active interest in receiving this assistance.

- Learning Coach **Luke Shelton** is now coming to campus about one day a week (the rest of the week he assists students through ZOOM and Canvas). Due to health and family circumstances, Luke was only available virtually prior to March 2025. It is good to have Luke with us on campus in Hillsboro.

Other

- **Ryan Hall** attended a SOCHE professional development webinar on March 5: Strategies for Supervisors to Prevent Employee Burnout and Build Support.
- Ryan and several other members of the Learning Services team (Stephanie McKinney, Luke Shelton, and Riley Cook) attended the CCP Info and Resources meeting at the Hillsboro campus on March 6. We provided an overview of Learning and Accessibility Services and were glad to be invited to participate
- **Ryan Hall** joined **Kaylynn Bell-Wolfinger** on March 7 at the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities 5 County Transition Expo held at the Hillsboro campus. We represented Southern State to the community of guests that attended that event within the 5-county area.

Financial Aid

- 2025-2026 Trustee Scholarships: \$93,700 have been awarded to students to date
- The Financial Aid Office (FAO) is reaching out to students who have completed their 2024-2025 FAFSA but have not completed their 2025-2026 FAFSA. Emails are being sent out during the weeks of April 21st and 28th.
- In March and April, the FAO processed 40 new FAFSA's for the Summer 2025 semester. Currently, processing 2025-2026 FAFSAs. As of April 25, 2025, 689 FAFSAs have been processed compared to 611 this time last year.
- Attended the Clinton County Chamber Event on April 3 at the Roberts Center in Wilmington, Ohio
- Presented at orientations on April 24 for the nursing bridge students and LPN to RN students regarding financial aid and scholarships
- Attended the SSCC Foundation Board of Trustees quarterly Zoom meeting on April 24
- Participated in several SEP meetings in March and April

Testing Center

The following chart shows the March 2025 testing activity of the testing centers at both the Hillsboro and Mt. Orab Campuses. 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.

March 2025: *111 Accuplacer tests were given offsite at the following high school locations: North West, Peebles, Western Brown, and Manchester

April 2025: *43 Accuplacer tests were given offsite at the following high school locations: Wheelersburg, Wilmington, and Paint Valley

MARCH 2025 TESTING ACTIVITY LOG					
TEST	HILLSBORO TESTING CTR		MT. ORAB TESTING CTR		TOTALS
	MAR '25	APR '25	MAR '25	APR '25	
Pearson Vue	48	62	19	39	168
ACCUPLACER	154	244	216	103	*717
HESI	5	1	0	0	6
ACT WorkKeys	3	3	0	0	6
Certiport	0	0	0	0	0
Proctored Exams	9	11	0	1	21
TOTALS:	219	321	235	143	918

Faculty

Under the leadership of **Dr. Jeff Montgomery**, Dean of Academic Affairs, faculty will close out the year with robust work in Assessment and Program Review. In addition to annual departmental assessment reports done by faculty, Dr. Montgomery will also complete a general education report for the year. A co-curricular report will be completed later in the summer. We are finishing our 2nd round of Institutional Learning Outcome evaluation with the completion of the Professionalism ILO this Spring. Additionally, this spring program reviews were done for Math, Fine Arts, and Biology. The quality of our educational offerings, maintaining a practice of regular program review, and engaging in ongoing assessment of student learning are important criteria for HLC accreditation. Many thanks to Dr. Montgomery and the faculty for their work on this.

People in the News

Assistant Professor of Math, **Zac Kronick**, was selected to serve on a panel for the Ohio Department of Higher Education to develop a Tech Calculus course that will support transfer pathways into bachelor degree engineering technology programs. This is part of a grant program in Ohio working to improve our pathways through engineering technician to Technologist programs with the end goal of baccalaureate degree attainment and beyond to meet the workforce needs of our new economy.

Professor of English, **Jeff Wallace** has been awarded the Plattner Award in Fiction. His story "Relief, Relief", published in the Winter/Spring 23/24 issue of the Appalachian Review has received the 2023/24 Plattner Award in Fiction. This award is given to the best short story to appear in the journal in a given year. Congrats, Jeff!

Dr. Angel Mootispaw, Director of Instructional Technology, has been named a Southwest Ohio Regional Representative to the Quality Matters Executive Committee. She was elected to serve a three-year term from 2025–2028.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jeff Montgomery** who will retire at the end of May from the Dean of Academic Affairs position. Jeff began as Dean in August of 2015. He started at SSCC in 1999 as a full-time Computer Science faculty member. He started teaching non-credit computer science courses as an adjunct faculty in 1997. His 28-year run is not completely over, however, as he plans to return in a limited part-time capacity in the Fall to assist with CCP coordination/evaluations with the high schools.

Countdown to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Comprehensive Evaluation visit

Visit Date: April 13 & 14, 2026

Lock Date: March 16, 2026

Federal Compliance Report due October 2025

Migration to Ex Libris Library Services Platform

The Library at Southern State Community College, as a member of the academic library consortium OhioLINK, has undertaken a system migration that will integrate the existing platforms of academic and public libraries across the state.

Following a year-long competitive RFP process, in August 2023 OhioLINK announced its selection of Ex Libris Alma/Primo VE as its next shared library services platform (LSP). The new, streamlined interface will offer users seamless access to materials from 45 public library systems and 87 academic institutions. The Library endeavors to implement a platform designed to improve learning outcomes and meet the ever-evolving needs of Ohio library patrons—researchers, students, and community members alike.

Staff at the two campus libraries are working diligently to prepare for this major transition. The Library is in the final quarter of the *Build* stage of the LSP migration project, a phase that concludes in mid-June with the Ex Libris system’s Go-Live. The eight-month *Build* phase marks the primary work period of the *Main Migration*, itself a 14-month process that culminates in a two-month *Deploy* phase this summer.

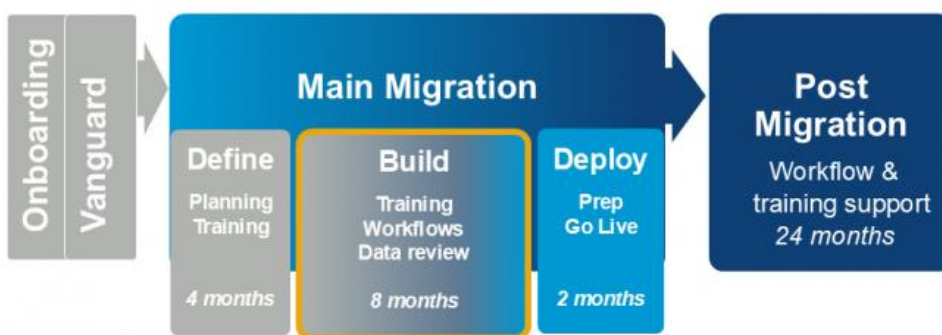


Figure 1: LSP Project Timeline

Recent project milestones include: continued review of resource representation and mapping of workflows in Alma, Ex Libris’ cataloging and circulation product; participation in configuration and testing for Rapido, the service that will enable local and statewide inter-library materials circulation; completion of final migration forms, ensuring efficient platform functionality and smooth data transfer between systems; and preparation for third-party integration with library vendors.

These milestones occur alongside standing Ex Libris/OhioLINK weekly meetings for various elements of the project, which accompany regular testing and configuration within the Alma and Primo VE production environments. The Library team, in addition to attending in-person regional training conducted in February, engages in frequent, ongoing training via the Ex Libris Knowledge Center, OStaff learning pages, and consultation with OhioNet. The team also

continues collaborative work with IT on student information system (SIS) and authentication processes, as well as integration of the discovery service (Primo VE) with the website.

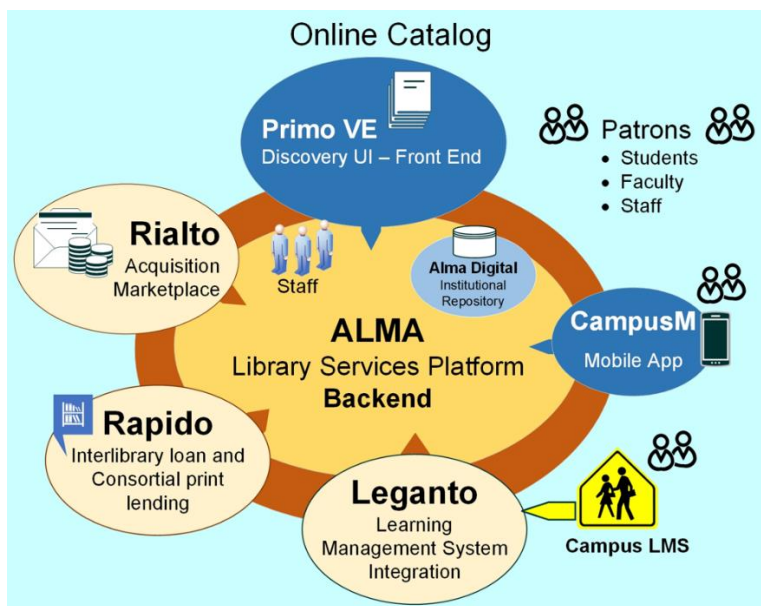


Figure 2: Ex Libris Product Suite

Per the OhioLINK consortia team, the LSP upgrade will empower academic libraries across the state to “support 21st-century teaching, learning, and research; streamline day-to-day operations; and enhance stability and security.” The new system will offer patrons improved search capabilities and easier access to resources. Go-Live for the system is slated for June 11th.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Central Campus HVAC Renovation

The HVAC cooling tower was installed on March 21, followed by water pipe and electrical connections, which allowed the tower to become operational by April 3. We have ordered ten heat pumps, which should be received in late May or early June for installation to address failed units throughout the campus.

We are working with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to convert the remaining scope of the project from a design-build (DB) delivery model to a general contracting (GC) model. Heapy Engineering, in its capacity as the Criteria-A/E for the DB delivery model, completed about 50% of the project design development. We anticipate Heapy will likely remain onboard to complete the design elements required for the GC model and assist throughout the remaining portions of the project until completion.



Computer Science Renovation Project

The Controlling Board approved funding for BHDP to serve as the A/E on April 7. The construction agreement is complete, and the first kick-off meeting was held between SSCC staff, BHDP, and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) on May 1.

The design phase will take about four months, followed by an RFP selection process for a general contractor and then Controlling Board approval and contracting. We tentatively plan to relocate the current computer science classrooms to Room 106 after the Fall semester in December to allow full construction to commence in late December.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Grants

ASPIRE

The SSCC Aspire program is showing great success with our Distance Education program this year. Essential Education’s TABE® and GED® Academies are being utilized to provide DE opportunities for our students. Students enrolled in these programs say they are an extremely valuable part of their study plan and are very user-friendly. Distance education hours completed outside of class by a student can be combined with face-to-face class attendance hours, resulting in quicker progress testing and increased persistence percentage. The chart below reflects the total number of DE hours completed by forty-two SSCC Aspire students from February 22 through April 30.

SSCC Aspire Distance Education Hours-February 22-April 30, 2025	
Essential Education Program	Hours
TABE Academy (ABE students)	271.5
GED Academy (ASE students)	173.0
TOTAL HOURS	444.5

Certified Fiber Optics Technician Certification

As a part of the Super RAPIDS II funding, the Fiber Optics Technician certification completed its first class. Four students enrolled in the program all four passed their certification. The FOT program has been certified by the Fiber Optics Association and is an industry-recognized credential that can be completed in 40 hours. This is a non-credit program.

RAPIDS VII and SUPER RAPIDS A&AM

The Engineering program will receive new equipment through the RAPIDS VII and the Super RAPIDS A&AM grant awards. The RAPIDS VII was funded at \$78,476 and will provide 3D printers for the Advanced Manufacturing classes. The Super RAPIDS Automation and Advanced Mobility (A&AM) was submitted as a part of a consortium application that included Belmont College, Collins Career Technical Center, Hocking College, Ohio University, Washington County Career Center, and Washington State College of Ohio, and was organized by the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition. The award to Southern State was in the amount of \$208,108.40 and will be used to update current engineering equipment, such as the hydraulic and pneumatic trainers and fluid power learning systems.

Strategic Support Specialist

For the second year, the Kids Career Encounter will be offered at our Central campus in Hillsboro this summer for students in grades 4th – 8th. **Lisa Hord** and **Kaylynn Bell-Wolfinger** have been working together to create an engaging summer enrichment program. Many of our faculty have volunteered to help engage students in their focus areas for some summer learning. Session options include activities in art, biology, computer science, health science, math, early childhood, social service, and theatre. The dates of the camp are June 24 and 25. Check out the website for more information.

Workforce Development

Continuing Education

Two professional development trainings took place in April. The first was “Working Effectively with Leadership,” and the second was “Strategies for Improving Relationships.” The feedback continues to be strong from participants and will explore a new calendar of offerings in the 2025/2026 Academic year.

The Waste Water Spring Workshop took place in Mt. Orab on April 8-9. A total of 31 individuals attended the sessions over the two days.

Truck Driving Academy (Class A and Class B)

	2023/2024	2024/2025
July	43	8
August	14	17
September	25	9
October	17	17
November	22	14
December	2	15
January	19	10
February	18	12
March	0	10
April	26	14
May	14	
June	17	
Y-T-D	217	126

Communications and Marketing

Presence Report

Southern State Community College			
Marketing Area	February	March	April
Press Release	6	5	10
Advertising / Print	14+	5	5+
Email Campaigns	1	1	1
Emails Deployed	25,000	25,000	25,000
Number Opened	3,617	4,805	4,771
<i>Percentage Opened</i>	14.47%	19.22%	19.08%
Clicks within content	567	694	558
<i>Percentage of total clicks</i>	2.27%	2.78%	2.23%
Social Media/Geofencing			
Impressions/ads Deployed	10,398	15,993	24,312
Clicks	104	225	285
<i>CTR (click through rate)</i>	1.00%	1.41%	1.17%
Top 3 locations of activity	Geotargeting, Wilmington, Greenfield	Geotargeting, Wilmington, Greenfield	Geotargeting, Wilmington, Georgetown

Truck Driving Academy			
Marketing Area	February	March	April
Email Campaigns			
Emails Deployed	25,000	25,000	25,000
Number opened	4,806	4,529	4,874
<i>Percentage Opened</i>	19.22%	18.12%	19.50%
Clicks within content	714	658	651
<i>Percentage of open and clicked</i>	2.86%	2.63%	2.60%
Audience Management			
Impressions/ads Deployed	65,829	61,820	62,996
Clicks	96	86	100
<i>CTR (click through rate)</i>	0.15%	0.14%	0.16%

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

- **Press Releases**
 - SSCC Theatre presents “Othering”
 - Southern State eSports Team Sets New Record (*Student Success*)
 - SSCC Board of Trustees to meet March 27
 - Southern State’s Fall Semester begins August 25, 2025 (*Enrollment*)
 - Southern State’s Nursing Program Empowers Students to Thrive (*Enrollment, Student Success*)
 - Southern State Engineering Degree Provides Opportunities for All Ages and Backgrounds (*Enrollment, Student Success*)
 - Career Connections Job Fair at Southern State on April 14 (*Enrollment*)
 - SSCC Theatre Celebrates 20th Season with Classic and Comic Favorites
 - Southern State Welcomes Chancellor Duffey to Speak at 50th Anniversary Commencement Ceremony
 - SSCC Theatre Company presents ‘Voices of the Earth’
 - Alanna Mays Named a 2025 New Century Transfer Scholar (*Student Success*)
 - Governor DeWine Visits Southern State Community College
 - Auditions for SSCC Theatre Company’s “Tiny Beautiful Things” will be May 6
 - Four SSCC Students Named to the All-Ohio Academic Team (*Student Success*)
- **Advertising/Print/Direct Mail:**
 - March e-blast promoting Online programming to the Dayton area populations (*Enrollment*)
 - March e-blast promoting spring start dates for the TDA program (*Enrollment, Workforce Development*)
 - April e-blast promoting online programming (*Enrollment*)
 - April e-blast promoting spring start dates for the TDA program (*Enrollment, Workforce Development*)
 - High School Spring Sports ad – Record Herald WCH (*Enrollment*)
 - High School Spring Sports ad – TG Hillsboro (*Enrollment*)
 - SHAC All-Star Game Publication Ad (*Enrollment*)
 - Eastern HS yearbook ad (*Enrollment*)
 - Highland Co. Graduation tab ad – TG Hillsboro (*Enrollment, Student Success*)
- **Social Media:**
 - March:**
 - **Facebook** (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)
 - Views: 104.4K
 - Interactions: 1.1K
 - Reach: 42K

Top Content:

- Fiber Optic class – paid ad – 44.9K views (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)
- eSports group photo – 10.8K views (*Relevance and Excellence, Student Success*)

Instagram (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

- Views: 3.1K
- Reach: 1.2K

Top Content:

- eSports group photos – 204 views (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)
- St. Patrick's Day – 122 views (*Relevance and Excellence*)

LinkedIn (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

- Impressions: 1,783

Top Content:

- Southern State's Nursing Program Empowers Students to Thrive (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)
- Southern State eSports Team Sets New Record (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

Twitter (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

- Impressions: 5.5K
- Engagement Rate: 5.1%

April:

April was Community College Month. During the month of April, we did a #CCMonth campaign. Posts included: program highlights, SSCC fun facts, employee spotlights, student spotlights, and short-form videos.

Facebook (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

- Views: 62.5K
- Interactions: 1.3K



- Reach: 18.8K

Top Content:

- Patrick Fout, Student Spotlight – 7.2K views
- Engineering program highlight – 7K views

Instagram (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

- Views: 2.2K
- Reach: 693

Top Content:

- Gretchen Boggs, Student Spotlight – 319 views
- Fast Facts Video – 257 views



LinkedIn (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

- Impressions: 2,899

Top Content

- Alanna Mays Named a 2025 New Century Transfer Scholar
- Governor DeWine Visits Southern State Community College

Twitter (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)

- Impressions: 6.3K
- Engagement Rate: 5%

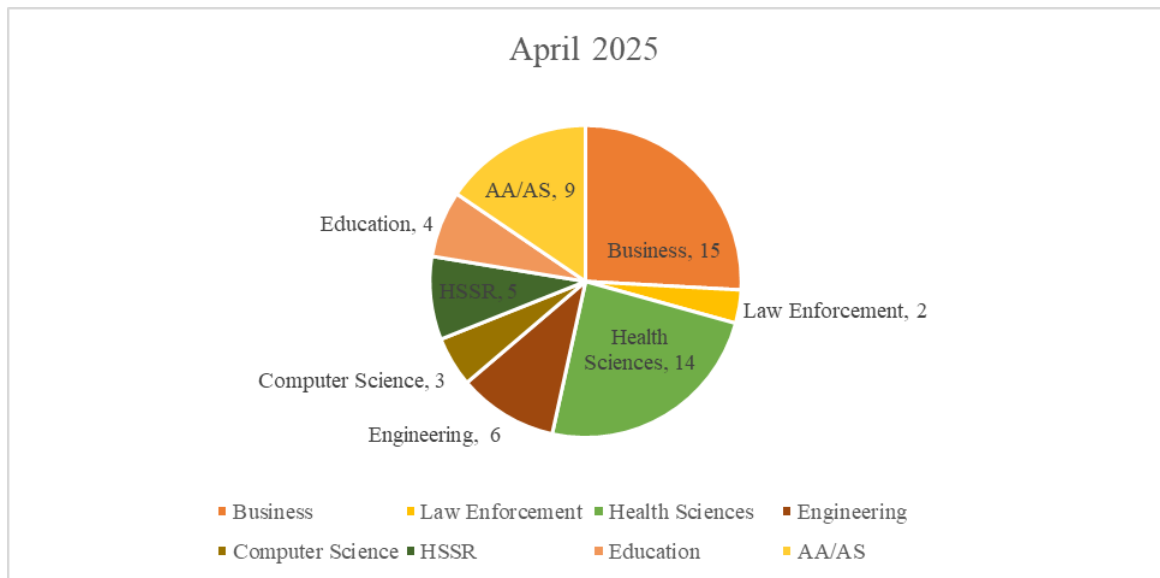


Events/Publications

- 50th Anniversary activities – ongoing through Dec. 2025 (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
- March Employee Newsletter Email
- April Employee Newsletter Email
- 2025-26 Academic Catalog proofing process – ongoing through May 2025
- RNL-SEP Working Group Activities (*Enrollment*)
- 50 Tasks Unsurpassed Campaign (in honor of our 50th) SHAC Concessions Volunteer – March 28; Washington CH Track Meet Concessions Volunteer – April 17; Miami Trace Track Meet Concessions Volunteer – April 22; Hillsboro HS Track Meet Concessions Volunteer – April 24.
- 2025 Commencement Program (*Student Success*)

Recruitment

Program Information Requested



Events Attended:

- Hillsboro High School Career Fair
- Waverly High School College Fair
- Western Latham High School Visit
- Real Money, Real World

Professional Development:

- Reimagine Recruitment and Enrollment with Enrollytics (Webinar)
- Plant the Seeds for a Successful Spring (Article)
- Strength in Unity: The Power of Community-Based Organizations (Webinar)
- How a Student-Centric Approach to Academic Advising Advances Institutional and Student Success (Article)
- The Power of the Handwritten Note (and How to Scale It) (Article)

Projects:

- Handshake Implementation
- Graduation Survey
- 50th Anniversary Committee
- Enrollment Management RNL
- Kids Encounter Summer Camp