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SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**PRESS RELEASE**  
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CUTLINE: Students in Adams, Brown, Clinton, Fayette and Highland counties will be featured in the annual Appalachian Gateway High School Art Showcase. The exhibition will be open from Feb. 19-28 on Southern State Community College's South Campus near Sardinia.

**SSCC to host H.S. Art Showcase open house Feb. 28**  
*Awards ceremony slated to begin 7 p.m. on South Campus*

The annual Appalachian Gateway High School Art Showcase open house will be held 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, on Southern State Community College's South Campus, 12681 U.S. Route 62, near Sardinia. The gallery will open at 6 p.m., with the awards ceremony to begin at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"We look forward to showcasing such a wealth of local talent from our region's high schools," said SSCC Instructor Jennifer Wenker, who is co-chairing the event with colleague Roy Carpenter. "The strength of our high school arts programs is evidenced by the strong craft and rich content present in projects assigned and submitted by so many wonderful high school art teachers in our region."

All high school students currently enrolled in Adams, Brown, Clinton, Fayette and Highland counties are eligible to submit up to three works of original work to the annual exhibition and open house. The students' artwork will be on display in the gallery for viewing from Feb. 19-28.

"In our present economy where so many schools have cut back on funding the arts, we feel it is critical to highlight the important role creative expression and divergent thought have on 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking," said Wenker.

“Creativity sparks innovation. Students involved in the arts think differently—more openly—and they offer unique points of view. Creative students spend more time thinking in the gray area before coming to a decision, because they understand that there are multiple ways of solving a problem.”

Categories include computer-generated art, commercial art, drawing (pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, scratchboard, ink wash, pastel, color pencil), fiber and fine art crafting (textiles, wearable art, batik, mask making, quilting, weaving, jewelry, enameling, ceramic pottery, book making, stained glass), painting (oil, acrylic, water media), mixed media (encaustic/hot glue, collage), photography (color, black and white, enhanced or altered), printmaking (block printing, mono printing, screen printing, etching), sculpture (wire and metal, carving, clay/ceramic, papier-mache, origami, installation, three-dimensional mixed media), and video or film production.

Awards will be presented for first, second, third and honorable mention in all categories, plus best-of-school awards and best-of-show awards. This annual exhibition and competition is juried by Wenker, Carpenter, Nancy Ache and Kristi Hall.

Art courses offered this semester at Southern State include Introduction to the Arts, Basic Drawing, History of Art, Oil Painting, Acrylic Painting, Stained Glass, Ceramics, Fused Glass Jewelry and Décor, Fused Glass/Metal, and Innovation & Creativity. To learn more about the fine arts exhibition schedule at Southern State, please visit [www.sccc.edu/students/arts.shtml](http://www.sccc.edu/students/arts.shtml) or email [jwenker@sccc.edu](mailto:jwenker@sccc.edu).