

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



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 2025 | DR. NICOLE ROADES, PRESIDENT

Strategic Planning Engagement Update

On October 22, the consulting team from Bellwether was on-site to guide the Strategic Planning Steering Committee through the second work session. The objectives included:

1. Ensuring a shared understanding of Southern State's current state and market context
2. Interrogate and refine potential strategic priorities
3. Align on an approach to determine a "go-forward" program portfolio
4. Surface critical questions and next steps for phase 2

Included in your packet are relevant handouts that convey the common language we are using in this engagement, the project timeline, and a draft of the priorities guiding our continued work. Among the priority pillars include programs, students, and organization. Initiatives supporting these priorities are still in development and leaning toward the following:

Programs:

1. Build a future-ready portfolio of programs
2. Shape a sustainable dual enrollment strategy

Students:

3. Inspire increased enrollment
4. Enhance student success and belonging

Organization:

5. Modernize operations
6. Strengthen people and culture

At this point in the engagement, I remain pleased with the guidance and insight of the Bellwether team. The interplay of our strategic enrollment planning engagement and this strategic planning effort is complementary, and I believe positioning the College well for bold action and measurable success in 2026 and beyond.

Dr. Bob Haas Leads Data Dive to Explore the New Post-Graduation Employment and Earning Component of the State Share of Instruction (SSI)

In the biennial budget (HB96), Governor DeWine allocated \$100 million to expand Ohio's

performance-based funding model (SSI) to include an employment outcomes component. Central to this new measure is the data available in the Post Secondary Employment Data tool available to us from the United States Census Bureau. Dr. Haas, a friend to Southern State and a highly regarded institutional effectiveness professional, joined us for the November Data Dive to assist the College in building our knowledge of the tool, the factors in data reporting, and the status of the new metrics implementation. The Data Dive session was well-attended, and the College is grateful for the reliable guidance of Dr. Haas.

Dr. Haas is the Chief Strategy Officer at Marion Technical College and the Director of Institutional Effectiveness for the Ohio Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Haas has been a good and generous friend to Southern State for many years, offering his insight and expertise in assessment, artificial intelligence, and, most recently, the PSEO component of SSI.

Reorganizing for Enrollment and Workforce Innovation

In the October report, I made mention of my intention to move forward with the addition of an Enrollment Management Director. Since that report and following the most recent developments in our strategic planning efforts, we are moving forward with this additional team member and reorganizing to more boldly prioritize enrollment and workforce as a major division within the College. While perhaps somewhat unconventional for a small college, this approach is intended to elevate the importance of attracting, enrolling, retaining, and positioning graduates for post-graduation success. This division will lead the effort to innovate in recruitment, enrollment management, and workforce partnerships. Priorities of this division include, among several others:

1. **Leading strategic enrollment management** – Developing and implementing data-informed strategies to attract and retain students in credit and non-credit programs.
2. **Integrate services and processes** – Coordinate admissions, recruiting, records, financial aid, and student onboarding to streamline the student experience from inquiry through completion.
3. **Foster collaboration** – Work across divisions to align marketing, academic planning, and student support initiatives
4. **Ensure data-driven decision making**

The reorganization will not be complete until the first quarter of 2026. A revised organizational chart will be shared as appropriate following the onboarding of new team members and the

reassignment of others. While the reorganization is not budget-neutral, it is well within the parameters that were originally established when we planned to move forward more incrementally.

Southern State Honored to Host First Lady Fran DeWine's Roundtable on Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The College was honored to be called upon by Ohio First Lady, Fran DeWine, to host a Roundtable discussion with local literacy advocates regarding Highland County's participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Initiative. In addition to guests from the Board of Commissioners, the Highland County Public Library, and ALTRUSA, Southern State was pleased to have representation from the Adult Opportunity Center. In addition to our participation in an important and worthwhile topic, the College was particularly honored that the First Lady would consider Southern State as a convening location.

Several Events Convey Southern State's Commitment to Excellence and Relevance

- *Retiree Brunch* | Oct. 22 | Friends and retirees of Southern State gathered at the College's Brown County Campus for the fourth annual Retiree Brunch. This event, which has quickly become a favorite of mine, celebrates the many individuals who have been a part of our past and who actively advocate on our behalf today.
- *Connect to College* | Oct. 24 | Nearly 100 students from across Highland County visited the Central Campus for a college exploration day. In addition to general information about careers, the students were able to interact with faculty of select technical programs offered at Southern State and learn more about career options in those fields.
- *Careers in Computer Science* | Oct. 24 | In collaboration with the Highland County Workforce Initiative, nearly 50 students visited campus for an in-depth exploration of available careers in computer science. Guests included local and regional employers who offered informative and relevant seminars related to working in the computer science field.
- *Highland County Chamber of Commerce's Strengthening Together Experienced and Emerging Leaders (STEEL) Leadership Conference* | Oct. 29 | The College was honored to host over 250 guests in the Patriot Center for the Chamber's Second Annual STEEL Leadership Conference. Southern State was proudly represented by student and staff participation.

- *50th Anniversary Brunch in Brown County* | Oct. 30 | In collaboration with the Brown County Chamber of Commerce, guests from our southern region joined together to help celebrate the College's 50th Anniversary. The event was well attended and included guests from U.S. Representative Dave Taylor's Office, the Adams County Chamber of Commerce, Maysville Community and Technical College, local school districts, as well as the Brown County Education Service Center and the Southern Ohio Education Service Center, among others.

President's Activities and Involvement

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

- President's Council Meetings
- Highland County Commissioners' Meeting
- OACC Presidents' Meeting
- Weekly Meetings with the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
- SSCC Project Leads Weekly Meetings with Bellwether Representatives
- Photos with SSCC Scholarship Recipient
- SSCC Retiree Brunch
- SSCC Steering Committee Working Lunch and Session with Bellwether Representatives
- Meeting with Choose Ohio First Students
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
- Connect To College Event
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce's STEEL Conference
- Brown County Chamber of Commerce | SSCC 50th Anniversary Celebration
- SSCC HUB Lunch Meeting
- Advisory Committee Breakfast
- Interviews for the Director of Nursing Position
- Regional Southern Ohio ESC Business Advisory Meeting
- Elevate Adams County | Economic Forecast
- Faculty Senate Meeting
- Deep Data Dive | Post Secondary Employment Outcomes: Ohio's New Budgetary Performance Metric
- Meeting with Wilmington College Representative re: Capital funding Request
- Fairfield Local School's Ribbon-Cutting | School-Based Health Center and Innovation Lab
- Literacy Roundtable with First Lady, Fran DeWine

- Meeting with DESRI Representatives
- OACC Governing Board Meeting
- 2025 OACC Annual Conference

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Annual Program Advisory Committee Breakfast | Meetings

Fifty (50) advisory committee members, faculty, administrators, and staff were in attendance at the annual Advisory Committee event on Friday, October 31. Dr. Roades began with opening remarks—sharing SSCC current happenings and appreciation for the members’ service on the committees. After a hearty breakfast catered by Rachel’s House, Washington CH, Dr. Goodwin offered the charge to committees prior to departure for the various committee meetings. The purpose of Advisory Committees is to advise the College on current processes, methods, technological advancements, and industry trends to improve academic quality and meet the needs of the local employment community.

Participating Advisory Committees included: Business (Chair–**Jeff Tumbleson**); Computer Science (Chair–**Dr. Josh Montgomery**); Education (Chair–**Nicole Sheppard**); Human and Social Services (Chaired by–**Patricia Beach** and **Dr. Jeff Montgomery**); and Nursing (Chair– **Dr. Julianne Krebs**).

Nursing Updates

The department organized the Flu/COVID-19 Vaccine clinic provided in partnership with the Highland County Health Department on Central & Brown Campus on November 4, 5 & 13.

The students of the Practical Nursing Program are completing their final semester of the program. The students are demonstrating academic success, with the cohort completing standardized testing scores above the expected level of achievement for the Exit and Pharmacology exams. The group will continue to develop knowledge and skills over the remaining weeks of the semester.

The Nursing Department hosted tours and informational sessions for more than 100 high school students from Laurel Oaks Career Campus and Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center.

The dean visited East Clinton Middle School and provided a career session for approximately 80 students, and participated in a meeting of the Southern Hills Advisory Committee.

We'd like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Dean of Health Sciences, **Dr. Julie Krebs**, who will retire in December 2025. Thanks for your service, Dr. Krebs! We wish you well in retirement.

Faculty

On Friday, October 31, we held our most recent “Fifth Friday” event, which continues to serve as a valuable opportunity for collaboration and reflection on institutional priorities. In support of student learning and assessment, a comprehensive curriculum map has been developed. This map is designed to ensure that students are provided with clear and consistent opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the College’s Institutional Outcomes prior to graduation.

In response to a request from GE Peebles, a group from Academic Affairs met to discuss employment opportunities and anticipated workforce needs. The company projects a need for up to 60 technicians over the next 12 to 18 months, presenting a significant opportunity for alignment between our academic programs and regional industry demands.

Progress also continues on the Compliant Syllabus Project, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3345.029. This initiative remains on track for completion early next spring, with a final deadline set for June. The project will ensure that all course syllabi meet state compliance standards and reflect consistent academic expectations.

To promote sustainable and efficient workflows across the institution, we are leveraging existing systems—specifically Canvas—to streamline several faculty-related processes. These include assessment reporting, annual reviews, post-tenure evaluations, and professional development tracking. By centralizing these functions within Canvas, we aim to reduce reliance on paper-based documentation and improve overall organizational efficiency.



Brown County Campus

Celebrations and Events

- Adams County Regional Medical Center's groundbreaking event for the new Mt. Orab Medical Complex was hosted on the SSCC campus lot, as access to the construction lot was not possible (October 10).
- SSCC Annual Retirees' Brunch hosted 48 "family" members and friends (October 22).
- SSCC 50th Anniversary Community Breakfast – Brown County Campus hosted alumni, community members, local and state leaders, and educational partners to breakfast and 50 years of memories (October 30).

Fall Transfer Fair

Promoting the Ohio Transfer Promise

SSCC's Fall Transfer Fair took place on October 29 in recognition of National Transfer Week. The primary objective of this event is to launch AA/AS students on their major career pathway during their first year and to help them understand the importance of completing their associate degree for maximum financial benefit. (This can equate between \$36,000 to \$70,000+ in college savings, depending on the transfer institution.) The [Ohio Transfer Promise](#) guarantees awarding transfer credit for the statewide set of transfer general education courses and designated major foundation courses.

The Spring Transfer Fair on March 25 will focus on 4-year technical partner pathways aligned with SSCC programs at our Central Campus in Hillsboro.

Ohio Technical Center (OTC) Degree Pathways

Promoting Degree Completion

The Ohio technical center degree pathways (ODHE Transfer) recognize the 900+ clock hours in OTC programs as 30 technical credit hours towards ATS degrees. Formerly referred to as the One-Year Option, the one-year OTC industry certification training is now guaranteed for a college credit award through Ohio public colleges. Southern State has 6 programs eligible for 3 – 30 credits toward ATS/AAB/AAS pathways. Current programs include Aviation Mechanics, Business Administration, Early Childhood Education, Manufacturing/Engineering, and Practical Nursing.

Instructional Technology

The Department of Instructional Technology continues to support academic excellence and student success through strategic initiatives, quality assurance, professional development, and instructional design support. Below is a combined summary of departmental activities and accomplishments for the month.

Dr. Angel Mootispaw, Director of Instructional Technology, spent the last couple of weeks onboarding the new part-time Instructional Designer and integrating the role into instructional design and faculty support operations.

Maria Chepulis, Instructional Designer

- Completed training in DesignPLUS, ReadyGO, UDOIT, Simple Syllabus, and Quality Matters to understand institutional design standards and tool functionality.
- Updated multiple courses to the new DesignPLUS version.
- Begin conducting accessibility checks using UDOIT and DesignPLUS to support federal and institutional compliance.
- Learned the course readiness review process and collaborated on updates to the Course Design and Blueprint Readiness Checklists.
- Reviewed the new LMS template planned for Spring courses.
- Began reviewing instructor training modules in Canvas, identifying outdated content, broken links, and areas for improvement.
- Participated in an AI grant brainstorming session.
- Reviewed Ohio Senate Bill 1 requirements to inform the development of the forthcoming Civics course.

Achievements

Congratulations to **Dr. Tatiana Luna** for successfully earning certifications in: Designing AI Grading Rubrics, Transforming Curriculum with Generative AI, AI-Driven Discussions, and AI Horizons from Quality Matters.

Congratulations to **Maria Chepulis** for successfully earning her Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR) certification.

Campus Security Report

Security and Emergency Response Coordinator, **Gary Heaton**, reports the following activity since the last report:

- * Monitored the High School Government Forum, sponsored by Lynchburg-Clay High School
- * Completed Know Be 4 Cyber Security Training
- * Attended the Lunch & Learn on Mental Health
- * Monitored Two-Day Christian School Volleyball Tournament in the Patriot Center
- * B.I.T. Meeting references several students of concern
- * Zoom meeting from the Higher Education Department of Ohio
- * Zoom from OP3 on AI
- * Monitored Connect to College Event on Central Campus
- * Monitored the STEEL Leadership Event in the Patriot Center
- * Attended Zoom from the Higher Education Department concerning stalking
- * Attended November HFC Safety Council meeting
- * Assisted with several situations involving students and staff
- * Monitored Election Day voting in the Patriot Center

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lunch & Learn: Speaker Series

OCTOBER: Depression | Mental Health Awareness

Twenty (20) staff, faculty, and administrators attended the October 8 Lunch & Learn session on Depression and Mental Health Awareness. **Tom Payton**, Psychology faculty, and **Elizabeth Crabtree**, Counselor, presented on different types of depression and mental health concerns. For example, Sugar Flooding; Holiday Blues; S.A.D. = Seasonal Affective Disorder; Adjustment Disorder; Persistent Depressive Disorder; and Major Depressive Disorder.

NOVEMBER: Domestic Abuse Awareness

The next Lunch & Learn will be held on Wednesday, November 12, from 12-1:00 pm, entitled: Domestic Abuse Awareness in Room 346 at Central Campus and via Zoom.

Academic Advisors

The chart below gives an overview of academic advising appointments at Central and Brown Campuses during the month of October 2025. Also included are the October 2024 numbers for comparison.

MONTH	NEW: TRAD/NON- TRADITIONAL	NEW: CCP	TOTAL NEW	RETURNING: TRAD/NON- TRADITIONAL	RETURNING: CCP	TOTAL RETURNING	TOTAL ADVISING*
OCT '25	30	13	43	150	60	210	253
OCT '24	56	5	61	163	51	214	275

Accessibility and Learning Services (A&LS)

With the Accessibility & Learning Services Coordinator out on a Leave of Absence, the following personnel are covering the area:

SERVICE	CAMPUS	CONTACT	EMAIL
Accommodations	Central Brown	Dr. Erika Goodwin	egoodwin@sscc.edu
Tutoring	Central	Stephanie McKinney	smckinney3@sscc.edu
	Central	Luke Shelton	lselton1@sscc.edu
	Central	Alice Richmond	Arichmond2@sscc.edu
	Central	Jeff Wiederhold	jwiederhold@sscc.edu
Tutoring	Brown	Dr. Peggy Chalker	pchalker@sscc.edu
	Brown	Amanda Lewis	alewis@sscc.edu

Financial Aid

The financial aid office conducted FAFSA workshops and presentations in October at the following schools:

- Western Brown High School
- Greenfield High School
- East Clinton High School
- Hillsboro High School
- North Adams High School

The Spring Scholarship application portal is open for anyone planning on coming in the Spring semester. We will start awarding those scholarships in December 2025.

The 2026-2027 FAFSA opened on October 1, and we have received 154 total applications as of October 31.

Testing Center

The following chart shows the October 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 the Accuplacer, the HESI exam for the nursing program application, ACT WorkKeys, Certiport, and proctored exams.

OCTOBER 2025 TESTING ACTIVITY LOG			
TEST	HILLSBORO TESTING CTR	MT. ORAB TESTING CTR	TOTALS
Pearson Vue	27	11	38
ACCUPLACER	21	30	51
HESI	4	2	6
ACT WorkKeys	6	0	6
Certiport	0	0	0
Proctored Exams	0	0	0
TOTALS:	58	43	101

Admissions

Current CCP onsite courses (excluding Ohio Code Scholar classes) for the Spring 2026 term:

- 35 schools
- 143 Course offerings (up from 129 spring of 2024)

A minimal number of high school CCP course agreements are still pending for the Spring term. Once confirmed, there will be a small number of new schools and several courses added to the list.

CCP Information Sessions:

- 22 CCP Info Sessions have been scheduled | 4 Sessions have been completed
- 3 virtual CCP Info Sessions have been scheduled for January 2026

The new Visiting Student application has been up for about a month; two students have completed the process for the Spring term.

Library

The Library team is pleased to report on a number of updates related to our **integrated library system (ILS) migration**.

After receiving our live instance of Ex Libris' Alma/Primo products (for library management and discovery) in mid-June, the Library team, alongside our inter- and extra-institutional

partners, spent the Summer ensuring that the systems would be user-ready for the start of the Fall semester. After configuring methods for authentication and patron uploads, completing additional system training, establishing workflows, and preparing a communication schedule for launch, Southern State Community College Library initiated our formal system go-live on August 18. In tandem with an update to our website, the system launched seamlessly, sunsetting our old Innovative Sierra platform, providing largely uninterrupted access to Library resources at the beginning of the semester.

Following go-live, the Library team broadcast these updates in a series of emails, listed below:

- 8/18: Library Update Announcement – Faculty & Staff
- 8/20: Library Update Announcement – Students
- 8/20: Library Account Instructions – Faculty & Staff
- 8/27: Library Account Instructions – Students

Additionally, members of the Library team presented a brief overview of these updates to faculty at the All-College Meeting on Tuesday, August 19. We also had the opportunity to share some of these updates ahead of go-live with adjunct faculty and CCP instructors, both virtually and in-person, during the Library Services session of the Adjunct | CCP Faculty Professional Development Event hosted by the College on July 23.

The Library team is committed to ongoing projects to improve elements of the system, including configuration and policy refinements for our loan rules, letters, patron uploads, and authentication. We also continue refining our use of Rapido, an integrated Ex Libris tool that expands our lending to academic libraries across the state. In December, Rapido will also provide a connection to all partnered public libraries. Beyond this, we continue to work on implementing other products we have access to consortially, including Alma Digital, the Library Mobile App, and Leganto.

- **Alma Digital** (Cohort 3 | implementation: week of 10/13/25 – week of 12/15/25)
 - o Per OhioLINK, Alma Digital is a “digital asset management (DAM) system that extends Ex Libris' Alma library services platform to handle the entire lifecycle of digital content—from deposit to delivery.” Essentially, it will allow the Library to manage the digitization and digital lending of any and all relevant local materials.
- **Library Mobile App** (Wave 2 Cohort 2 | implementation: week of 11/5 – week of 12/19)
 - o OhioLINK describes the Library Mobile App as “a practical tool designed to help students and faculty engage more easily with [the] library’s services and resources.” It is a mobile app that will allow Library patrons (faculty, staff, and

students alike) to peruse Library resources conveniently, enabling us to provide services via the devices our community uses every day.

- **Leganto** (requested Wave 3 | implementation: April – June 2026)
 - o Leganto, as described by OhioLINK, is “an integrated course resource list management system that helps instructors create, manage, and share reading lists for courses by assembling various materials, including books, articles, and videos from the library’s collections and the open web.” This product will allow direct integration between Canvas and Library resources, enabling seamless, engaging connections to resources that support learning and affordable access.

In addition to these targeted configuration and implementation projects, the **Library Team Training Retreat** was hosted in Columbus, OH, August 13 – 15. All four members of the Library team attended, participating in meetings and events that enriched our work with ILS configuration as well as broader Library practices. Our itinerary included the following items:

- OhioLINK | Amy Pawlowski, Executive Director; Theda Schwing, Associate Director of Discovery and Delivery; Tasha Bryant-Willis, Member Support Coordinator; Laney Knight, Consortial Systems Librarian
 - o Our Team joined OhioLINK staff for a consortia-wide Q&A session in the morning, and in the afternoon, we met for direct support and training related to Alma and Rapido. Many of the takeaways from this meeting have been key in refining our configurations within the new ILS to support the College community.
- State Library of Ohio | Mandy Knapp, Agency Executive Director & State Librarian; Ryan Burley, Director of Library Operations
 - o Our Team was taken on a tour of the Library, which included an exploration of a number of archival and rare materials. Many of our questions regarding the updated lending practices across the state that have been in development alongside the ILS migration were addressed.
- Columbus State Community College Library | Dana Knott, Library Director; Hydy Cates, Electronic Resources Coordinator; Robin Buser, Acquisitions & Metadata Services
 - o Our Team was invited to sit in on staff training sessions regarding the new Ex Libris products, which included presentations on innovative integrations and best practices. We also received a guided tour of the Library facilities.
- Ohioana Library | Kimberlee Kiehl, Executive Director; Kathryn Powers, Assistant Director; Courtney Brown, Librarian
 - o Our Team visited the Library during an Open House event which featured a curated collection of Library materials. We learned about Ohio authors and

collected additional information about relevant projects we can engage in and promote locally.

- OhioNet | Matt Polcyn, Director – Technology Services; Heidi Beke-Harrigan, Library Operations Analyst; Chris Deems, Library Systems Support Specialist; Spencer Lamm, Library Systems Analyst
 - o Our Team met with several staff members at OhioNet, who took a great deal of time to address questions and concerns we presented regarding the ILS implementation. They offered guidance, particularly as related to the more technical elements of our inquiries, and explained the sorts of tasks we may anticipate as we further refine our processes.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Computer Science Renovation Project

BHDP has completed the Construction Documents (CD) phase for the Computer Science renovation project. The bidding period for the project will take place from December 8 to January 15. An in-person pre-bid meeting and walkthrough will be held on December 15. Construction is expected to begin on March 24, 2026, and be completed by October 16, 2026.

Building Renovation

Renovation efforts are progressing smoothly. Drywall, painting, flooring, lighting, and new ceiling tiles have all been completed. Work will soon begin on restroom renovations, cabinets, blinds, and cove base installation.

This project aims to transform the former daycare space into a modern environment designed to support expanded classroom and office use for the Adult Opportunity Center, Workforce Development training, and other community meetings and events.

Special thanks to **Loren O’Cull** (Facilities Manager), **Jeff Knauff** (Facilities Technician), and **Steve Bikowsky** (Maintenance) for their outstanding contributions to this project.

Capital Appropriations/Reappropriations

All state agencies in Ohio are required to submit a long-term capital improvements plan before

each capital budget cycle. Capital projects include costs related to acquiring, constructing, renovating, or equipping facilities. Additionally, the Ohio Constitution limits appropriations to a two-year period, which means agencies must request reappropriation to carry forward any unspent capital funds into the next biennium.

Southern State Community College has submitted a formal request to reappropriate approximately \$5.68 million in unspent capital funds for the FY 2027–2028 biennium. This request follows the state’s reappropriation process and includes all required elements: a six-year funding summary, detailed breakdowns of each appropriation line item (ALI), narrative justifications explaining the need for continued funding, and supporting documentation such as community project updates and an encumbrance review worksheet.

C32234 & C32233 – IT Centers of Excellence: Funds will complete renovations of computer science labs and classrooms to support technology and cybersecurity education.

C32232 – Ohio Christian University Organic Chemistry Labs: A community partnership project delayed due to administrative hurdles; funds will support lab construction for rural medical training.

C32229 – Campus Safety Grant Program: Supports critical safety upgrades like emergency generators and access control systems.

C32228 – Workforce-Based Training & Equipment (RAPIDS): Enables continued investment in workforce development and STEM education through equipment purchases and training.

C32225 – Campus Security Systems Project: Funds reserved for cybersecurity and physical safety improvements, supplementing expiring grant resources.

C32200 – Basic Renovations: Covers essential infrastructure upgrades including HVAC, roofing, and lab renovations.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Grants

ASPIRE

Three Southern State Adult Opportunity Center staff members attended the Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education (OAACE) annual fall conference in Columbus, October 22–24,

joining representatives from all 55 Ohio Aspire programs. A special session on October 22 addressed data collection during new student registration and orientation, timely given the launch of online registration through the state portal. Additional sessions covered workforce development, community partnerships, student success and retention, AI, and advocacy for adult education funding.

The first state data pull of FY26 was completed in October. The results showed the program above the state average in all targets.

Choose Ohio First

On October 22, the new students in the Choose Ohio First (COF) Cohort and those in the first cohort attended a reception organized by COF organizer, Strategic Support Specialist **Lisa Hord**. The students were fed and given some networking time with members of the College leadership, faculty, and staff. This year's cohort includes Michael Gillespie of Lake Waynoka, Quinton Dick of Peebles, Grant Hill of Mt. Orab, and Skylar Van Rubio of Williamsburg.



Ohio Code Scholar

The deadline for the 2025-2026 participation in the Coder project this year has passed, and while additional numbers are still being reported, the student participation count is 1,550 with 1,361 projects. There are 52 teachers participating in the project and 43 schools.

Four new support staff members began working on the Ohio Code Scholar project in October. Below is a brief bio that the new team members wrote:

- **Garrett Sheppard | Regional Coordinator, Central** | *I graduated in December of 2024 from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering. In addition to being a Regional Coordinator for the Ohio Code Scholar Program, I am also a Software Engineer, and I work in hospitality from time to time (I just love pizza)!*

- **Sevrin Florek | Regional Coordinator, Southern** | *I very recently graduated with my Associate's degree in Computer Science from Southern State Community College, where I focused on programming and robotics. I'm excited to help broaden STEM education in Southern Ohio, where I grew up. The Ohio Code Scholar program is a great place for me to use my skills in robotics and expand STEM education in a place I've always called home!*
- **Mary Goocey | Ohio Code Scholar Computer Technology Program Navigator** | *I am a graduate of Southern State's Computer Science Program. I participated in an internship program, gained experience, and was later hired as a lead technician for Chillicothe City Schools. After my tenure at Chillicothe, I served as the Technology Director for Adena Local Schools for 2 years. While working toward my Bachelor's degree in Information Technology, I served as a Cybersecurity Analyst for the City of Kettering. I am happy to be back at Southern State serving as the Ohio Code Scholar Computer Technology Program Navigator, and I am excited to leverage my years of experience and familiarity with the program to help students achieve their educational and career goals.*
- **Melanie Smith | Ohio Code Scholar Program Coordinator** | *I am a 2020 graduate of SSCC with a degree focused on Cybersecurity & Forensics. I was previously employed by the Highland County Board of Developmental Disabilities, where I worked as an IT Coordinator for the last 5 years. I spend my free time listening to audiobooks and playing with my Pomeranian, Panda. I enjoy traveling and just returned from a wonderful trip to Colorado. I'm very excited to be joining the team at SSCC and look forward to what the future holds.*

Workforce Development

The Executive Director of Workforce Development, **Amy McClellan**, attended the annual National Council on Workforce Education (NCWE) conference in October, where best practices are shared about workforce education from across the country.

Truck Driving Academy (Class A and Class B) Enrollment Information

	2024-2025	2025-2026
July	8	5
August	17	5
September	9	15
October	17	10
November	14	16
December	15	
January	10	

February	12	
March	10	
April	15	
May	10	
June	19	
Y-T-D	156	51 (-14 YTD)

Communications and Marketing

Presence Report

Southern State Community College

Marketing Area	August	September	October
Press Release	3	5	8
Advertising / Print	10+	10+	10+
Email Campaigns	1	1	1
Emails Deployed	25,000	25,000	25,000
Number Opened	4,323	4,622	5,164
Percentage Opened	17.29%	18.49%	20.66%
Clicks within content	640	706	741
Percentage of total clicks	2.56%	2.82%	2.96%
Social Retargeting			
Reach	12,604	12,604	8,133
Impressions	23,201	23,201	21,499
Clicks	135	135	113
CTR (click through rate)	0.58%	0.58%	0.53%
Frequency	1.84	1.84	2.64
Geofencing			
Impressions/ads Deployed	53,235	51,555	57,032
Clicks	231	258	249
CTR (click through rate)	0.43%	0.50%	0.44%
Top 2 locations of activity	Georgetown and Chillicothe	Georgetown and Chillicothe	Georgetown and Chillicothe
Audience Management			
Impressions/ads Deployed	45,873	51,517	46,837
Clicks	127	106	122
CTR (click through rate)	0.28%	0.21%	0.26%

Truck Driving Academy

Marketing Area	August	September	October
Email Campaigns			
Emails Deployed	25,000	25,000	25,000
Number opened	5,430	4,747	4,269
Percentage Opened	21.72%	18.99%	17.08%
Clicks within content	731	751	762
Percentage of open and clicked	2.92%	3.00%	3.05%
Audience Management			
Impressions/ads Deployed	64,706	66,454	62,274
Clicks	132	92	138
CTR (click through rate)	0.20%	0.14%	0.22%
Social Retargeting			
Reach	11,623	10,861	12,005
Impressions	24,288	20,876	21,074
Clicks	136	217	138
CTR (click through rate)	0.56%	1.04%	0.65%
Frequency	2.09	1.92	1.76

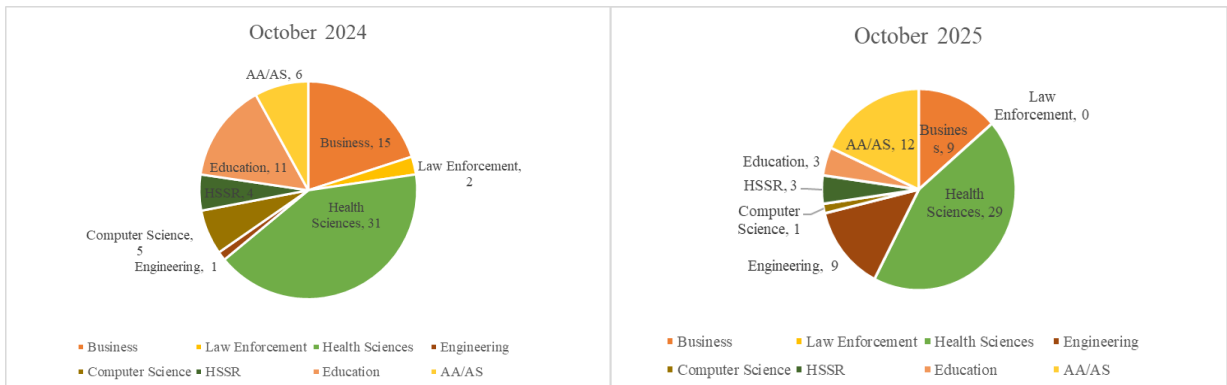
Recent Southern State Appearances | Since the last report, Southern State has appeared in the following media outlets:

- **Press Releases**
 - SSCC Awards Dylan Philip Wilson and Nathan Paeltz Memorial Scholarship to Kiley Hewitt and Taylor Smith ([Student Success](#))
 - SSCC Theatre presents 'Hamlet'
 - Southern State Announces 5-Week Fiber Optic Course ([Workforce Development](#))
 - Southern State's Online Scholarship Portal Is Open – Apply Today! ([Enrollment](#))
 - SSCC Board of Trustees to meet October 16
 - SSCC awards Elks Scholarship to Addyston Knauff ([Student Success](#))
 - Southern State Community College announces four students in the Choose Ohio First Initiative ([Student Success](#))
- **Advertising/Print/Direct Mail:**
 - October e-blast promoting Online programming to Eastern Ohio counties ([Enrollment](#))
 - October e-blast promoting Winter start dates for the TDA program ([Enrollment](#), [Workforce Development](#))
 - 2025 Career and Education publication ad ([Enrollment](#))
 - Spring Semester promo ads with HCP (online and print) ([Enrollment](#))
 - Winter Sports Program ad for Fairfield Local HS ([Enrollment](#))
 - Wilmington HS Yearbook ad ([Enrollment](#))
 - Wilmington News Journal High School Winter Sports publication ad ([Enrollment](#))
 - Fairfield Local Winter Sports Program ad ([Enrollment](#))
 - Fairfield Local Robotics Advertising Sponsor ([Enrollment](#))

- Nov./Dec. SALT Magazine ad (Highland, Clinton, Fayette markets) (*Enrollment*)
- **Social Media:**
 - Facebook Insights:
 - Views: 123.9K (+12.9%) (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - Content Interactions: 421 (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - Instagram Insights:
 - Views: 2.2K (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - Content Interactions: 46 (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - LinkedIn Insights:
 - Impressions: 2,936 (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - Click-through-rate (CTR) 1% (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - Top Content:
 - Connect-to-College (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - Scholarship Portal Now Open (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)
 - Engineering students building stage for Theatre (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)
 - Addyston Knauff scholarship press release (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment, Student Success*)
- **Events/Publications**
 - 50th Anniversary activities – ongoing through Dec. 2025 (*Relevance and Excellence, Enrollment*)
 - Celebratory Brunch and Open House event at Mt. Orab–Oct. 30, 2025
 - At A Glance Publication
 - Fiber Optic Program Promotion (*Workforce Development*)
 - OSHA Training Program promotion (*Workforce Development*)

Recruitment

Program Information Requested



Recruitment Efforts:

- Adams/Brown County College Fair
- Science Alliance
- Highland County College Fair
- Clinton County College Fair
- Pike County College Fair
- Clinton County Career Exploration Fair

College Credit Plus Nights:

- Fairfield Local
- Lynchburg-Clay
- West Union

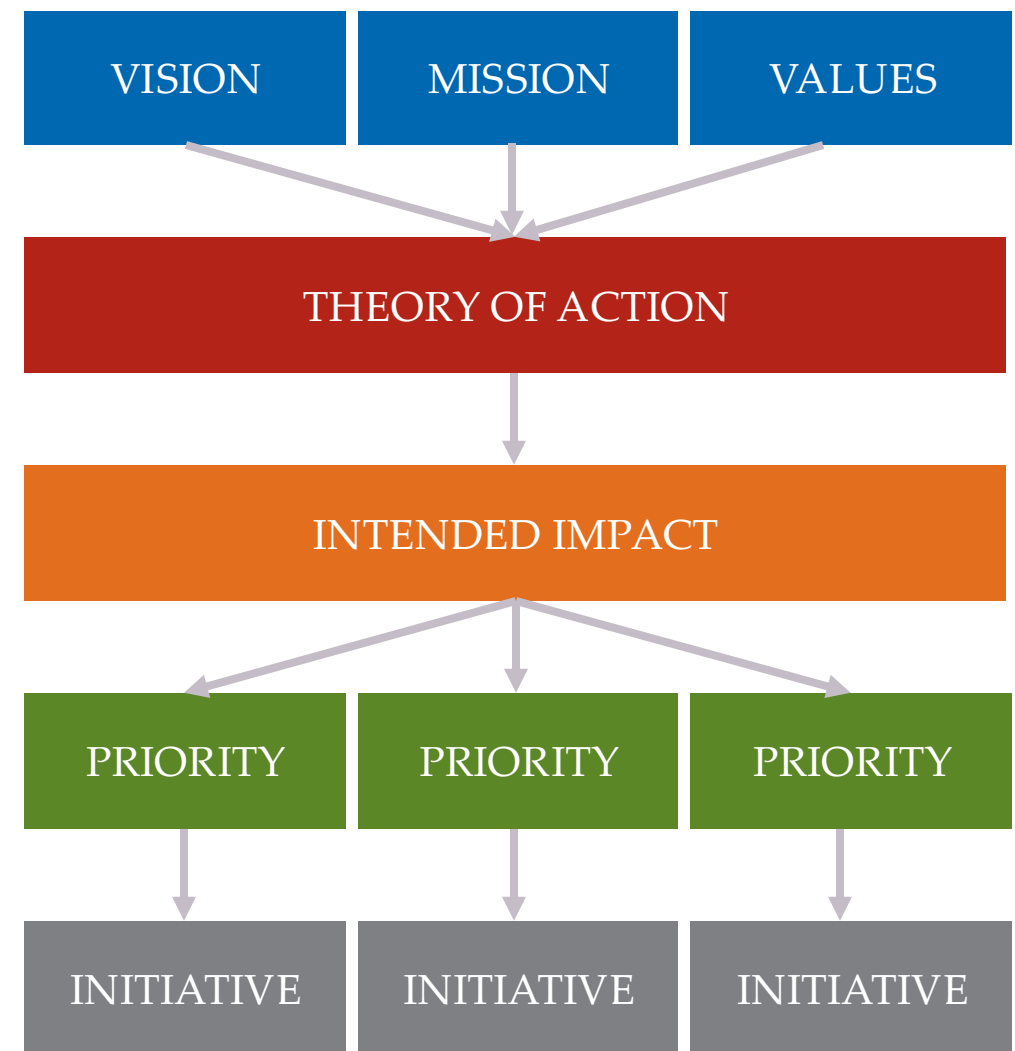
Professional Development:

Connect to College entertained 95 students from three different K-12 institutions on campus on October 24. The event will be reimagined moving forward for future engagements. Thank you to the faculty and staff who helped with the event!

Reminder: Common language for us to use in developing Southern State's strategic plan

Elements of a Strategic Plan

- 1 **Organizational Vision, Mission, Values:** Summarizes org's distinct reason for being
- 2 **Theory of Action:** Key activities the org engages in to achieve its vision
- 3 **Intended Impact:** Specific outcomes the organization will hold itself accountable for achieving over the course of the strategic plan
- 4 **Strategic Priorities:** Major category of work that will drive towards achieving the intended impact
- 5 **Initiatives:** Smaller workstreams that fall under each of the strategic priorities



Reminder: The project is at the end of Phase 1 of the three-phase process

Aug	September					October				November				December	
8/18	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22	9/29	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24	12/1	12/8
★ Kick Off (9.15)						★ WS 1 (10.22, In Person)				★ WS 2 (12.3)					
Phase 0		Phase 1					Phase 2				Phase 3				
- Project planning - Scheduling, logistics, and set up - Create a stakeholder engagement plan - Facilitate a client and SteerCo kick off		- Conduct an external current state assessment - Conduct an internal current state assessment - Synthesize findings from the internal and external assessments into a fact base and generate insights and implications for SSCC's go-forward strategy - Facilitate a SteerCo Working Session to process findings from the fact base					- Articulate a draft of SSCC's emerging strategic priorities - Conduct additional, targeted research or conversations - Further define / redefine elements of each strategic priority - Gather input on emerging priorities from key stakeholders - Create a set of Contingency actions - Identify the measures that SSCC will use to manage, maximize, and demonstrate impact - Develop a financial model (SSCC) - Identify shifts in org structure or staffing (SSCC) - Facilitate a SteerCo Working Session to refine recommendations				- Finalize external pitch book and internal play book - Provide resources / training on implementation planning - Conduct hand off meeting				

Southern State Community College, Strategic Priorities (2026-2029)

Southern State Community College, Strategic Priorities (2026-2029)

PROGRAMS	1	Build a future-ready portfolio of programs that aligns with regional workforce needs and prepares learners for emerging opportunities
	2	Shape a sustainable dual enrollment strategy that balances access, quality, and long-term student impact
STUDENTS	3	Attract and engage more students by rebuilding pipelines through clear messaging, modern outreach, and community partnership
	4	Enhance student success and belonging by creating connected, student-centered supports that improve persistence and completion
ORGANIZATION	5	Modernize operations and data systems to streamline processes, strengthen data use, and deliver faster, higher-quality service
	6	Strengthen people, systems, and culture to align structure, talent, and growth with SSCC's mission and future goals

Additional details on each priority—including its rationale and key initiatives—are provided in Section C.