

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



SOUTHERN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JUNE 2021 | DR. KEVIN BOYS, PRESIDENT

Ohio's Biennium Budget

As I write, the Senate Finance Committee accepted the omnibus amendment to the budget bill and should be voted on by the Senate this week. It will then move to conference committee where differences will be resolved. Of particular note:

- Slight increases (1% and ½%) in each year of the biennium in State Share of Instruction
- The flexibility to increase tuition up to \$5 per credit hour in each year
- The establishment of the Ohio Code Scholarship Pilot program to be administered through Southern State in our local high schools and Career Centers with an appropriation of \$240,000 in each fiscal year

COVID Recovery Plan

As you know, health orders throughout Ohio including those affecting the operation of the College were lifted on June 2. Susan Morris has coordinated the effort with the President's Council to develop a plan and communicate guidance on campus now that these state health orders no longer apply. You will continue to receive abbreviated updates each week. We are beginning to see an uptick in enrollment for Fall semester and will be able to accommodate more students in our classrooms due to the latest guidance.

Legacy Video for Community Colleges throughout Appalachia

I was honored to narrate the video compilation that tells the story of the work community colleges throughout Appalachia have done in their communities during the pandemic. I will forward the link to the video once it is posted on the CCA website. The new Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission had this to say: "The film/video was so well done and exemplified in such excellent detail the challenges and successes the community colleges faced and overcame during the pandemic. Unfortunately, lives were lost as our entire country experienced, but as one speaker so aptly said 'Turtles may be slow but they keep moving'—I loved it."

President's Activities and Involvement

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

- Hillsboro Rotary Club Meetings
- Navigate QA Call with the CEO's Office at EAB
- Community Colleges of Appalachia (CCA) Video Project Review Sessions
- AACC Back to the Basics Call
- Jobs for the Future Concept Paper/ARC Grant Opportunity Meeting
- Law Enforcement Academy Partnership Meeting with Great Oaks
- AACC Virtual Conference Sessions
- SOESC/Adams/Highland BAC Meeting
- SSCC Cruise-In Commencement Event
- Call with Clinton County MRDD Board Representative
- EAB Leadership Team Calls
- Ohio College Initiative Presidents Virtual Luncheon
- CCA Virtual Awards Ceremony
- Conference Call with Ohio Department of Higher Education Representative
- Conference Call with Ohio Association of Community Colleges Representative
- Webinar with HORAN
- OACC President's Weekly Meetings
- Calls with Clinton County Representatives
- Calls with Rural Community College Alliance (RCCA) President
- Hillsboro Rotary Club Scholarship Presentations
- Community College Executive Roundtable with Zoom Education Division
- RCCA Strategic Planning Group Facilitation
- Highland County Chamber Business After Hours Networking Event
- Meeting with Wilmington Savings Bank Representative
- EAB Service Planning Call
- SSCC Facilities Committee Meeting
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
- RCCA Board Meeting
- CCA Board Meeting
- Appalachian Regional Commission Strategic Planning Focus Group
- CCA Conference Opening and Afternoon Sessions

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

In the News

Faculty Participating in Ohio Transfer 36 Review Panels

Southern State is pleased to learn from the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Ohio Transfer and Articulation Network (OTAN) that two of our nominations were accepted for review panel participation. Panel participation helps facilitate progress and implementation of statewide initiatives, as well as strengthen courses and programs for the students and citizens of Ohio by lending their subject area expertise and guidance to the review process.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Tumbleson who will serve on the Social and Behavioral Sciences faculty review panel and to Annie Rankin who will serve on the Arts and Humanities faculty review panel. Annie Rankin has accepted our invitation to serve and represent Arts and Humanities on statewide Ohio Transfer 36 (formerly the Ohio Transfer Module) reviews. Her involvement and panel participation will help facilitate progress and implementation of statewide initiatives, as well as strengthen courses and programs for the students and citizens of Ohio.

Adult Opportunity Center

Aspire Grant Award

From Chancellor Randy Gardner – "After a rigorous review process, I am pleased to let you know that your organization has been selected to receive an Aspire Adult Workforce Readiness Education Grant for Fiscal Year 2022. After the first one-year grant, the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) retains the right to fund the organization for up to two additional years – FY 2023 and FY 2024.

The tentative allocation of funds for your agency for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$240,000 for the Aspire Instructional grant. The final amount is contingent upon receipt of the federal grant award and confirmation of the state appropriation in the state budget bill."

Instructional Technology

New Investments Help to Streamline Quality Assurance

In an effort to meet the needs of the rapidly changing distance learning landscape, the Instructional Technology Department has implemented two new tools aimed at improving distance learning development as well as streamlining quality assurance processes. DesignPLUS Tools for Canvas, allows course designers to cut the time it takes to develop courses significantly. It improves the quality, consistency, and accessibility of courses providing students with a better experience while allowing designers to do more in less time. ReadyGO provides insights and reporting to assist course designers and instructors in ensuring courses are ready before the semester starts. This tool allows reporting to ensure courses have content, contain a syllabus, and have instructors and students enrolled. These two investments, made possible through use of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF), were implemented immediately.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Student Success Center

Start Here; Go There

One of the initiatives supported by the Ohio Department of Higher Education is the creation of *Guaranteed Transfer Pathways* (OGTP) to allow students the opportunity to start at a state community college, finish an associated degree, and then continue the pathway as a transfer into an aligned state university bachelor degree program. These 2 + 2 pathways save students much time and money in reaching their career goals. The pathways include the *Ohio Transfer 36* general education courses as well as TAG identified foundational courses for specific majors.

Southern State Community College currently has 19 pathways under the OGTP as well as multiple courses aligned for TAG and OT36 transfer status. The College continues to

be well positioned to ensure the transferability of courses to public and private institutions.

The Student Success Center staff (Advising, Counseling, Tutoring) have prepared over the last 2½ years to develop a holistic advising approach to career and academic planning. Many of our students have access to a comprehensive career assessment (compliments of a regional grant initiative for workforce readiness). Staff “coach” students through their career assessment and help them define their goals into an academic plan and pathway. Since *Guaranteed Pathways* ensures the opportunity for a bachelor degree after attending the community college, students can afford to pursue their goals.

Records Office

Degrees Conferred

Below is a summary of the number of degrees/certificates conferred during the 2020-2021 time period compared to the previous year.

Degrees/Certificates	7/01/19-6/30/20	7/01/20-6/30/21
AA	68	69
AS	68	57
AAB	28	30
AAS	120	75
ATS	2	1
One Year Cert	29	18
<One Year Cert	43	47
Total General Degrees	136	126
Total Technical Degrees	150	106
Total All Degrees/Certificates	358	297

Summer Semester

Summer semester began Monday, May 24. Over the next few weeks the Records Office will be reviewing the attendance reported from instructors and will be updating enrollments accordingly.

Jenzabar Annual Meeting

The Registrar attended the Jenzabar Annual Meeting on June 2-4.

Financial Aid

Office Transition

Financial Aid Director, Linda Myers, retired on May 30 and Suzanne Harmon was hired as Financial Aid Director with a start date of May 3. Linda and Suzanne worked together during the month of May to transition the office.

Kaylynn Bell was hired in May as Financial Aid Assistant and handles document intake, student emails and mail, as well numerous clerical duties in the Financial Aid Office.

Sheila Fawley, Financial Aid Data Coordinator, will retire effective June 30. The position will not be filled and the Financial Aid staff will go from 5 to 4 positions.

Staff Development

Existing staffers (Jaime Simmons, Cindy Bloom and Kaylynn Bell) have started a series of training programs offered by the National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) to shore up existing knowledge of federal student aid and introduce federal regulatory requirements that impact each staff position. Sponsoring and supporting ongoing training for the Financial Aid Office staff is an institutional requirement as part of administering federal aid programs; funds for this training will be accessed from unused conference funds in the department budget.

Development of a Financial Aid Office processing calendar is underway to help prioritize and structure our work during the Summer term and in preparation for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year.

2020/2021 Federal Aid Information

Federal Aid Program	Unduplicated Recipients	Value of Disbursements
Federal Pell Grant	579	\$1,837,505.00
Federal Direct Loans	441	\$1,799,030.00
Federal SEOG Grant	379	\$82,256

Recruitment/Admissions

New Student Orientation

Letters have been mailed to students who are registered for summer classes. Completion for summer is significantly better than years past.

OACAC College Fair Update

OACAC, with guidance from the CDC and State of Ohio, has decided to have in-person college fairs this fall. The Clinton County College Fair will go on with Wilmington High School and the request has been put in with OACAC, but no date has been set at this time.

The Director is working with Highland County high schools to possibly rotate the HCCF between the Highland County high schools.

Phi Theta Kappa

Leadership

Applications are being accepted for VP positions, and Meg Storrs has been added to the Advisor Team effective June 1.

Events

Honors Institute will be held virtually June 23-24 and will be attended by advisors and 3 members.

Leadership Development Studies will be held virtually in August. Advisor, Susan Morris, will attend to become certified to teach the course.

The chapter participated in the SSCC Cruise-in Commencement by providing a photo booth. A photo op with Patrick the Patriot was the highlight!

Projects & Research

PTK continues to lead the Health Ambassador project for the College. The health ambassadors will continue to staff Central and Mt. Orab campuses during the summer. Additional duties will include call campaigns for student admission, registration, and PTK recruitment of eligible members.

The 2021 theme for the Honors in Action project will focus on the topic of resilience.

The children's book drive concluded on all three campuses, coordinated by Alyssa Mays, VP of Service.

Scholarship

The competitive scholarship deadline was May 14. Twenty-five students started the application process and 2 students completed the spring application.

The PTK Trustee scholarship is now available. It will be awarded to PTK members at SSCC to complete their Associate Degree. A total of \$5,000 in scholarship funds will be awarded.

Membership

Forty-four new members were added in January-May from those that received invitations for eligibility earned in Fall 2020.

Fall invitations expired on May 31, with regional and local chapter fees waived.

Spring eligibility invitations released in May to 571 students who became eligible in spring semester. A recruitment campaign is underway.