

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



**SOUTHERN STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MAY 2026 | DR. NICOLE ROADES, PRESIDENT

## College Hosts Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Team for Open Pathway Comprehensive Visit

The College recently hosted a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Peer Review Team on campus April 13-14, as part of the Open Pathway Comprehensive Visit. The purpose of the onsite visit is to affirm or validate the information included in the College's written Assurance Argument, submitted prior to the visit. The team of five professional peers represented colleges from across the country and held positions comparable to Southern State's executive leadership in academic and student affairs, as well as the presidency.

During the visit, there were a variety of focused meetings on topics such as Federal Compliance, Student Supports and Academic Services, Mental Health and Campus Safety, Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement, Assessment, and Campus Sustainability, with emphasis on finances and enrollment. Additionally, Open Forums, centered on the Accreditation Criteria and Assumed Practices, were held to encourage broad audience participation, while special meetings for students and the Board of Trustees provided distinct perspectives.

A preliminary feedback report of the visit was submitted to the College on April 21. The report was a **draft** provided for fact- and error-checking and included welcome feedback that the institution had successfully "**MET**" all components of the core criteria and the Federal Compliance requirements. Our review of the draft report was swiftly completed and returned to the Review Team Chairperson. There were no material errors of fact, and only limited edits were necessary. On April 27, the College received and returned the Institutional Response Form, concurring with the peer review team's accreditation recommendations. The letter submitted within this Response Form is included at the end of this report.

The final step in the Comprehensive Evaluation requires concurrence of the recommendations among the HLC Institutional Actions Council. The next scheduled Council meeting is May 11-12. The College is hopeful our evaluation will be included in this meeting, and optimistic that

the Council will accept the recommendation, thereby issuing a Reaffirmation of Accreditation for the period 2026-2036.

### Capital Appropriation Request Submitted

In a recent message from the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Avi Zaffini, it has been confirmed that Ohio's Community Colleges can expect support from the State for Capital projects. He writes,

Consistent with prior years, the Administration is proposing **\$100 million** in community college capital funding for the **FY 2027–2028 capital budget**. This amount reflects 25 percent of the \$400 million total allocated for higher education.

State agencies have already submitted their capital budget requests, and the formal process for requesting community project funding is well underway in the Ohio General Assembly. Legislative leadership has indicated an intent to pass the capital budget by June, ahead of the summer recess.

Campus allocations are calculated using the same SSI-based distribution model. On behalf of Southern State, Vice President Rice recently submitted our project requests totaling \$1,536,322. This funding will support hallway carpet replacements (Central), technology upgrades (Brown County and Central), roof replacement (Central), and portions of the first phase of HVAC replacements in the Patriot Center.

### Southern State Joins Ohio Pathways Connect: Building Statewide Capacity for Workforce Pell

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced Round 6 of the Strengthening Community Colleges grant program. This supports statewide consortia in developing short-term credential programs aligned with Workforce Pell eligibility, integrating education and workforce data systems, and creating industry-driven career pathways in high-demand sectors.

Led by Columbus State Community College, Southern State is entering as a “scaling college,” which suggests that we enter in years 3-4 of the grant and will scale proven models in new regions/sectors. Early identification of potential pathways includes non-credit offerings in Data Warehousing Technician, CompTIA Certifications, and CNC Technician training. The institutional letter of support for this endeavor is included at the end of this report.

## Southern State Students Named to All-Ohio Academic Team

The All-Ohio Academic Award is a collaboration between the Ohio Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society that recognizes top-performing students nominated by college faculty, staff, and campus leaders. Awards are presented to students earning first-, second-, and third-team honors, and each level includes a financial award.

The College is pleased to announce that **Logan Savage** of Hillsboro has been assigned not only to the All-Ohio First Team but has also been recognized as a 2026 Coca-Cola Scholar. Also named to the All-Ohio Academic Team are **Wyatt Osborn** of Lynchburg (Second Team) and **Bentley Schweickart** of Winchester (Third Team).

These students were recognized during a recognition ceremony held by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges on April 23 at the Ohio Statehouse. We are proud to have them representing SSCC!

## President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Highland County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Meetings
- SSCC and Adena Partnership Call
- Highland County Society for Children and Adults | Telethon
- OACC Presidents' Meeting | Columbus, OH
- CCA Accelerator Q1-President/Chancellor Meeting
- President's Council Meetings
- Weekly Meetings with the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
- AACC Federal Policy Update: Focus on Pell
- SSCC Faculty Senate Meeting
- Emergency Management That Actually Improves Response Webinar
- Higher Learning Commission Visit Prep Meetings
- Meeting with Senator Wilkin | Ohio Code Scholar Project
- Higher Learning Commission | Continuing the Conversation with Presidents
- Higher Learning Commission Comprehensive Visit
- Clinton County Reading/Literacy Initiative Meetings
- Meeting and Campus Tour with U.S. Senator Bernie Moreno
- Highland County Day at the Statehouse

- All-Ohio Academic Team Recognition and Luncheon at the Statehouse
- Highland County Business Advisory Council Meeting
- Study Abroad | Continued Consortium Discussion
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce | Highland County Historical Society
- Clinton County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting
- SSCC Foundation Board Meeting

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

### HLC Comprehensive Evaluation Accreditation Visit

A peer review team from the Higher Learning Commission was on campus April 13 and 14. As Dr. Roades noted in a campus email, “The peer review team consistently noted our hospitality, professionalism, and commitment to students and the community during their visit.

Additionally, they were particularly complimentary of our commitment to the mission, our assessment progress, academic freedom, shared governance, finances, and data transparency. Finally, the team was genuinely appreciative of the broad engagement of our team from across every sector of the institution.” Indeed, the preliminary recommendation from the team is that all criterion for accreditation have been “met,” as well as the independent Federal Compliance review has also been recommended as “met.” Their accreditation recommendation is “reaffirm accreditation.” We await the final report from the HLC Institutional Actions Council (IAC). Our team chair, Dr. Rice, noted: “It was one of my most peaceful, productive, timely, and collegial visits ever.”

### New Certificates Approved

Two new SSCC certificates have been approved by the Ohio Department of Higher Education: **Certificate in Datacenter Specialist** and **Certificate in Technical Support**. Both certificates were proposed by the Computer Technology department. The certificates will be open for new students starting this August. Additionally, ODHE approved the waivers from the SB1 initiative to close low-enrolled programs, and combine our two Engineering programs and our two Human and Social Services programs into combined programs for one program each, respectively. This will make it easier to meet the yearly minimum number of graduates per program (5) per the new law. We are currently working on program approval paperwork for an Engineering Technology program with two concentrations (Mechanical concentration and Electro-Mechanical concentration) and a Human and Social Services program that better

highlights the social work assistant (SWA) credential issued by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board (CSWMFT) and the chemical dependency counselor assistant (CDCA) certifications issued by the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board (OCDPB). Our current Engineering and Human and Social Services programs will be taught out, or students can choose to transition to the new programs once approved.

### Nursing

Our Nursing Department reports that they are on track to graduate 50 students on May 8 from the ADN program. Enrollment is strong for Summer, and they are excited to look at offering the LPN-RN bridge at the Brown County location in the upcoming year.

Nursing faculty and students are volunteering on May 2 at the Adams County Health Fair and the Clinton County EMA Mock Disaster Training Event.

### SW Ohio Career Pathway Support Network Grant Position



The *Career Pathway Support Network* (formerly College Tech Prep) partners with both Ohio Department of Higher Ed and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to provide student access to career technical pathways. This grant sponsors a full-time position that is hired and housed at Southern State.

**Annette Jenkins** was selected as SSCC's CPSN coordinator. She brings over two decades of experience spanning education, higher education, nonprofit leadership, and community-based services, with a strong focus on collaboration and student-centered support. Her background includes extensive work in advising, admissions, and student services, where she has supported diverse student populations in academic planning, career exploration, and achieving long-term goals. In addition, her leadership experience includes organizational strategy, program development, fiscal oversight, and advancing trauma-informed, equity-focused practices

through strong partnerships across education and community systems. Her service in K–12 governance further reflects her commitment to student achievement, strategic planning, and strengthening systems that support student success.

In her role at Southern State Community College as the CPSN Southwest Region Coordinator, Annette serves as a critical connector between the college, K–12 districts, career-technical education (CTE) programs, workforce partners, and community stakeholders. She leads efforts to strengthen and expand high-quality career pathways by aligning education with regional workforce needs. This includes supporting the development and implementation of CTE programs, facilitating collaboration between secondary and postsecondary partners, and promoting seamless transitions for students into college and careers. She also provides technical assistance and professional development in areas such as work-based learning and CTAG/ITAG alignment, while leveraging labor market data to guide strategic program planning. Through this work, Annette plays a key role in advancing opportunities connecting our students to meaningful, sustainable career pathways.

### Lunch & Learn: Speaker Series

#### **March 18, 2026: Sexual Assault & Violence Awareness**

About 20 staff, faculty, and administrators attended the Lunch & Learn in March in person or via ZOOM. **Tom Payton**, psychology faculty, and **Elizabeth Crabtree**, counselor, conducted a presentation on Sexual Assault and Violence Awareness.

#### **April 8, 2026: Drug & Alcohol Violence Awareness**

This year's final Lunch & Learn Speaker Series event took place on Wednesday, April 8, in person on Central Campus and via ZOOM. **Tom Payton**, psychology faculty, and **Elizabeth Crabtree**, counselor, presented on Drug & Alcohol Awareness to about 30 staff, administrators, and students. Special thanks to Tom and Elizabeth for sharing the message, to **Darlene Thacker** for setting up lunch, and to everyone who joined the event.

### Library

On April 7, the Library began the consortial, vendor-led implementation of *Leganto*. *Leganto* is an additional product within the Ex Libris suite that libraries of the OhioLINK consortia began migrating to in early 2024. Of the products in the suite, the Library has already implemented the integrated library system (ILS), *Alma*; the patron-facing discovery platform, *Primo VE*; and the

inter-library print lending services, *Rapido & Rapido CB*. The team has also configured *Alma Digital* (a digital repository) and *CampusM* (a library mobile app), which will be retained for use at a future time.

*Leganto* is a product that will integrate with Southern State's learning management system (LMS), Canvas, in order to provide more streamlined, meaningful access to Library resources from within virtual courses. For this project, the Library team is working alongside Canvas Administrator **Cathy Zile**, with the support of the IT department. As part of implementation, the Library team will be recruiting a selection of faculty partners to serve on the pilot team, testing the product's tools, and providing insights for configuration. The Library team will complete the guided portion of implementation in late June, with the hope of refining configuration to SSCC's needs over the course of the Summer semester.

On March 31, the Library team submitted data for the 2025 ACRL Academic Library Trends and Statistics Survey. Per Theresa Anderson, Executive Director of ACRL, the survey "provides a comprehensive portrait of the impact that academic libraries have across the United States" by collecting data on "staffing, materials and operations expenses, library collections, library services, and local and library characteristics." This data, in aggregate, "facilitates effective benchmarking, assessment of impact over time, tracking new trends, and demonstration of the value of academic libraries."

The Library would also like to report reintegration with SearchOhio, a large consortia of public libraries in the state of Ohio, for inter-library print lending via the soft launch of *Rapido CB* in mid-March.

As work with the Ex Libris suite of products is ongoing, the Library team is preparing for the migration of the existing discovery service, *Primo VE*, to a new patron user interface, *Primo NDE*. This migration will be in progress during the duration of the Summer semester.

The Library team has engaged in ongoing meetings for team building, strategizing, and professional development, both local and consortial. The Library team convenes near weekly via Zoom, ensuring inter-campus engagement. Members also take part in OhioLINK meetings such as Open Directors Discussions, Project Leads Bi-Weekly Open Discussions, *Alma*, *Primo VE*, and *Rapido* Open Office Hours; Two-Year and Regional Campus Directors Quarterly Meetings; and Milestone/Quarterly Updates.

National Library Week was April 19–25. In line with the theme for 2026, “Find Your Joy,” the Library encouraged patrons to contribute to a community board, sharing the things that bring them joy. Patrons also had opportunities to engage in trivia and mini-challenges for SSCC swag. A grand prize winner will be selected from the pool of trivia participants.

### Brown County Campus Activities

Spring Semester activities at our location in Mt. Orab include:

- *Friends and Fellowship (student group)*: weekly lunch hour gathering to share inspirations of faith, personal requests for prayer support, and praises for met needs.
- *Opening Day Celebration*: Reds Baseball Opening Day Parade (viewing) and Activities. Menu: Hot Dogs, Peanuts, Popcorn, Balls and Bats (mandarin oranges/carrot sticks), and Red’s Label Water bottles.
- *Chalk the Walk*: Domestic Violence Awareness Week – chalk sidewalk with support slogans.
- *Master Gardeners*: Spring Garden planning and preparations series for the general public education. A free lecture series was presented on the third Wednesday evening of February, March, and April.
- *Fundamentals of Speech Debate*: Students in each section of Spring Speech class selected and debated current topic issues as a whole group before an open audience forum.
- *American Government Presentations*: Students selected a current government bill and explored the ongoing process of approval or defeat. Open to the campus community.
- *Basic Drawing 1105 Class Showcase*: Students showcase their artwork for public display during the last week of the semester.
- *Finals Breakfast*: The best way to start the day/week of finals is with a hearty pancake breakfast. Faculty and Staff on hand to griddle up a stack or two and serve blurry-eyed students during the first few days of finals.

### Theatre Celebrates 20 Years with Angles Awards

SSCC Theatre commemorated twenty seasons of remarkable productions and performances in true Tony-style "fashion" with the Angles Awards on Saturday, April 25. The anniversary ceremony celebrated artists, productions, and moments that have brought our stage to life under the leadership of SSCC Theatre Professor and Director **Rainee Angles**. Angles took her final curtain call, as she will be retiring on August 1. Students, faculty,



staff, administrators, artists, and patrons from the past two decades gathered to recognize the work, creativity, and community that have shaped SSCC Theatre.

## Learning Services

**Dana Swackhamer**, Learning Services & Accessibility Coordinator

Learning Services (LS) continued to expand student engagement, academic support services, and campus collaboration during this reporting period.

### Student Engagement and Support

From March 1 through March 30, LS recorded 80 student contacts. Of these, 20 were related to HESI preparation, 12 were Early Alert interventions, and 14 involved probation outreaches.

From April 1 through April 15, LS recorded 58 student contacts, including 34 HESI preparation sessions and 6 Early Alert interventions.

A Learning Services Student Satisfaction Survey has been created, approved, and is being distributed to collect data for points of improvement.

### Programs and Events

Learning Services hosted Open House events, *Clever Cookie and Campus Connections*, on March 17 at the Hillsboro Campus and March 25 in Mt. Orab, and a *March Madness Viewing party*, including a student/staff bracket competition.

On March 24, the Purple Star Lounge hosted “*Coffee and Connect*,” bringing together veteran students and the Highland County Veterans Affairs Office to build connections and share resources. A picture from the event is below.



Created and hosted by tutor **Landen Campbell**, “*Brain Break and Baseball*” was held on April 22 at our campus in Hillsboro.

LS also developed and distributed 20 “Final Survival Kits” to support students during finals.



### Outreach and Presentations

Tutor **Luke Shelton** presented at the OOD Job Fair.

LS staff presented at multiple events, including:

- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Job Expo on March 6
- CCP Pathway Night on April 16
- Great Oaks Nursing Students presentation on April 9
- Bridge Orientation on April 24.



These efforts supported recruitment, awareness, and student success initiatives.

### Staffing and Development

During this period, LS hired and onboarded two Math and Science tutors (**Rylee Phelps** and **Landen Campbell**) and one Nursing tutor (**Moria Garrison**).

### Academic Support Initiatives

LS implemented several new and ongoing initiatives to enhance student success:

- Collaborated with **Tom Payton** to create a note-taking support package for students
- Partnering with Nursing and the Director of Instructional Technology to develop a Nursing Entrance Canvas course

- Prepared the Math Canvas course for launch in the summer semester
- Created and implemented an online tutoring booking system, allowing students to schedule appointments directly with tutors, including evening and weekend availability

## Accessibility Services

Accessibility Services continues to provide support to students with documented disabilities while strengthening processes and professional engagement.

### Student Services and Support

The office is currently serving 43 students with approved accommodations. During this reporting period, 5 intake meetings were completed for testing accommodations and upcoming semesters, with an additional 7 students in the intake process.

Accessibility Services proctored 15 exams to ensure students received appropriate testing accommodations.

The Accessibility Office reached out to all current students to ensure supports are in place for the Summer semester.

## Academic Advising Update

The advising report for April is as follows:

Category	Paula	Michelle	Larry	Total
<b>New CCP</b>	54	27	19	<b>100</b>
<b>Returning CCP</b>	47	32	39	<b>118</b>
<b>New Traditional</b>	20	24	4	<b>48</b>
<b>Returning Traditional</b>	62	57	18	<b>137</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>403</b>

## Campus Safety & Security

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

- \*Attended March & April HFC Safety Council meetings
- \*Monitored “AG is Everyone's Business” event
- \*Monitored Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities event
- \*Attended BWC Safety Congress in Columbus
- \*Attended March Lunch & Learn
- \*Monitored Cabin Fever event in Patriot Center
- \*Replaced expired pads in all AEDs, checked battery levels, and ensured all AEDs were in proper working order
- \*Monitored IFC gymnastics event in the Patriot Center
- \*Participated in HLC visit
- \*Assisted with Incident reports involving students and visitors on campus

## Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Sam Ginn**, Faculty Advisor

PTK has been busy this spring! Our chapter officers and members have held several campus social meetings, traveled to conferences representing SSCC at regional and national levels, and earned prestigious scholarships.

We invited a local coffee vendor, The Coffee Can, to visit our campus during midterm week. Our students, faculty, and staff all enjoyed an afternoon pick-me-up thanks to our PTK officers.

Three of our officer team traveled to Clark State, in Springfield, to represent SSCC at the annual Ohio Regional Conference. We enjoyed student and faculty presentations and heard from inspiring keynote speakers. We left with a strong connection with Clark State's PTK officer team, who we saw less than a month later in Baltimore, MD, at the national PTK Catalyst conference. We attended transfer and scholarship workshops and heard from enlightening speakers, including Amanda Nguyễn, a Vietnamese-American civil rights activist and commercial astronaut.

Two of our most accomplished officers this spring are **Vanesa Melendez** and **Logan Savage**. Vanesa, our chapter president, has been named the PTK Ohio Western District Representative. Logan Savage, our Vice President of Service, has been named 2026 Coca-Cola Scholar, and she

placed first-team on the OACC All-Ohio Academic Team. Logan was one of three Ohio community college students to speak at the Ohio Statehouse luncheon on April 25.



We appreciate SSCC's commitment to supporting the good work of our chapter and the encouragement we receive to help our members become scholars and leaders.

### Surveys/Reports

Below are surveys/reports that have been completed this Spring:

- OATN Implementation Community survey
- Purple Star Veteran status application
- IPEDS Library report
- ODHE College Credit Plus survey
- 2026 HLC Institutional update report
- OACC HB 96 Students Records Partnership Survey
- ODHE Guided Pathways and Developmental Education Survey
- HLC Student Opinion Survey
- SOCHE Economic Impact Study
- ODHE Campus Completion Plan due June 30

The annual Adjunct | CCP Professional Development Seminar, hosted by the Adjunct Committee, will be on July 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## 2025-2026 Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education Excellence Awards

The 2025-2026 Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) Excellence Award winners for SSCC have been selected. Congratulations to the following award winners:

### *Faculty Excellence Award Winner – Rainee Angles*

Professor of Theater and Speech at Southern State Community College, **Rainee Angles** concludes a 20-year career marked by exceptional teaching, artistic leadership, and lasting impact. As Director of Theatre, designer, and actor, she built a vibrant program emphasizing hands-on learning, collaboration, and community engagement. Her mentorship empowered countless students to develop confidence and creativity. A steadfast advocate for the arts, she leaves an enduring legacy that has enriched both the College and its broader community.

### *Staff Excellence Award Winner – Dr. Jeff Montgomery*

As College Credit Plus Coordinator at Southern State Community College, **Dr. Jeff Montgomery** has excelled in this new role after retiring as Dean of Academic Affairs in the summer of 2025. He has strengthened CCP partnerships, and his organization and communication have enhanced instructor effectiveness and the student experience. He also played a significant role on the HLC Assurance Argument writing team for the College's ten-year Comprehensive Evaluation. His work reflects a strong commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement.

### *Campus Impact Award Winner – Elizabeth Burkard*

Director of Marketing at Southern State Community College, **Elizabeth Burkard**, led the institution's 50th anniversary with vision and creativity, coordinating a year-long celebration that elevated community engagement and institutional pride. Through strategic storytelling, branding, and event planning, she highlighted the College's history and impact while strengthening its public presence. Her leadership fostered collaboration across departments and deepened connections with alumni and partners, leaving a lasting impression on the College's identity and future.

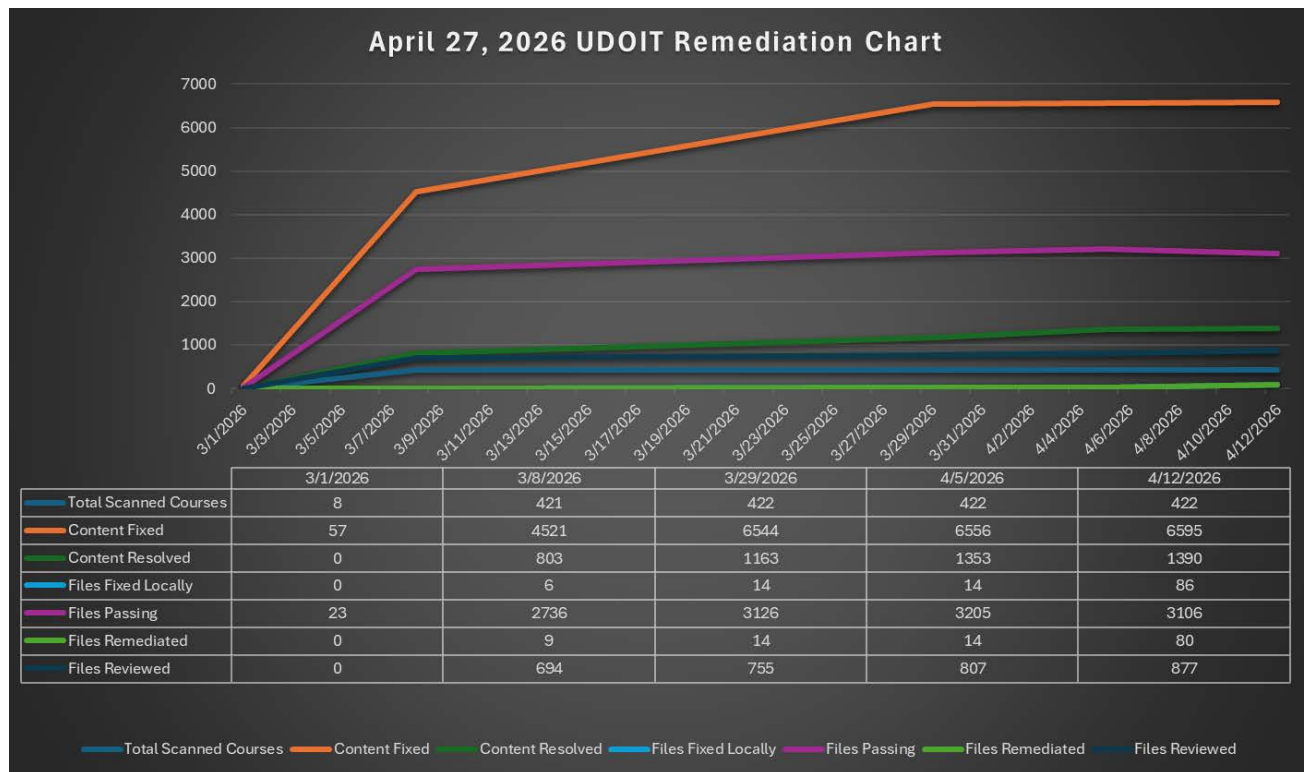
A press release announcing all awards will be distributed to schools and media from SOCHE on June 8 and will be posted on the SOCHE website. Watch for a press release to come out in June with more details about their awards.

## Instructional Technology

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

### UDOIT Accessibility Project Updates

The UDOIT Accessibility Project continues to show strong progress in improving the accessibility of Spring semester Canvas courses. Since the project's onset, 12,1234 combined accessibility issues have been resolved. Since March, the Spring Account Accessibility score has improved from 76% to 81%.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## Technology Innovation Center

Construction on the Technology Innovation Center is officially underway. The OFCC issued the Notice to Proceed (NTP) on March 31, followed by a preconstruction meeting with Perkins Carmack on April 6 to finalize project details. Perkins Carmack began preparing the space on April 13 by installing protective plastic barriers, with demolition work beginning the following week.

Furniture selections are currently being finalized, and the capital request is expected to go before the State Controlling Board in July.

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. These spaces will remain operational until the project is complete.

## Adult Opportunity Center Building Renovation

Renovation work is now in its final stages. Adult Opportunity staff moved into the newly renovated space during February and March, allowing construction to continue in the remaining areas of the facility.

Painting and flooring have been completed, and all light fixtures are now installed. Ceiling installation is approximately 75% complete, and the new storefront doors are scheduled to be installed next week. The project is expected to be fully completed by the end of May, including the installation of tables, chairs, and mounted TVs.

The renovation has transformed the former daycare area into a modern, flexible space designed to support expanded classroom and office use for the Adult Opportunity Center, Workforce Development training programs, and community meetings and events.

We extend special thanks to **Loren O’Cull** (Facilities Manager), **Jeff Knauff** (Facilities Technician), and **Steve Bikowsky** (Maintenance) for their outstanding work and dedication throughout this project.



## BUSINESS AND FINANCE | HUMAN RESOURCES

### New Hires

**Shane Barnett** has been hired as a part-time Technology Specialist, and **Moria Garrison** has joined the SSCC team as a part-time Student Success Tutor.

We also welcome **Tina Beverly**, who has been hired full-time as the Financial Aid and Enrollment Support Advisor.

## 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.

### Registrar's Office

There are 257 students who have petitioned to graduate within the 2025-2026 academic year.

Preliminary graduate data includes the 257:

- 1) an age range from 16-60,
- 2) 139 of the graduates got their start at Southern State while in high school, and
- 3) of the 139 who started while in high school, 59 will be graduating with an Associate's degree before graduating from high school this year.

Administrator training for the New Student Orientation platform has been completed by **Lauri Bolitho** (Admissions/CCP Specialist) and **Amanda Thompson** (Registrar). The upgraded system brings our online new student orientation into compliance with Title II web and mobile accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The orientation is now live and operating effectively for our new students planning to enter Summer or Fall Semesters.

The Pathway to CCP College Success event informed the 100 participants, of which 44 students were in attendance. The event featured information on being a successful student in the CCP space and what it means to be a CCP student. Additionally, students learned about the requirements and expectations. Feedback was positive, highlighting that the sessions were informative, well-delivered, and covered a wide range of useful topics. Attendees particularly valued guidance on communicating with instructors, navigating Canvas, using the Help Center, hearing from professors and student success stories, and learning about program structure, courses, and degree options.

The Graduation Fair was on April 23, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Beth Ewry, Betty Cole, Jaime Simmons, Ally Osman, and Billie Powell** worked at different stations. The students really enjoyed the event, including decorating caps, getting free swag, and the alumni shirts being a big hit. Close to 70 students attended. Thanks to all who assisted.

## Financial Aid Office

Effective for the 2026-2027 academic year, Ohio law requires public universities and community colleges to provide a standardized, one-page Financial Cost and Aid Disclosure Form to all newly admitted, full-time students. This form, often provided with aid offers, outlines the estimated total cost of attendance, available grants/scholarships, net costs, loan options, and estimated monthly loan payments after graduation. Southern State’s form has been approved by the Ohio Department of Education, and it will be sent to all new students who apply to Southern State.

The Financial Aid Office has begun processing 2026-2027 FAFSAs. There were 680 FAFSAs pulled in during the initial load.

The priority deadline to apply for SSCC scholarships was March 31. Evaluations will begin, and awards for Foundation and trustee scholarships will be made in April. Students can continue to apply through the first week of the Fall semester, but scholarships for those students will be contingent on how many are awarded to priority applicants.

Currently, **Jaime Simmons** is in the process of meeting and gathering information from multiple default prevention companies to be proactive with future cohort default rates in the coming years.

## 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	52	137	8	0	2	0	27	91	0	0	0	1	53 (WBHS & Peebles)

## Grants

### ASPIRE

Below are the results for the March 2026 ASPIRE state data pull for Southern State. The program continues to remain in the top quartile of all ASPIRE programs in Ohio in the areas of persistence and progress test rate.

<b>Performance Target</b>	<b>SSCC February 2026</b>	<b>SSCC March 2026</b>	<b>State Average March 2026</b>
Measurable Skill Gains	46.58%	48.3%	41.51%
Persistence	52.81 hours	56.4 hours	46.80 hours
Progress Test Rate	49.32%	48.86%	40.03%

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

- Total student attendance at this point in the school year is 5,017 hours.
- 29.2% of our students are enrolled in our distance education program and have accumulated a total of 1,897 hours.
- 79.1% of our ASPIRE students have attained at least 40 attendance hours, taken a progress test, and earned an Educational Functioning Level gain.

## Workforce Development

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

	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0 Due to Calendar</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Y-T-D</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>103 (-24)</b>

# Communications and Marketing

## Presence Report

Southern State Community College			
Marketing Area	January	February	March
Press Release	6	5	9
Advertising / Print	5+	5+	6
Email Campaigns	1	2	1
Emails Deployed	50,000	2/5/26: 25,000   2/26/26: 25,000	25,000
Number Opened	7,105	2/5: 4,369   3,690	4,173
Percentage Opened	14.21%	2/5: 17.48%   14.76%	16.69%
Clicks within content	1,098	2/5: 845   524	536
Percentage of total clicks	2.20%	2/5: 3.38%   2.10%	2.14%
Social Retargeting			
Reach	4,186	15,528	22,578
Impressions	27,300	24,209	111,093
Clicks	104	138	219
CTR (click through rate)	0.38%	1.65%	0.31%
Frequency	6.52	3.1	11.23
Geofencing			
Impressions/ads Deployed	51,303	51,303	51,425
Clicks	429	429	201
CTR (click through rate)	0.84%	0.84%	0.39%
Top 2 locations of activity	Georgetown, Chillicothe, Batavia	Georgetown, Chillicothe, Batavia	Georgetown, Batavia, Chillicothe
Audience Management			
Impressions/ads Deployed	87,954	46,374	89,341
Clicks	236	207	217
CTR (click through rate)	0.27%	0.45%	0.24%
<b>Truck Driving Academy</b>			
Marketing Area	January	February	March
Email Campaigns			
Emails Deployed	50,000	2/5: 25,000   2/26: 25,000	25,000
Number opened	8,691	2/5: 4,040   2/26: 4,467	4,433
Percentage Opened	17.38%	2/5: 16.16%   2/26: 17.87%	17.73%
Clicks within content	1,084	2/5: 680   2/26: 564	605
Percentage of open and clicked	2.17%	2/5: 2.72%   2/26: 2.26%	2.42%
Audience Management			
Impressions/ads Deployed	56,235	53,440	52,353
Clicks	186	110	134
CTR (click through rate)	0.33%	0.2%	0.25%
Social Retargeting			
Reach	5,178	20,838	6,284
Impressions	28,438	64,918	31,125
Clicks	112	239	90
CTR (click through rate)	0.39%	0.6%	0.3%
Frequency	5.49	6.55	4.95

## 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 Scholarship Application Deadline Quickly Approaching – Apply Today
- SSCC Theatre presents ‘Noises Off’ April 10-12

- Southern State Commitment to Fayette County Through Expanded Community Programs
- Southern State Student Selected for PTK Ohio Region Officer
- SSCC Board of Trustees to meet March 26
- Summer and Fall Semester Registration Now Open to all Students at Southern State Community College
- Southern State Announces Hiring of Enrollment Management Director
- Southern State Celebrates Community College Month
- Savage Named Coca-Cola Academic Team Member
- SSCC Reinstates Super Start Scholarship for High School Graduates
- From Doubt to Determination: A Southern State Success Story
- Southern State Student Reflects on Transformative College Experience Ahead of Graduation
- Southern State Student Grateful for Nursing Program's Strong Preparation and Positive Impact
- SSCC Theatre presents 'Noises Off', free for one night only
- Southern State Announces 5-Week Fiber Optic Course to Begin in May
- Southern State Student Pursues Passion for Early Childhood Education While Balancing Family Life

#### **Advertising/Print/Direct Mail:**

- March e-blast promoting scholarships/affordability to local counties with specified annual household income levels
- March e-blast promoting Spring start dates for the TDA program
- April e-blast promoting Spring/Summer start dates for the TDA program
- April e-blast promoting summer semester
- Mailed 488 students (*Under 30 credit hours earned*) a personalized letter who are enrolled in CCP and graduating this spring from HS, but not at SSCC. Promoted both the CCP Scholarship and Super Start Scholarship
- Mailed 81 students (*30+ credit hours earned*) a personalized letter who are enrolled in CCP and graduating this spring from HS, but not at SSCC. Included a Degree Audit Request Form and gift card promotion through April 30.
- Added additional student populations to the College's text messaging outreach schedule (applied, but not yet registered for a class – new students)
- WCH Fayette Co. High School Spring Sports publication ad
- WCH Fayette Co. Spectrum ad plus article
- Times-Gazette HS Spring Sports ad
- Fayette Co. Ag. Society ad for 2026 Fair
- Community College Month Promotional Series – includes ad, videos, and PR throughout the entire month of April
- High School Grad Tab ads (Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Highland, Greene Counties)

- Summer Super Start Scholarship Campaign (PR, ads, email, mailings/letters)

**Social Media:**

- April was Community College (CC) Month #CCMonth – weekly posts made
- Social media campaign highlighting CC Month
- Student videos posted across all platforms
- CC statistics, information
- Employee spotlights - Melanie Smith and Pete Hanson

**Events/Publications**

- HLC Visit (April 13-14)
- April – Community College Month Promo Campaign (PR, testimonial videos, ads)
- 2026-27 Academic Catalog publication process – ongoing thru May 2026
- Ag is Everyone’s Business, March 6 (book sponsor)
- Strategic Plan 2026-30 Publication plus campus banner displays for HLC visit
- 2026 Commencement Program
- At-A-Glance Revisions
- Transfer brochures and campus-based displays updated
- Pardon our Dust signage – TIC construction begins with plastic going up on April 13, 2026.
- Ohio Code Scholar Prep

**Recruitment**

**Program Information Requested**

	25-Dec	26-Jan	26-Feb	Mar-26
Associates of Arts			2	1
Associates of Science	1			2
Accounting	2		1	2
Business Management	3	2	3	2
Business Management - AG				
Business Management - RE				
Computer Technology	1	3	1	1
Early Childhood	4	2	3	1
Electro-Mechanical	2	2		5
Aviation Maintenance	4	2	6	12
Human and Social Service	3	3	2	2
HSS - Chemical Depend.	2	1		2
Mechanical Design	2			
Nursing	9	14	13	2

Accounting Certificate		1	1	3
Airframe Certificate	1		1	
Powerplant Certificate	1			
Practical Nursing	10	6	7	10
Microsoft Office				
Real Estate Sales Person	3	3	8	8
Real Estate Broker				
Other Programs	2	1	2	7
General College Info	11	18	11	7
Total Inquiries	61	58	61	67

- Attended Kyle Hamilton Career/College Readiness Class – Blanchester HS
  - Presented to 4 classes
  - Approximately 75 students
- RULH HS
  - Assisted a couple of students with summer registration
  - Assisted 2 students with fall registration
  - Assisted in requesting SSCC courses to be offered at RULH 2026-2027
- 2026 Kids Career Encounter
  - Dates June 23 & June 24

## Institutional Response Form

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Complete this form to indicate whether the institution does or does not concur with the recommendations from the peer review team or panel. Each HLC decision-making body considers the institutional response as part of the full record of the case. For more information about the decision-making process, see [hlcommission.org/decision-making](https://hlcommission.org/decision-making).

### *Written Response*

The institution may choose to include an additional written response on page 2 of this form. If a written response is included, it should be in the form of a letter to the Institutional Actions Council and should not exceed five pages in length.

### *Submission Instructions*

The institutional response is due within two weeks of the date listed below. Submit the completed form and, if applicable, written response as a PDF file at [hlcommission.org/upload](https://hlcommission.org/upload). Select “Institutional Responses” from the list of submission options to ensure the form is sent to the correct staff person.

**Please note:** If the form is not received within two weeks, HLC will conclude that the institution concurs with the recommendation of the peer review team or panel.

**Date:** April 27, 2026

**Institution:** Southern State Community College      **Institutional ID:** 1847

**Evaluation Type:** Open Pathway-Comprehensive Evaluation Visit :

**Chief Executive Officer:** Dr. Nicole Roades

**Phone:** (937) 393-3431 x2622      **Email:** [nroades@sscc.edu](mailto:nroades@sscc.edu)

Select one of the following options:

- The institution concurs with the accreditation recommendations.
- The institution does not concur with the accreditation recommendations.

Is the institution providing a written response?

- Yes (*Please enter the response on page 2.*)
- No, the institution chooses not to submit a further response.

Chief Executive Officer’s signature:

## Written Response

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Please enter the institution's response below. It should be written in the form of a letter to the Institutional Actions Council and should not exceed five pages in length.

April 27, 2026

The Higher Learning Commission  
Institutional Actions Council  
230 South LaSalle St., Suite 7-500  
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

Dear Institutional Actions Council Members:

Southern State Community College appreciates the thorough and professional manner in which the accreditation team conducted our Open Pathway Comprehensive Visit. The team, led by Dr. Jonah Rice, was terrific to work with, demonstrating professionalism, precision, thoughtfulness, and balanced judgment throughout the entire process.

The reviewers' observations accurately reflect our mission, institutional integrity, and ongoing commitment to student success and continuous improvement. We are particularly encouraged by the team's recognition of our strengths in academic quality, student support services, governance, and fiscal stewardship. These affirmations validate the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees to uphold high standards and to engage in meaningful assessment and planning processes.

The institution welcomes the recommendations and views them as constructive guidance that will further inform our strategic priorities. We are committed to addressing all areas identified for continued development and will integrate these recommendations into our institutional planning.

We thank the accreditation team and the Commission for their partnership and for the opportunity to demonstrate our dedication to our mission as well as excellence, accountability, and service to our students and community.

Sincerely,



Nicole Roades, Ph.D.  
President  
Southern State Community College



May 1, 2026

The U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration, Office of Grants Management  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

To Whom it May Concern,

Southern State Community College is pleased to participate as a Scaling College in the Ohio Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant (SCC6) initiative, led by Columbus State Community College in partnership with the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

As part of this statewide effort, Southern State will build institutional capacity and prepare to implement Workforce Pell-aligned programs in high-demand sectors, with a focus on scaling proven models in Years 3 and 4 of the grant period.

Southern State is a community college in southern Ohio, serving a rural region within reasonable driving distance of Cincinnati, Dayton, or Columbus. The College prides itself on providing workforce training relevant to local employer needs as well as those of employers in more urban areas. Specializing in nursing, computer technology, business, engineering, human and social services, and education, Southern State's academic portfolio complements the region's existing and emerging needs.

As a Scaling College, Southern State commits to the following:

- Participating in a competitive selection process to demonstrate readiness for program implementation
- Building institutional capacity for Workforce Pell-aligned program development, including strengthening employer partnerships and data systems
- Engaging in technical assistance, training, and planning activities led by Columbus State Community College, OACC, and Pillar Lead Colleges
- Preparing programs for inclusion on Ohio's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL)
- Adopting and implementing proven program models, pathway frameworks, and student support strategies developed through the consortium
- Participating in statewide coordination and learning activities, including consortium meetings and communities of practice
- Collecting and reporting participant and program data upon program launch

Southern State is committed to contributing to the long-term sustainability and statewide scale of this initiative and to expanding access to high-quality workforce training opportunities. If you need additional information, please contact me at [nroades@scc.edu](mailto:nroades@scc.edu) or directly at 937-763-0198.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Roades".

Nicole Roades, Ph.D.  
President