The mission of Central Ohio Technical College is to meet the technical education and training needs of students and employers in the area.

Institute for Public Safety

With public sector governmental demands increasing in both complexity and volume, Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is poised to meet the changing educational and training needs of tomorrow’s public safety personnel.

COTC’s recently created Institute for Public Safety has unified under one organizational construct the college’s associate degree programs in Criminal Justice Technology, Law Enforcement Technology, and Fire Science (forthcoming), as well as COTC’s Basic Police Academy and Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic certificate programs.

“The creation of the Institute for Public Safety has enabled COTC to provide a cohesive platform of expertise and leadership across the varied facets of today’s public safety instruction,” said COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.

Institute leadership and facilities are located at COTC’s Pataskala Campus, with programmatic implementation on all four COTC campuses: Newark, Coshocton, Knox, and Pataskala.

Institute Director Richard B. Weinblatt, Ed.D., brings extensive educational, administrative, and public safety expertise to his position at COTC. He previously served as program manager and professor of criminal justice at Seminole Community College in Florida. The former police chief also served as chairman of the Public Services Department at South Piedmont Community College in North Carolina.

Cross-curricular collaboration

Dr. Weinblatt’s goals include the continued enhancement and strengthening of COTC’s academic programs offered through the Institute, as well as implementing cross-curricular collaboration.

He added that the establishment of the Institute has created a respectful, collaborative environment in which COTC students can obtain a well-rounded education that will thoroughly ground them in all aspects of public safety.

“COTC offers progressive and professional public safety service via education, training, and other platforms of advocacy,” added Weinblatt, “and the college remains committed to providing a strong and reliable public safety resource for the many communities we serve.”

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Degrees that Work
A Letter from the President

I cannot recall a time when final approval of the state’s biennial budget created such an overwhelming sense of uncertainty about the future. Elected officials were challenged to create a balanced budget requiring immediate decisions with long-term implications and rooted in the premise of economic recovery. Use of federal stimulus money further complicated the process as it helped achieve the short-term goal of a balanced budget but in essence created what is being called “a cliff” in 2012 when the one-time funding ends. Never before have we as a state faced such uncertainty about our financial future. Never before as an institution have we been as prepared as we are today to face this challenge and to be a part of the economic solution strategy for our state and our nation.

State subsidy is only one of the two major sources of funding for the college, the other is tuition. Phenomenal enrollment growth over several years has perfectly positioned the college to withstand the economic uncertainties on the horizon. This fall we expect enrollment for the first time to exceed 4,000 students, which is an increase of 12 percent over last year and up 44 percent from just five years ago. The leadership team is committed to aggressive fiscal management of tuition dollars and as a result has identified key strategies for the institution to ensure our fiscal solvency.

- Focus on campus and college efficiencies
- Pay down debt
- Conservative use of contingency funds
- Continue to grow enrollment

Central Ohio Technical College is prepared not only from a fiscal standpoint but programmatically and logistically with its four campuses (Newark, Coshocton, Knox and Pataskala) to respond to changing workforce needs and the consequences of the struggling economy. The anticipated addition of the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees will further expand the opportunities available to students as now more than ever before students are looking for a cost-effective way to meet their educational goals.

The future is bright for COTC as the institution prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2011. We anticipate the campuses will continue to flourish in both students and programming and expect to be serving more than 5,000 students (quite a dramatic increase from the initial class of 114 students who entered the college in 1971). Throughout 2011 we will acknowledge the 40th year of the institution in a variety of settings and events open to the public as we celebrate this milestone in the life of the institution. As we prepare to focus on the rich history and tradition of COTC, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our local communities, our four campuses that comprise our college community, our partners at The Ohio State University at Newark, and in particular our dedicated employees for the years of unrelenting support in the pursuit of accessible technical education. It is upon your shoulders this institution was established and is now so perfectly positioned for the future. Details will be forthcoming as we plan for a wonderful time of celebration in 2011.

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., President

Securing the Future: COTC 2009 - 2013 Strategic Plan

In January 2009, COTC implemented a five-year strategic plan. Bringing a large organization together under a common banner is a genuine challenge, and there is no better means to achieve unity than to include the entire college community in the development of the college’s long-term vision. In its development, the college actively engaged more than 500 people from various constituent groups including advisory board members, faculty, staff, and alumni. The result is an achievable number of goals and objectives with metrics for evaluation:

1. Maximize student access, learning, and success.
2. Strengthen COTC’s institutional identity as a leader in technical education and technological innovation.
3. Strengthen a culture that embraces the value of diversity.
4. Foster an environment of stewardship.
5. Continue to cultivate positive constituent relationships.
6. Foster and advance mutually-beneficial, unique relationships with The Ohio State University and its Newark campus.
7. Sustain and strengthen a talented, high-performance workforce.

Each future issue of COTC’s Profiles Newsletter will highlight work and activities the college has undertaken to achieve these goals. For more information about COTC’s Strategic Plan, visit www.cotc.edu.
Popular program continues to grow

This past spring and summer, 165 central Ohio middle and high school students had the opportunity to try on a career during Central Ohio Technical College’s third annual CollegeASPIRE workshop series. The popular program, this year held for the first time at all four COTC campuses, experienced record enrollment. Held during the one week break between the college’s spring and summer quarters, CollegeASPIRE has consistently grown during each successive year. This year CollegeASPIRE’s growth also included the addition of a spring workshop in partnership with the Par Excellence Academy.

The series was created to encourage all central Ohio students to pursue a college education, regardless of their circumstances. Taught by college faculty in small-group settings, CollegeASPIRE allows students to learn first-hand about in-demand careers such as health care, forensic science, digital photography, and culinary science.

Free to all participants

Thanks to grants and the generous support of community members, COTC has been able to offer CollegeASPIRE free of cost to all participants.

"COTC is committed to increasing college accessibility for all, and this program, especially because it is free, enables us to reach out to those segments of the community who need encouragement and help the most," said Tara Houdeshell, CollegeASPIRE coordinator.

New Library and Student Center Wins Design Awards

With the opening of the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center, COTC’s Newark Campus has been redefined, not only in appearance, but in function and character. The building’s inviting spaces, marked by the warmth of natural wood tones, gleaming tile entryways, and anchored with a soaring stone hearth, immediately made it a natural gathering space for all across the campus community.

The building’s extraordinary union of form and function has attracted international attention as well. Judges from the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) selected it as one of five international winners for the 2009 Facility Design Award of Excellence.

In addition, the facility garnered a Bronze Citation in the 2009 American School & University Educational Interiors Showcase, the premiere competition honoring education interiors excellence.

The Warner Center, which was formally dedicated before a crowd of several hundred well wishers on October 3, 2008, has rapidly become the hub of campus life, from academic support services, to the bookstore, game room, or the marketplace dining area.

“The building provides outstanding intellectual and physical nourishment for student life,” said John M. Berry, Ph.D. director of student life, "nourishment that the campus has long needed.”
Central Ohio Technical College offers central Ohio residents the opportunity to pursue an associate degree or certificate, or to improve their skills through the affordable, high-tech options at COTC’s Coshocton Campus. COTC continues to expand its programs and services in Coshocton. Montgomery Hall, located in historic Roscoe Village, opened in January 2008 with 15 classrooms, laboratory space, a lecture hall, a nursing laboratory, and distance-learning classrooms. Campus upgrades have occurred during the summer, including equipping the digital media design laboratory with iMac computers.

A major step has been taken toward further securing the future of the Coshocton Campus for generations to come. Through the generosity of the Evans Foundation, the purchase of the “landscape house” from Roscoe Village will be the first of several in a plan to buy approximately two acres stretching to the Caldersburg Pearl. Securing this land will guarantee space for additional buildings and parking for the long-term growth of the Coshocton Campus. In the short term, COTC will allow Roscoe Village to continue to use the property, which is located directly across the street from Montgomery Hall, for its landscape department.

COTC is pleased to announce that Melanie P. Bolender, MBA, has accepted the position of campus administrator at the college’s Coshocton Campus. Bolender assumed her new role on Monday, September 21.

Bolender has nearly nine years’ experience in higher education, coming to COTC from Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) where she served in various management positions since 2001. At MVNU, she held the positions of director of enrollment services and executive director of adult and graduate studies for several years, followed by director of special projects in the same department. Prior to entering higher education, Bolender was the executive director of the Hospice of Knox County, and had previous experience in market research.

The Mount Vernon resident is active in the community, including serving as president of the Mount Vernon Rotary Club, and president of The Children’s Connection.

A graduate of Ashland University (AU), Bolender received her Master of Business Administration in 1998. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Miami University (Oxford, OH) where she graduated cum laude with a marketing major.

As the COTC Coshocton Campus Administrator, Bolender is responsible for working with businesses, industries, communities and internal/external constituencies at various levels. She serves as the principal liaison for the campus and will oversee all facets of operations and staffing. Supervision includes two admissions counselors/academic advisors, a clerical position, and student workers. The campus administrator’s office is located at Montgomery Hall in the historic Roscoe Village, and she can be reached at 740.622.1408.

Visit COTC on the web @ www.cotc.edu

During autumn quarter 2009, COTC unveiled a new, completely redesigned web site, featuring streamlined navigation with easier access to all of the important information prospective and current students need.

View course schedules and register online at www.cotc.edu.
With flexibility and student convenience in mind, COTC's Knox Campus is offering ten courses as Friday-only classes during autumn quarter 2009. Held at varying times during the day and evening, Friday-only classes can accommodate students with the ability to flex their daytime work schedules, as well as those who prefer to attend in the evening.

These once-a-week courses are taught in multiple-hour slots to ease planning and scheduling. A wide range of basic education courses are offered, including Principles of Computing, Basic Writing Skills, Cultural Diversity, and Introduction to Human Biology.

COTC's more than 40 associate degree or certificate programs can be started at the Knox Campus, with many general education and pre-health courses offered on site. In addition, many degree programs are available and can be completed in their entirety at the Knox Campus: Business Management, Criminal Justice, Human Services, LPN to RN Transition (associate degree nursing), and Advanced Manufacturing Technology - Machining Option.

COTC's Pataskala Campus has continued to grow at a steady rate since its first quarter of operation in autumn 2006, with enrollment during autumn 2008 climbing to approximately 350 students. The college is committed to providing an excellent learning environment for its students, and to meet that goal and accommodate continued enrollment growth, COTC's Pataskala Campus underwent a major renovation this summer.

Three classrooms have been added to the college's facilities located in the Pataskala Administrative Offices, 621 W. Broad Street, bringing the total classroom space to four.

Also, part of the project was the addition of a bookstore, video conferencing capabilities, and the relocation and expansion of the Resource and Tutoring Center.

The Institute for Public Safety and its director, Dr. Richard Weinblatt, are now located in the Pataskala facility. Julie Maurer, Pataskala Campus administrator, is enthusiastic about the Institute moving to Pataskala and the new opportunities that will be available to students.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to better serve our students and to expand our classroom capacity," said Maurer. "We're very excited to have the renovations completed in time to accommodate this autumn’s record enrollment."
Student Chosen for China Trip

Cory Grossenbaugh didn’t believe the initial email announcing that he had been selected to travel to China with a delegation of other outstanding college students.

But in May, the Coshocton native took his first airplane flight, saw some of the engineering wonders of the world, and immersed himself in a culture that was far different from his central Ohio upbringing.

Grossenbaugh was the first COTC student to be selected by the International Scholar Laureate Program, a pre-professional educational program promoting career-focused study through experiential learning.

From May 20 through 30, Grossenbaugh and approximately 100 other engineering students from around the world visited Beijing, Yichang, and Shanghai. They saw the world’s largest hydroelectric project, the Three Gorges Dam; visited with scholars from the Chinese Academy of Sciences; and hiked along the 2,000-year-old Great Wall of China. Trip expenses were paid through local philanthropic support provided to the college by several individuals and organizations to promote international study and honor achievements in engineering technology.

“I was shocked when I learned that the invitation was real,” said Grossenbaugh. “I was so honored to be chosen for this trip—it was the experience of a lifetime.”

Grossenbaugh graduated in June with an associate degree in electronic engineering and is working toward a bachelor’s degree at Franklin University.

“I’m so grateful to have been given this opportunity,” he added. “I met some great people from all over the country, and this trip opened my eyes to an entire new world.”

Outstanding Alumni Award Presented

COTC awarded its 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award to Mount Vernon resident William M. “Mike” Cronin. The award recognizes COTC alumni who have demonstrated personal or professional achievement that brings honor and distinction to the college and whose contributions and individual attainment have bettered the community. The award was presented to Cronin by COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., at the college’s spring commencement ceremony held at the COTC Newark Campus on June 12.

Cronin began his career as a paramedic with the Mount Vernon Fire Department in 1982, where he is currently employed as EMS/Fire Prevention Coordinator. He developed and wrote the Emergency Medical Services Protocol for Knox County and the City of Mount Vernon and established the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team for Knox County. He holds many certifications related to the EMS field and is a State Certified Fire Inspector and 240 Firefighter. In addition, Cronin taught paramedic programs for Muskingum Area Technical College (now Zane State College), and Advanced Cardiac Life Support for North Central State College and Knox Community Hospital.

He is currently a part-time instructor in COTC’s Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Program.

COTC created an Alumni Program in 2007 to serve as the principal link between the college and its network of alumni. All COTC alumni are invited to participate.

To learn more about the COTC Alumni Program, or to update your contact information with the college, please contact Jennifer W. Roberts, Director of Development, at 740.364.9644, email to jroberts@cotc.edu, or click on the alumni link at www.cotc.edu.
Teaching Excellence Award Winner

Central Ohio Technical College Digital Media Design Instructor Kathleen Kinney has been selected for the 2009 COTC Teaching Excellence Award.

The award is presented annually to a COTC full-time faculty member in recognition of and to promote teaching excellence. Faculty members are nominated by students, staff, fellow faculty or alumni, with the winner selected by a faculty committee.

“As an alumna of COTC, I know first hand how many truly wonderful teachers we have working on our campuses,” said Kinney. “Knowing this, it makes receiving this award such a tremendous honor. My heart belongs to COTC and my students, and I consider myself so very fortunate to have the opportunity to teach here. My students are fantastic individuals and so tremendously talented. It is simply a joy to teach them. To me, to be honored for doing something you love, it’s just icing on the cake!”

Kinney has more than 15 years of successful design, marketing, and management experience. She is the former vice president of marketing and technology for the Raines Group, the highest dollar volume real estate company in the state, where she was responsible for planning, developing, designing, and implementing all marketing, advertising, and web materials. She joined COTC’s faculty in 2005. She is currently a full-time instructor at COTC, teaching classes in design, color theory, digital software, design history, mass media communications, and senior projects.

A COTC alumna, Kinney earned her Associate of Applied Sciences in Digital Media Design in 2003. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Communications from American InterContinental University.

Instructor Brings Professional Experience to COTC

Nursing instructor Patricia Earley has a lot to offer her students, not the least of which is her 35 years of work experience as a hospital nurse. As a teenager growing up outside of Cleveland, she worked after school as a nurse’s aide. Through the years, she’s worked in a variety of hospital settings, including the emergency room, recovery, and for 20 years as a surgical nurse.

Since January 2008, Earley has shared her expertise with the next generation of nursing professionals as a full-time member of COTC’s nursing faculty.

“When I was a student, I remember struggling with the work for a time,” remembered Earley. “At one point, however, I simply told myself that I was going to succeed.”

Today, that’s the sentiment that Earley likes to pass on to her students. Young or old, she encourages each of them to find their own inner determination. “They need to be reminded that they can achieve whatever they set out to accomplish,” she said.

Earley, a Coshocton resident, holds a B.S.N. from Otterbein College, and a Master’s in Nursing Education from the University of Phoenix.

She believes that it’s a great time to choose a career in nursing, and feels that the job opportunities in the field will continue to grow.

“With the aging population, the health care field will continue to be strong,” said Earley.

As a teacher, she hopes that she can help her students become successful professionals, bridging the gap between school and work.

“If I can help our students put the skills they’ve learned at COTC successfully to work in acute care settings, then I’ve done a good job,” said Earley.

www.cotc.edu
Events at Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University at Newark

Date and times are subject to change. Please visit www.cotc.edu, www.newark.osu.edu, or call 740.366.9355 for up to date information.

Thursday, October 8
COTC Tech Prep Alumni Dinner - FREE
5 - 7 p.m.
The John Gilbert Reese Center, COTC Newark Campus
Contact: Robin Bussey, 740.364.9596 or rbussey@cotc.edu

Saturday, October 10 – Friday, October 16
"Walk with the Ancients" – pilgrimage beginning at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Chillicothe to Geller Park, Heath; 70 miles in 7 days. For information on how to participate or to sponsor a walker, contact the Newark Earthworks Center @ 740.364.9584 or earthworks@osu.edu.

Saturday, October 17
Newark Earthworks Day - FREE
Featuring speakers, exhibits, craft vendors and Native food.
The John Gilbert Reese Center, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
For more information: Newark Earthworks Center @ 740.364.9584 or earthworks@osu.edu

Sunday, October 18
Final Ceremony and Open House – Newark Earthworks Day – FREE
Octagon Earthworks, 125 N. 33rd Street, Newark, OH
For more information: Newark Earthworks Center @ 740.364.9584 or earthworks@osu.edu

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Central Ohio Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, color, veteran status, and/or disability. General information, questions, concerns, or complaints related to these matters are to be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, John Berry, Warner Center Suite 226, Ohio State Newark/COTC, 1179 University Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055-1797 (740.364.9578) or ADA/504 Coordinator, Connie Zang, at the same location.