

**Contact: Elizabeth Burkard**  
SSCC Director of Marketing  
937-393-3431, ext. 2624  
800-628-7722, ext. 2624  
eburkard@sscc.edu

SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**PRESS RELEASE**



CUTLINE: Doug Daniels, Southern State's new Commander of the OPOTA Program.

## **Doug Daniels named new Commander of Southern State's Police Academy**

Southern State Community College is pleased to announce Doug Daniels, of Greenfield, as the new Commander of the Ohio Basic Peace Officer Academy (OPOTA).

Daniels succeeds Ron Fithen, of Wilmington, who served as Commander of the program for a little over 20 years.

Daniels has a comprehensive law enforcement background that encompasses a variety of different settings, having over 43 years of experience.

“We are very excited to have someone of Doug’s caliber take over as Commander of the Police Academy,” says Dr. Erika Goodwin, SSCC Vice President of Academic Affairs. “Doug had taught in our program for a year before being named Commander so the overlap with former Commander Ron Fithen has proved invaluable. We also thank Ron Fithen for his many years of dedicated service to the Southern State Policy Academy,” Goodwin says.

Daniels currently serves as a Special Deputy with the Highland Co. Sheriffs' Office as well as a FAASTeam (FAA Safety Team) Lead Representative & Drone Pro Member for the FAA's Flight Standards District Office in Columbus, Ohio.

“I have immersed myself into the new technology of sUAS/Drones for Public Safety and have been developing courses for this new field. I am the Midwest Deputy Regional Director for the Airborne Public Safety Association. I have written and am starting to write articles for the Airborne Public Safety Association (APSA) magazine Air Beat and other publications,” says Daniels.

A graduate of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy himself, Daniels brings a wealth of knowledge about the academy to current students and other instructors teaching in the academy.

“I have been instructing in various academies around the state of Ohio since 1992. I give my students 100 percent and more when teaching and I am not afraid to answer tough questions. If I don’t have the answer, I will find it for the student,” says Daniels.

The OPOTA Program at Southern State provides instruction in basic, advanced, and technical subjects for the Ohio law enforcement community using the latest research and recommended professional practices.

To learn more about Southern State’s Law Enforcement Program and the Ohio Basic Police Officer Academy, please visit <https://www.sccc.edu/academics/programs/law-enforcement.shtml> or email Daniels at [jdaniels3@sccc.edu](mailto:jdaniels3@sccc.edu).

The next start date for the Academy will be in late June, or early July 2023. Don’t wait, begin planning now.

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**Peggy Chalker, Dean of Articulation and Transfer & Director of Student Success | Title IX Lead Coordinator**  
100 Hobart Drive, Hillsboro, OH 45133 | [pchalker@sccc.edu](mailto:pchalker@sccc.edu) | 800.628.7722, Ext. 2880

**Mindy Markey-Grabill, Vice President of Human Resources | Title IX Coordinator**  
100 Hobart Drive, Hillsboro, OH 45133 | [mmarkey@sccc.edu](mailto:mmarkey@sccc.edu) | 800.628.7722, Ext. 2550