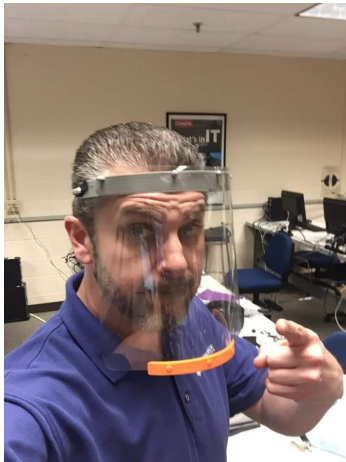


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SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE **PRESS RELEASE**



CUTLINE: Southern State Community College's use of 3-D printers has helped to make medical grade personal protective equipment (PPE) that is being shipped to medical facilities in southern Ohio.



CUTLINE: Pictured is Southern State Computer Science Professor Josh Montgomery sporting a face shield produced by one of the College's 3-D printers. He, along with a few dozen volunteers, have proven themselves useful to some of the most important people in the pandemic: healthcare workers.

Printing away the pandemic

Southern State Community College professor leads 3-D printed PPE coalition

When Josh Montgomery found himself at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and suddenly with little to do, the computer science professor from Southern State Community College decided he wanted to make himself useful. With the help of a few dozen volunteers and nearly 100 3-D printers, he has proven himself useful to some of the most important people in the pandemic: healthcare workers.

It was an article in Forbes that inspired Montgomery to try manufacturing medical grade personal protective equipment (PPE) using Southern State Community College's array of 3-D printers. Julie Krebs, Southern State's Director of Nursing, recommended sending them to local hospitals. When Nate Luke, of McClain High School, reached out to him with his own collection of printers hoping to send PPE to local medical facilities, a coalition was born.

"I made a social media post that day, and my email and Facebook just blew up," he said.

Now, the group has a name and a game plan: the Southern Ohio Makers against COVID Coalition hopes to 3-D print as many plastic face shields as possible while the pandemic begins to rage in Southern Ohio hospitals.

"We moved as quickly as we could to mobilize," he said. "It's been really good for everyone."

Over the weekend, 47 builders with 100+ printers were working nearly around the clock to produce face shields for 27 medical organizations, including hospitals, funeral homes, mortuaries, urgent care facilities and dermatologists — all at no cost to the medical organizations.

With the help of Susan Davis (Attorney at Law) and her charity *Soles for Students*, the organization is protected from liability and has funding streams, Montgomery said. SOMACC runs through social media, and its main page is on Facebook at [facebook.com/southernohiomakersagainstcovidcoalition](https://www.facebook.com/southernohiomakersagainstcovidcoalition). Donation options are available on the page.

According to Montgomery, SOMACC has more than 3,000 orders to fill. The group has arranged pickup and drop-off of individual shield pieces in recent days, and Friday will be the first assembly day at SSCC's Patriot Center. Volunteers will stand six feet apart at medically sanitized stations, and Montgomery anticipates processing between 500 to 1,000 face shields.

Montgomery said he is just happy to be contributing to the fight against COVID-19 in his own way.

"When the COVID thing happened, I felt really depressed," he said. "I was removed from my students and the people I can help, and I felt pretty bad. However, when SOMACC took off, I had a new mission. And I jumped in with both feet."

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Southern State Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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