

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



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARCH 2026 | DR. NICOLE ROADES, PRESIDENT

Strategic Plan Update | Goal 6: Strengthening People, Systems, and Culture

Among the six strategic priorities, “strengthening people, systems, and culture” includes an initiative to redesign the organizational structure to better align talent, roles, and capacity with strategic priorities. This is largely a foundational priority upon which many other strategies and initiatives rest. I am pleased to announce that the major reorganization effort related to the goal is in place.

As reported in my October and November 2025 reports, a central tenet of achieving our goals focused on a major reorganization of enrollment and workforce. Since the last report, **Amy Perkins-McLellan** has been promoted to Vice President of Enrollment and Workforce Innovation. And, in mid-March, we will welcome another central function of this reorganization, a new Director of Enrollment Management. Later this spring, we hope to invite a new recruiter to this team.

Overall, our strategic plan work is unfolding nicely. Across the College, supporters are already planning the steps needed to achieve our goals and, in many instances, at an accelerated pace. The reorganization, coupled with the addition of essential team members, has been an essential part of the broader Strategic Plan and the temporarily paused Strategic Enrollment Plan. Having these vacancies filled should position the College well for continued momentum.

College Exploring Revitalization Strategies for the Truck Driving Academy

Established in 2001, the Southern State Truck Driving Academy (TDA) has filled an important workforce need across Southern Ohio. One of nearly 60 providers across Ohio, mostly situated in major hubs such as Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland, the Southern State program has filled the need in the rural southern Ohio market, credentialing thousands of individuals and preparing them for some of the nation’s most well-paying, in-demand occupations.

In recent years, enrollment has become a challenge despite the Academy's strong reputation, ease of access, student satisfaction, competitive pricing structure, and hundreds of thousands of dollars of investment in paid media. These attributes, coupled with student financial support through Ohio Means Jobs and the Ohio Department of Higher Education's grant program, have fallen short of maintaining the enrollment necessary for the program to break even, leaving the College in the unfortunate position of addressing a complex student-demand scenario.

This financial shortfall necessitates that the program explore alternative options to renew its viability. Early interventions have rested almost exclusively on personnel adjustments and reevaluation of media exposure. In the immediate future, the team will explore alternative scheduling options and renew efforts to identify short-term training options that would further reduce student and/or business investment. Mid-range strategies are more involved and include expanding training sites to enhance visibility and centralizing the classroom site to provide broader access across the region. College leaders will revisit the effectiveness of the immediate interventions, provide an update to the Finance Committee in May, and prepare to present mid-range solutions as the scenario warrants to the full Board in June.

Southern State Central Campus Honored to be Host Site for Highland County Chamber of Commerce's Ag Event and the Agency for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Transition Fair

On Friday, March 6, the College was honored to be the host location for two large events in the community, drawing a combined crowd of nearly 1,000 guests.

- **Highland County Chamber of Commerce** | *Ag is Everyone's Business Event* | This annual event drew an audience of nearly 800 guests to the Patriot Center. Featuring Dr. Temple Grandin, this was the largest Ag event in the Chamber's history. Through coordination with our marketing department, thanks to **Elizabeth Burkard** and **Ally Osman**, the College had prime sponsorship positioning as a book sponsor.
- **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities** | *Annual Transition Fair* | As a proud site sponsor for this annual employment fair, several hundred participants and sponsors from across the region enjoyed an employment fair, guest speakers, and engagement activities on the College's main campus.

I extend my heartfelt thanks and recognition, particularly to **Darlene Thacker** for her administrative scheduling support of the Central Campus, to the entire maintenance team, led

by **Loren O’Cull**, and supported by **Jeff Knauff**, **Steve Bikowsky**, and Security Coordinator, **Gary Heaton**. While these individuals were central to the coordination and execution of the event, it is really the hospitality of **the entire Southern State team** that helps make our campuses a preferred location for community events.

President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Brown County Chamber of Commerce | Annual Meeting
- President’s Council Meetings
- Southern Ohio Energy-Sector Talent Alignment Meeting
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board Meetings
- Weekly Meetings with the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
- SSCC High School Counselor Luncheon
- Clinton County Reading/Literacy Initiative Meetings
- Meeting re: Fayette County ASPIRE Services
- Check-In Call with Bellwether Representatives
- Highland County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meetings
- Business Advisory Council (BAC) Clinton County Meeting
- Meeting with Fayette County Workforce Director
- SSCC Faculty Senate Meeting
- HUB International Pre-Renewal Meeting
- Meeting re: Patriot Center Usage
- Meeting with Wilmington College President re: Joint Usage Agreement
- Highland County 1st Round Caucus Meeting
- Lunch & Learn | Human Trafficking
- SSCC and Adena Partnership Call
- Interviews for the Director of Enrollment Management Position
- Meeting with Brown County Chamber of Commerce Representative
- Meeting with Shawnee State University Representative
- STEEL Committee Meeting
- Administrative Meeting | 2026 SSCC Commencement
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce | Coffee & Commerce
- Call with Wilmington College President
- OACC’s Winter Student Success Leadership Institute (SSLI)
- Lt. Governor Tressel’s Fitness Challenge | Fairfield Local School District

- Southern State Community College and Workforce Pipeline Coordination
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Event: Ag is Everyone's Business
- Deep Data Dive | Highlights of the HLC Comprehensive Assurance Report
- Workforce, Education & Training Partners – Highland County Economic Development Strategic Plan Listening Session
- Meeting and Campus Tour with U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno's District Representative for Southwest Ohio
- HEALTH Consortium Board Meeting | 2026/2027 Renewal

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Higher Learning Commission Visit is Here!

Our HLC Comprehensive Evaluation Visit is coming up on Monday, April 13, and Tuesday, April 14. A five-person review team made up of HLC peer corps reviewers will do an on-site evaluation to verify that SSCC meets accreditation criteria and federal requirements. A peer review team verifies the accuracy of the submitted Assurance Argument and the accompanying Federal Compliance report, which is submitted a month before the visit. A sixth reviewer evaluates the Federal Compliance report and samples of course syllabi prior to the visit. The on-campus review team will interview faculty, staff, administration, students, and Board of Trustees members. Comprehensive visits are done every 10 years with a 4-year mid-cycle desk review in between, as well as location visits. The campus has been very busy preparing for the visit. Thanks to all who contributed in some way to the comprehensive visit. Special thanks to the writing team of **Dr. Jeff Montgomery, Dr. Jessica Wise, Dr. Angel Mootispaw, Dr. Pete Hanson, Dr. Peggy Chalker, Robin Tholen, and Dr. Erika Goodwin** for preparing the assurance argument and federal compliance report.

Improving Student Success Outcomes

Student success outcomes like retention and graduation rates are priorities for SSCC. In efforts to continue to improve in these areas, **Dr. Pete Hanson** has led an initiative to update our early alert process. Early Alert is when a faculty member submits a form notifying the advising office that a student is having academic difficulty in their course. These can be submitted anytime during the semester.

What's New in the Early Alert Process

1. More Communication Back to Submitters: While it may not be possible to share the specifics of the conversations we have with students for privacy reasons, we do understand that it is important you know that activity is taking place. Submitters will now receive status updates at key points in the process, including:

- Affirmative confirmation when an Early Alert is received (not just a copy of the alert)
- Notification when the alert is assigned for follow-up
- A final message when the alert is closed.

2. Student Outreach Expanded to Canvas: In addition to the traditional email and phone outreach, students will now receive Early Alert notifications through Canvas, ensuring stronger visibility for online and hybrid students.

3. Wider Set of Potential Recipients for Intervention: Alerts will now be routed to a broader group of support providers based on student need, including:

- Advisors
- Learning Services
- Counseling
- Library Services
- Financial Services/Financial Aid

4. Immediate Notification to Counselors of CCP Students: When a College Credit Plus student is included in an Early Alert, their CCP counselor will receive a dedicated, immediate notification to ensure timely support.

5. More Robust Documentation of Interventions: Staff completing Early Alert follow-up will now enter actions taken (email, phone, Canvas message, meeting, etc.) through improved documentation steps aligned with the updated system workflow.

Fifth Friday Faculty Assessment Workshop

In months that have a fifth Friday, faculty meet for an Assessment Professional Development workshop. January's fifth Friday workshop was led by **Dr. Pete Hanson** and focused on SSCC's assessment process and key results for co-curricular and general education, along with upcoming goals and a deep dive into the Communication Institutional Learning Outcome.

Education Program at Ohio Educators Rising College Fair



Education Faculty member, **Nicole Sheppard**, along with adjunct faculty **Ella Sheppard** recently attended the Ohio Educators Rising College Fair at Capital University. SSCC was the only community college represented, and they connected with several hundred high school students interested in pursuing careers in teaching. It was a very successful event!

CCP Information Nights

SSCC has participated in 32 CCP information nights at local high schools this year. Most schools only do one information night, but some do two. CCP nights included:

Batavia	McClain
Bethel Tate	North Adams
Blanchester (2)	Peebles
Clinton Massie	Ripley
East Clinton	Southern Hills
Eastern	Virtual SSCC - Homeschool/Private
Fairfield Local (2)	Virtual SSCC - Public School (2)
Fayetteville	Washington CH
Georgetown	Waverly (2)
Hillsboro	West Union
Loveland	Western Brown
Lynchburg-Clay (2)	Whiteoak
Manchester	Williamsburg

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lunch & Learn: Speaker Series | Human Trafficking

Thirty-five staff, faculty, and administrators attended the February 11 Lunch & Learn. **Jody Bishop**, sociology faculty, conducted a presentation on the growing problem that has run rampant across the country and the world, Human Trafficking. Special thanks to Jody for sharing the message, to **Darlene Thacker** for setting up lunch, and to everyone who participated.

The next Lunch & Learn will be held on Wednesday, March 18, in room 184 on Central Campus. ZOOM will also be available for those who cannot attend in person. **Tom Payton**, psychology faculty, and **Elizabeth Crabtree**, counselor, will present on Sexual Assault | Violence Awareness. All are welcome to attend. The Lunch and Learn series was developed by **Dr. Jessica Wise**.

Advising Metrics

Central Campus (2 advisors)

Student Population	January 2026	February 2026
New CCP	15	2
Traditional CCP	117	5
New Traditional	22	9
Returning Traditional	111	40

Brown County Campus (1 part-time advisor)

Student Population	January 2006	February 2026
New CCP	2	17
Returning CCP	12	9
New Traditional	4	2
Returning Traditional	15	9

Brown County/Mt. Orab Campus

Dr. Peggy Chalker, Campus Director

Campus Activities

Lunch and Learn's March topic, Sexual Assault and Violence Awareness, is an opportunity for students at both campus locations to join in collaborative events. Along the same topic, Women Helping Women staff are sharing with the HSSR/CD students how, as paraprofessionals, to recognize clues in their clients. CCP Pathway Planning/ Fall Registration is the big push starting after break to ensure students are set for classes before the summer break.

Other student engagement events: Reds Opening Day Prep Rally and Finals Breakfast are two campus activities planned for the last half of the Spring term.

Community Activities

- **Brown County Business Advisory Council:** was recently recognized by the Governor as one of the top 3-star (out of 4 stars) business-education advisory councils in Ohio. The status of a 3-star level indicates the council implements many quality practices throughout the year to create a culture of career-focused opportunities for all students. This council meets twice out of the four-yearly sessions at the Mt. Orab campus.
- **Ohio State Extension Agency MASTER GARDNER Volunteer Spring Seminars:** have begun the Spring planting education sessions offered February – April. These once-a-month evening sessions are free to the public and held on the Mt. Orab campus.

Spring Transfer Events

Transfer Fair with Tech Pathway Partners

SSCC's Spring Transfer Fair, scheduled for March 25 at our Central Campus in Hillsboro, is spotlighting College partners aligned with our technical programs. Our loyal partners for all pathways will share their opportunities for AA/AS students, technical program students, and CCP students who are still exploring. Nursing programs that offer RN-BSN pathways, Computer Science partners, and Engineering Tech bachelor agreements are the highlights for our face-to-face programs. Pathway opportunities for Education and Business are also emphasized, with links to online connections to those partners.

Accessibility Services and Learning Services

Dana Swackhamer (former financial aid advisor) was named the new Learning Services and Accessibility Coordinator in February. Dana has been with SSCC since 2022. Prior to coming to SSCC, she had eight years of professional experience supporting students and families with accessibility and academic support services. Dana holds two associate degrees and a certificate from SSCC, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Franklin University, and a Master's of Business Administration – Human Resources degree from Franklin University.

Accessibility Services (AS)

Student Registration and Support

- 40 students are registered with Accessibility Services for the spring semester.
- 7 additional students are currently completing the registration process.
- 1 student is registered for the upcoming fall semester.
- Proctored five exams between February 5 and 26 to ensure approved accommodations were implemented appropriately.

Outreach and Collaboration

- Contacted high school guidance counselors to introduce Accessibility Services and review the SSCC accommodation process.
- Met with Amy Bradford from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities to strengthen referral pathways and external support connections.
- Met with TDA and CNA program directors to clarify accessibility responsibilities.
- Partnered with the Engineering Department to design and produce accessible table handles to improve physical accessibility. Now have 4 additional table handles that can stay with the tables. Thanks to faculty, **Jim Barnett**.
- Weekly meeting with **Dr. Goodwin**. Developed goals for the position for the year.

Professional Engagement and Compliance

- Renewed memberships with Ohio AHEAD and AHEAD to remain current with state and national best practices.
- Attended the Adjunct Faculty Meeting to provide visibility and support regarding accessibility processes.
- Participated in the SOCHE Adult and Professional Learners Committee meeting on February 19.

- Ongoing updates to Accessibility Services paperwork and website content to improve clarity, compliance, and user experience.

Learning Services (LS)

Student Engagement and Support

- From February 1–15, tutors and learning coaches provided direct support to 87 students through in-person labs, virtual sessions, and Zoom appointments.
- From February 1–26, tutors and learning coaches logged 138.69 service hours supporting student learning and academic skill development.
- Learning Services supported Nursing Entrance Exam preparation 51 times through email communication, individualized learning plans, score updates, resource development, and direct student support.

Campus Involvement and Outreach

- Staff participated in Resilience Rally events at the Hillsboro and Brown County campuses.
- Promoted the OWL Writing Lab through social media outreach to increase student awareness and utilization.

Process Improvement and Program Development

- Continued review and development of departmental policies and procedures to strengthen service delivery and consistency.
- Renewed membership with the College Reading and Learning Association to maintain professional standards and certification alignment.
- Initiated collaboration with **Dr. Hanson** and Academic Advising to establish a formal partnership within the Early Alert process, positioning Learning Services as a proactive student success partner.
- Working to complete UDOIT accessibility review within the OWL Canvas course.

Professional Development

Dana Swackhamer completed the following professional development activities:

- Building an Effective Tutor Training Program: CRLA Certification & Practical Strategies
- SOCHE Tutoring Center Administration: Best Practices for Hiring, Tracking & Reporting

- SOCHE Evaluating Tutoring Effectiveness with Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment Strategies
- Canvas training with **Cathy Zile**
- Metacognition Meets Dual Enrollment: Igniting Student Success from Innovative Educator

Instructional Technology

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

Monthly Activities for Dr. Angel Mootispaw

- Participated in Vice President Council meetings to continually align distance learning initiatives with institutional priorities.
- Participated in the Division Coordinator/Academic meeting to promote cross-functional communication and ensure instructional initiatives are aligned with academic priorities.
- Participated in HLC Writing Sessions to assist in finalizing sections of the accreditation narrative with supporting evidence.
- Attended the Policy in Practice Summit to remain current on emerging expectations for online learning quality and federal compliance.
- Hosted the Instructional Technology Committee meeting.

Welcome our Instructional Designer

The Instructional Technology department welcomed **LeAnn (Vivian) Krosnick** as a new part-time Instructional Designer. LeAnn's primary focus will be working with faculty to meet accessibility requirements using our UDOIT Advantage tool. She will also support quality assurance by assisting in conducting course reviews.

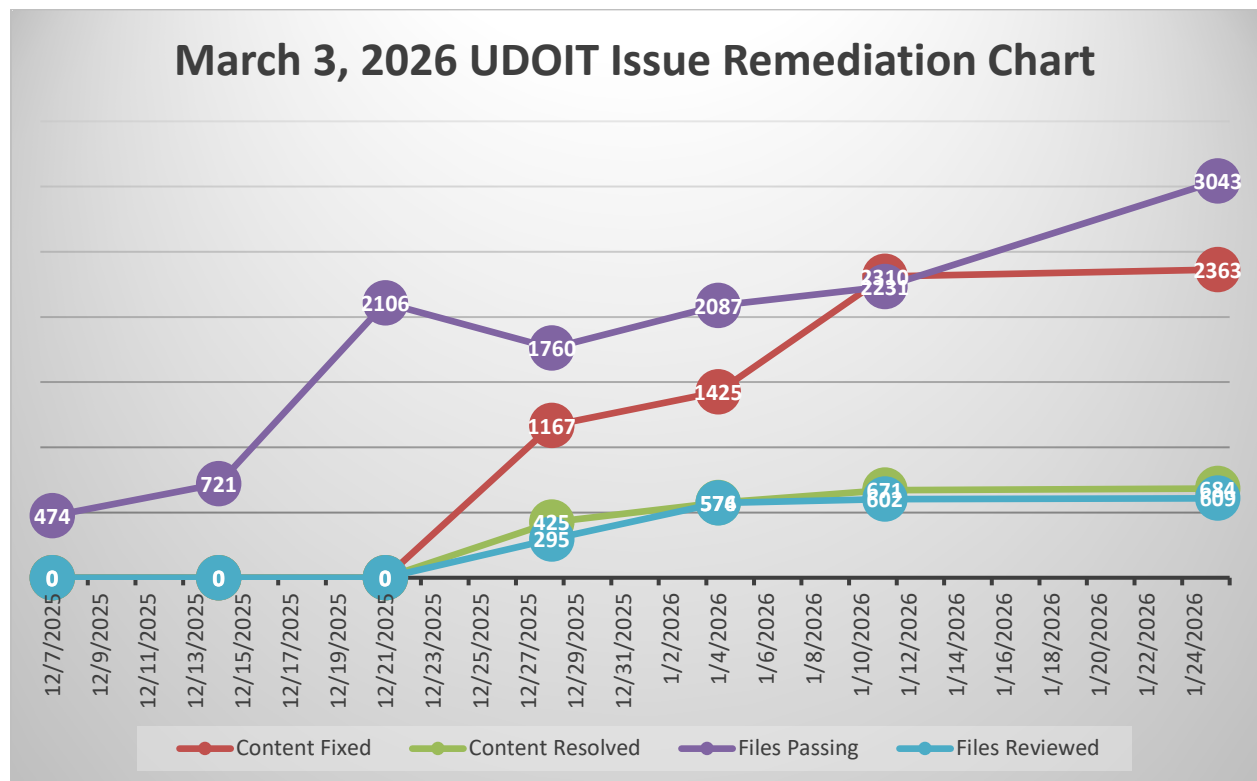
LeAnn brings extensive higher education experience in instructional design, development, and implementation. Most recently, as Senior Instructional Designer in the Center for eLearning at Cleveland State University, she partnered with faculty to design and develop online courses aligned with nationally recognized Quality Matters standards and helped create and facilitate faculty professional development. She has presented at local and national conferences, co-authored a book chapter on effective SME-instructional designer partnerships, and is committed to delivering high-quality outcomes.

UDOIT Accessibility Project

SSCC acquired UDOIT (Universal Design Online content Inspection Tool) Advantage, an accessibility tool built for Canvas, to help identify and remediate accessibility barriers in online course content. The tool supports faculty and instructional designers by scanning courses for common issues such as missing alternative text, poor heading structure, inaccessible tables, and other barriers that affect usability for students.

The UDOIT project was launched not only to help the institution improve the accessibility of Canvas courses and support equitable access for all learners, but also to strengthen compliance efforts. The College is preparing for the U.S. Department of Justice Title II ADA final rule, which requires state and local government entities to ensure that web content and mobile applications meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards by April 24, 2026.

This project is showing strong progress in improving the accessibility of Spring semester Canvas courses. Since the project's onset, 9,798 combined accessibility issues have been resolved. Please see below for more information.



75%

Account Accessibility Score



Filters: Account: Southern State ... Term: Spring 2026 Filter

Scorecard

[How does scoring work?](#)

> High Impact ⓘ	Category Score: 90%
> Medium Impact ⓘ	Category Score: 71%
> Low Impact ⓘ	Category Score: 0%

Total Scanned Courses: 424

	<i>February 18</i>	<i>February 25</i>	<i>March 3</i>	<i>Resolved</i>
<i>Errors</i>	9624	6253	6224	3400
<i>Suggestions</i>	11375	10764	10355	1020
<i>Issues Fixed</i>	2363	3437	3872	3872
<i>Marked Resolved</i>	696	787	803	803
<i>File Issues</i>	11257	11490	11446	-
<i>Files Remediated</i>	5	9	9	9
<i>Files Marked Reviewed</i>	610	646	694	694
<i>Total Remediation</i>				9798

Campus Security Report

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

- Attended December, January, and February HFC Safety Council meetings
- Attended All College meetings
- Completed FERPA in-house training
- Attended Zoom conferences on student mental health
- Completed in-house Cyber Security Awareness training
- Monitored Christian School Basketball Tournament
- Attended Lunch and Learn on Human Trafficking
- Attended computer lab construction info meeting
- Assisted in info gathering concerning student injury at Laurel Oaks

- Attended two meetings for the SSCC May Graduation
- Contacted and set up off duty detail with the Highland County Sheriff for security at graduation
- Resolved several issues involving students and staff

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Computer Science Renovation Project

SSCC received Controlling Board approval on February 23. With this milestone, the project is nearing completion of the bidding phase, with final documentation and contract approvals underway. A Notice to Proceed (NTP) is anticipated on March 16. Construction is scheduled to begin on March 24, with substantial completion expected by October 16.

To support continuity of instruction during construction, existing Computer Science classrooms, laboratory spaces, and related functional areas have been temporarily relocated to alternate campus locations and will remain operational until the project is complete.

Former Early Learning Center Renovation

Renovation of approximately half of the former early learning center is now complete. Adult Opportunity Center staff have successfully relocated into the newly renovated space, allowing construction activities to proceed in the remaining portion of the facility.

This project transforms the former daycare area into a modern, flexible environment that supports expanded classroom and office functions for the Adult Opportunity Center, Workforce Development training programs, and a variety of 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.

Community Capital Project Request

SSCC has submitted a Community Capital application for a shared learning space modernization project. Through H.B. 2 of the 135th General Assembly, the College was authorized to renovate existing space to establish the Technology Innovation Center. Previous investments in the Media Center and Health Science Center have similarly created modern, high-impact anchor facilities that support the College's most in-demand programs.

This project will modernize shared learning spaces and the connecting corridors between these anchor facilities, enhancing student access, efficiency, and collaboration through updated furnishings, private study areas, and essential learning amenities. If funded, improvements will also extend to the Patriot Center, including upgraded audio/visual infrastructure and enhanced ADA-accessible stage access, ensuring inclusive use and long-term community benefit.

Artificial Intelligence Student Survey

A student survey was conducted in November 2025 to gather information on student use of artificial intelligence technologies, including usage trends, perceived benefits, concerns, and information sources. The survey received 133 responses, with primary participation from College Credit Plus (CCP) students under the age of 18.

Results indicate that artificial intelligence is already present in students' academic lives, though its use is not yet standardized, deeply embedded, or clearly governed. Students reported perceived learning benefits; however, usage remains informal, largely mobile-based, and primarily limited to free-tier tools. Ethical uncertainty and a lack of clear policy guidance were commonly cited.

Overall, the findings suggest that SSCC is at a strategic decision point. While AI has not yet been institutionalized, students are independently developing usage habits. Clear guidance, instructional integration strategies, and policy alignment will be critical in determining whether AI evolves into a structured academic asset or a broader governance challenge for the College. An executive summary of the survey is included at the end of this report.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE | HUMAN RESOURCES

New Hires

John Kemper has been hired as a part-time Truck Driving Academy Instructor. **Rylee Phelps and Landen Campbell** have both joined the SSCC team as part-time Student Success Tutors.

ENROLLMENT AND WORKFORCE INNOVATION

Emerging from the Strategic Enrollment Plan and the Strategic Plan outcomes, the Department of Enrollment and Workforce Innovation is a newly formed department comprising workforce development, registrar, financial aid, testing services, recruitment, enrollment management, and communications and marketing.

Personnel Updates

The Department would like to welcome **Jim Farmer** of West Portsmouth to Southern State as the new Director of Enrollment Management. Jim comes to us with a broad range of experience in Enrollment Management in higher education. Jim’s first day was March 16.

Registrar’s Office

- There are 53 students who completed graduation requirements at the end of the fall semester. Of those 53 students, 55 degrees/certificates have been earned. Additionally, six students earned their Real Estate Salesperson Certification.

Degree/Certificates	Conferred Fall 25
AA	7
AS	5
AAB	7
AAS	4
ATS	0
Certificates	32
Totals:	55

Less than 1 Year (LT1 Certifications	
Real Estate	6

- The 2026 Summer Semester registration opened on February 17. Registration for the 2026 Fall Semester will open after Spring Break, with a one-week priority registration period for our Veterans/Service members. Followed by Sophomore registration on March 24, and Freshmen begin their registration period on March 25.
- Advantage Design Group (ADG) is the online new student orientation (NSO) platform. Representatives from the Admissions Office and IT Department met with ADG in February to discuss the planned upgrade of the online NSO platform. The Upgrade is being implemented to ensure compliance with newly established Title II accessibility standards, which take effect in 2026. The project is expected to be updated prior to the Fall Semester. Special thanks to **Lauri Bolitho** and **Katy Marky** for their time and contributions in this smooth transition.
- Total CCP applications for 25/26 are up 22 from last year, with totals coming in at 1,514. Additionally, as processing begins for the 26/27 AY, 224 applications have already been processed.
- The team has attended 28 high school information sessions and 3 virtual sessions.
- In reviewing the total traditional applications for Summer 2026, there have been 59 new applications and 49 returning students; additionally, for Fall, there have been 80 new applications and 43 returning students.

Financial Aid Office

Spring aid has been paid. The breakdown of types of aid and the total amount is as follows:

Pell Grant	\$ 987,685
Federal Loans	\$ 603,160
FSEOG Grant	\$ 44,400
State Aid	\$ 55,079
Foundation	\$ 135,310
Trustee	\$ 79,552
Third Party	\$ 26,896
TOTAL:	\$ 1,932,082

The financial aid office will begin processing the 2026/2027 FAFSA's after Spring Break. Currently, there are 634 FAFSA applications.

Jaime Simmons participated in the following webinars: Pell Grant Eligibility Changes; Professional Development Panel: Career Pathing in Financial Aid; Let’s Talk: Administrative Capability When the Answer is No or Let’s Table that Request; Trump and Higher Ed: The Latest; NASFAA Business Affiliate Webinar: Effective Aid Management with PowerFAIDS; FSA Webinar: Cohort Default Rate (CDR) and Default Prevention Strategies.

Testing Services

MONTHLY TESTING ACTIVITY LOG													
	HILLSBORO TESTING CENTER						MT. ORAB TESTING CENTER						OFFSITE ACCUPLACERS
	Pearson Vue	ACCUPLACER	ACT WorkKeys	Certiport	HESI	Proctored Exams	Pearson Vue	ACCUPLACER	ACT WorkKeys	Certiport	HESI	Proctored Exams	CCP Students Tested at their High School
Aug-25	22	196	6	0	0	0	24	120	0	0	18	5	3 (PVHS)
Sep-25	28	7	0	0	2	0	15	11	0	0	12	0	
Oct-25	27	21	6	0	4	0	11	30	0	0	2	0	
Nov-25	31	55	3	0	7	1	13	39	0	0	2	0	39 (Grant & Williamsburg)
Dec-25	39	65	0	0	0	1	17	42	0	0	0	0	13 (Georgetown)
Jan-26	38	114	6	0	0	1	18	13	0	0	1	0	34 (Hillsboro)
Feb-26	57	103	0	0	0	1	12	2	0	0	1	0	37 (Manchester & Blanchester)
Mar-26													

Grants

ASPIRE

Performance data for November and December.

Performance Target	SSCC January 2026	SSCC February 2026	State Average February 2026
Measurable Skill Gains	26.23%	46.58%	38.83%
Persistence	40.59 hours	52.81 hours	43.31 hours
Progress Test Rate	26.23%	49.32%	38.84%

Additional notable year-to-date data for the academic year

- Total student attendance at this point in the school year: 4,129 hours
- 29.3% of the students are enrolled in the distance education program and have accumulated a total of 1,538 hours.
- 75% of our ASPIRE students who have attained at least 40 attendance hours and taken a progress test have earned Educational Functioning Level gains. *This occurs when a student moves from one instructional level to the next within the six levels of instruction in the ASPIRE program.*

In January, **Dr. Roades, Amy McClellan,** and **Susan Armstrong** attended a meeting at the Ohio Means Jobs center in Fayette County. The team was welcomed by Faye Williamson and her workforce team, who provided a tour of their newly remodeled facilities. The focus of the visit was to discuss the possibility of reopening an ASPIRE class to provide needed services in the county.

Ohio Code Scholar

- Program highlights and information:
 - The OCS was front and center at the Ohio Educational Technology Conference, February 10t– 12, at the Columbus Convention Center. This is OCS’s largest recruitment event for the 2026/2027 AY. The program offered 8 sessions to learn more about the program, and received a total request for participation of over 13,000 students. Determination of the participating schools and level of involvement will be in March. Thanks to the Ohio Code Scholar team and its partner educators for attending and staffing the booth, and to Firewatch for their assistance with the booth design and execution.
- OCS Coordinators, **Sevrin Florek** and **Garrett Sheppard**, continue to visit participation schools and classrooms across the region to offer support to teachers and the students. Spring is the most challenging time for many students and educators in program design.
- OCS Operations Support Coordinator, **Melanie Smith**, continues the ordering and communication with schools and preparation for the 26/27 Academic Year.
- OCS and Program Navigator, **Mary Goocey**, is preparing a Handshake rollout to Computer Science students. Handshake is designed to help students acquire internships and encourage growth in their education and future careers.
- The end-of-the-year celebration will be at Southern State on Monday, May 11 followed by a small gathering at COSI on Wednesday, May 13.

Workforce Development

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	10
January	10	12
Y-T-D	90	73 (-17 YTD)

Fiber Optics Technician

Todd Guden, Southern State Computer Science Alumnus, taught the second cohort of Fiber Optics Technicians Certification classes with eight students, all of whom passed their certification exams. The program and instructor are certified by the Fiber Optic Association. Congrats to all the students on your certification!

Communications and Marketing

Presence Report

Southern State Community College

Marketing Area	December	January
Press Release	6	6
Advertising / Print	7+	5+
Email Campaigns	1	1
Emails Deployed	25,000	50,000
Number Opened	3,604	7,105
Percentage Opened	14.42%	14.21%
Clicks within content	534	1,098
Percentage of total clicks	2.14%	2.20%
Social Retargeting		
Reach	4,848	4,186
Impressions	32,713	27,300
Clicks	108	104
CTR (click through rate)	1.77%	0.38%
Frequency	6.75	6.52
Geofencing		
Impressions/ads Deployed	52,872	51,303
Clicks	251	429
CTR (click through rate)	0.47%	0.84%
Top 2 locations of activity	Georgetown	Georgetown, Chillicothe, Batavia
Audience Management		
Impressions/ads Deployed	72,603	87,954
Clicks	127	236
CTR (click through rate)	0.17%	0.27%

Truck Driving Academy

Marketing Area	December	January
Email Campaigns		
Emails Deployed	25,000	50,000
Number opened	3,701	8,691
Percentage Opened	14.80%	17.38%
Clicks within content	579	1,084
Percentage of open and clicked	2.32%	2.17%
Audience Management		
Impressions/ads Deployed	67,059	56,235
Clicks	113	186
CTR (click through rate)	0.17%	0.33%
Social Retargeting		
Reach	4,039	5,178
Impressions	26,365	28,438
Clicks	83	112
CTR (click through rate)	0.31%	0.39%
Frequency	6.53	5.49

Recent Southern State Appearances - Communications Activities and Involvement

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

Press Releases

- Southern State Alum Secures Employment with Local Employer and Facilitates Workforce Training Program
- Fall Semester scholarship application opens February 1 at Southern State
- Southern State Announces 5-Week Fiber Optic Course
- New Scholarship Opportunity at Southern State
- SSCC Board of Trustees to meet January 22
- SSCC announces honors lists for fall semester
- Advance your Career with Southern State's Professional Development Series
- From Classroom to Career: Southern State Prepares Nurses for In-Demand Healthcare Roles
- McClellan to Lead Southern State's New Division of Enrollment and Workforce Innovation
- Community College Graduate Achieves Academic Success Through College Credit Plus Program at SSCC
- Summer Semester Registration Now Open at Southern State

Advertising/Print/Direct Mail:

- January e-blast promoting Online programming to Eastern Ohio counties (*Enrollment*)
- January e-blast promoting Winter start dates for the TDA program (*Enrollment, Workforce Development*)

- Highland Co. Tomorrow Special Publication ad plus story
- February e-blast promoting scholarships/affordability to local counties with specified annual household income levels (*Enrollment*)
- February e-blast promoting Spring start dates for the TDA program (*Enrollment, Workforce Development*)
- High School sports tourney ads
- Summer Semester Reg. promo ads begin
- Workforce Professional Development series promotions
- 2026 Brown Co. Resource Guide ad



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Social Media:

Facebook – January

- Views: 94,238 (+10%)
- Interactions: 2,197
- Engagement: 3.5K

Facebook – February

- Views: 89,291
- Interactions: 443
- Engagement: 3.5K

Instagram – January

- Views: 1,309
- Interactions: 66

Instagram – February

- Views: 1,277
- Interactions: 56

LinkedIn – January

- Impressions: 2,342
- Reactions: 50



LinkedIn – February

- Impressions: 2,238
- Reactions: 44

Top Facebook Content – January

- Employee Spotlight – Amanda Lewis
- Scholarship Portal
- Student Testimony – HSSR Student, Lori

Top Facebook Content – February

- Professional Development Program
- Employee Spotlight – Sevrin Florek
- Alumni Spotlight – Addyston Knauff

start here

Registration for Fall Semester begins

March 24.

APPLY NOW

SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Graphic Design:

- Updated SSCC online ad
- Updated TDA ad
- Currently creating a graphic for the Strategic Plan
- Created social media graphics for Learning Services Study Tips
- Updated email creative for February
- Created graphics for Summer and Fall Registration

Events/Publications

- Texting Campaign Launch (Jan-Dec.)
- Julie Marlatt Training Workshops (beginning January 14)
- HS Guidance Counselor Luncheon (January 23)
- 2026-27 Academic Catalog publication process begins
- 2026 Fall Registration Guide
- 2026 Spring Water Workshop Brochures and mailing for Hillsboro

Recruitment

The College has posted the job announcement for the new recruiter to fill a vacancy left in November 2025.

Program Information Requested

	25-Dec	26-Jan	26-Feb
Associates of Arts			2
Associates of Science	1		
Accounting	2		1
Business Management	3	2	3
Business Management - AG			
Business Management - RE			
Computer Technology	1	3	1
Early Childhood	4	2	3
Electro-Mechanical	2	2	
Aviation Maintenance	4	2	6
Human and Social Service	3	3	2
HSS - Chemical Depend.	2	1	
Mechanical Design	2		
Nursing	9	14	13
Accounting Certificate		1	
Airframe Certificate	1		1
Powerplant Certificate	1		
Practical Nursing	10	6	7
Microsoft Office			
Real Estate Sales Person	3	3	8
Real Estate Broker			
Truck Driving	1		2
Other Programs	2	1	2
General College Info	11	18	11
Total Inquiries	52	58	62

Artificial Intelligence Student Survey | Executive Summary

Adoption & Usage Patterns

- 39.8% report Rarely/Never using AI
- No dominant tool – ChatGPT was the most selected (24.1%)
- 93.2% use free versions
- 57.1% primarily access AI via smartphone

Academic Impact Perception

- 56.4% believe AI has improved their learning
- Students who engage with AI generally perceive academic benefit.
- There is no structured institutional framework guiding that engagement.
- Opportunity: Faculty-led integration could harness perceived benefit while setting academic standards.

Ethical Uncertainty

- Only 39.1% clearly say it is ethical to use AI for assignments.
- No majority view emerged.
- Students are unsure about when AI use is acceptable.
- Students are unclear about instructor expectations.
- Students are unclear about the institutional stance.
- This is a governance and communication issue.

Institutional Policy Preferences

- Most selected response (18.8%): “Allow AI occasionally, with certain restrictions.”
- No strong demand for full prohibition
- No strong demand for unlimited use
- Students support structured moderation rather than extremes.
- Readiness for formal guidelines
- Acceptance of controlled integration
- Low resistance to thoughtful policy development