COTC Offers First Online Degree

Beginning winter quarter 2010 Central Ohio Technical College’s (COTC) Business Management Technology degrees (all options) will be available completely ONLINE. This is the first online degree to be offered at COTC.

While COTC has been offering a growing number of online classes and distance education for several years, particularly the general education courses, it has long been part of the college’s strategic plan to offer students the option of completing degrees online. The Higher Learning Commission, which accredits COTC, gave official approval for the college to pilot online delivery of business management technology, and a comprehensive planning team has been working behind the scenes for more than a year.

One recent graduate has already had positive experiences with online classes from COTC. “I'm thrilled that I was able to care for my children, and earn my business management degree in Office Administration by taking nearly 90 percent of my classes online,” stated Rebekkah Rudder of Centerburg, Ohio.

Students already enrolled in the business management program will continue toward their degree according to their plan of study. Those students may choose to take their remaining classes online or face to face. Starting January 4, 2010, the first group of students who have enrolled in the entirely online degree system including registration, fees, and advising will be considered our first online cohort. New student orientation and other services are also provided in this online format.

Nick Parisi, dean for Engineering, Industrial and Business Technologies, said, “The team cooperation of faculty, staff, students and administrators that has culminated in the ‘launch’ of this online degree has been phenomenal. With the attention to detail that has gone into its development, I’m confident that the students’ experiences will be very positive.” In fact, the planning team implemented beta tests with students from various online skill levels, which resulted in quality improvement. Many changes were made on site during the tests.

To learn more, go to: www.cotc.edu/current-students and click on online degrees, or call the COTC Gateway at 740.366.9222.

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COTC receives approval for Pataskala property purchase.
See page 5 for details.
A Letter from the President

Typically one sign of a struggling economy is a surge in college enrollment. Education can be seen as the pathway to gaining a competitive edge in a difficult job market or to embark on a new career field entirely. While growth is usually evident across the board, institutions offering two-year programs tend to experience the greatest increases due to affordability and workforce-ready programming. The American Association of Community Colleges estimates that, due in part to the economic downturn, community college enrollments nationally have increased by close to 10 percent in 2009 in comparison to 2008. President Obama’s proposal to invest $12 billion in community colleges over the next 10 years speaks to the important role these institutions will play in the nation’s economic recovery.

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is among those institutions experiencing phenomenal enrollment growth recording its highest headcount in college history this fall with 4,557 students. Community College Week recently named COTC one of the 50 Fastest Growing Public Two-Year Colleges in the country with an increase of 15.7 percent from 2007 to 2008. COTC ranked number 20 on this list and was one of only two Ohio colleges ranked in the top 50.

With the economy as a primary contributing factor, combined with increased recruitment and focused retention efforts, serving our growing student population is a top priority for the college. Recognized nationally in 2008 with an award for Innovation of the Year, the COTC Gateway—the college one-stop customer service center—will undergo a complete remodel in 2010 to create a premier space focused on meeting the diverse needs of our student body.

Located in Hopewell Hall, the $1.2 million Gateway remodel project will include renovation of the former bookstore (now located in the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center) and the area known as The Mall, to create a visually stunning centralized location for the key departments necessary to pursue a certificate or associate degree at COTC. The new area will feature architectural components reflecting the spirit of service upon which the Gateway was founded. A focal point amidst the high-end architecture will be electronic message boards in each of the new office areas to allow for customized and timely communication.

The project has required incredible planning and collaboration among offices and departments to ensure business as usual throughout the renovation. The first moves are planned for March 2010 and will begin a domino effect with offices moving to vacate space and moving back in as remodeling is completed. The transformation is scheduled for completion for fall 2011 and will be unveiled prior to the start of autumn quarter as one of the key events during the college’s year-long 40th anniversary celebration.

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., President

Fireside Chat with the President

What’s a great way to truly get an understanding of how students really view COTC? College President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., knows that sometimes one of the most effective methods of gathering information is to return to the basics. So, for the second year, Coe has hosted Fireside Chats with the President. During these informal sessions, groups of hand-selected students representing all four campuses and a diverse range of backgrounds come together with Coe to discuss any and all concerns the students may have about COTC, be it access to faculty, to degree offerings, to issues with parking.

Fireside Chats were held this past autumn at COTC’s Newark and Coshocton Campuses. To broaden the discussion base, this year several staff members as well as COTC Advisory Board members were also invited to attend.

“COTC is committed to being a student-centered institution,” said Coe. "We want our students to know that the college takes all of their concerns very seriously, and this is one way that we can all come together to discuss what is working at COTC as well as to learn about areas in which the college can improve.”

Students discuss their views about the college during a Fireside Chat with the President.
Autumn quarter, the Center for Academic Success (CAS) became a new resource for students at Central Ohio Technical College (COTC). Housed in the hub of student services and activities, the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center, the CAS is home to the following distinct services for students at all levels and from all academic programs:

* the Communications Resource Center (CRC), which provides a writing and speech lab;
* the Math Lab, a resource that has been active for nearly 20 years;
* the Education Media Resource Center, which will open for service in winter quarter 2010

Because there has been an identified need for writing and speech assistance among many COTC students regardless of the class, the CRC was researched and developed. This new resource has become extremely popular in a short time: more than 800 student visits* have been made to the CRC since September 23 when the doors opened.

Bruce Weaver, interim director for the Center for Academic Success, said that, “Students have used the CRC for writing assignments for a science class, like Biology...so it definitely reaches beyond the Composition and Speech courses.”

There are 24 laptop computers available for students to work on their own in the CRC, on writing or speech assignments. Advice is available from a consultant/tutor when needed. Some students request an appointment for more personalized attention; these are typically 30-minute sessions with a consultant/tutor. Students may even use a room to practice and record spoken presentations, as well as borrow flip video cameras for similar purposes.

Lauren Richardson, a first-quarter practical nursing student, had a paper due for her Basic Writing course on the topic of the American dream. Her instructor gave Richardson the CRC contact number, which was a help. “I got help with my thesis statement and better defining and narrowing my topics,” stated Richardson. She said she also learned how to reference sources. “Katrina, the consultant/tutor, guided me through a handbook on reference pages as well as assisting with my editing process.”

“If it was not for the CRC, I’d still be trying to figure out how to improve my paper…I plan to continue using this resource in the future,” she added.

The nursing student’s advice: “I'd suggest to any student to not be afraid to come into the CRC; you won't be labeled or singled out. Come on your own time and work at your own pace.”

Hours of the CRC vary each day but the center is open Saturdays from noon to 3 pm. For more information, go to www.cotc.edu, click on Current Students and select Center for Academic Success.

The CRC experienced more than 800 student visits as of December 11, 2009.

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Local Colleges Collaborate to Raise Education Awareness

There’s a new program in the Newark City Schools this year that not only brings career and education awareness to eighth graders but also has second graders talking about college. PEAK (Providing Early Awareness and Knowledge) is a new early awareness program that is working to foster college aspirations in elementary and middle school students.

Part of what makes the PEAK initiative so special and unique is that five local organizations have joined forces to collaborate in implementing the program: Central Ohio Technical College (COTC), A CALL TO COLLEGE, Newark City Schools, Denison University, and The Ohio State University at Newark. The entire partnership has named itself CAN DO Access, drawing the acronym from the first letter of each participant’s name.

Jena Pugh is one of three Ohio Campus Compact/AmeriCorps VISTAs working on the project. Pugh, COTC’s VISTA, has counterparts at both Denison and Ohio State Newark. A 2008 Denison graduate, Pugh is no stranger to service programs, having worked for a year in an AmeriCorps program in the Columbus City Schools.

The communications major has been busy since arriving in Newark in August. By the end of the current academic year, every eighth grade student in the Newark City Schools will have completed an online career assessment and financial literacy unit. Pugh is assigned to Heritage Middle School, where she meets with eighth graders every Wednesday.

"It’s so important that we’re starting the conversation about going to college," said Pugh. "I want to help each of my kids understand that college is possible. They can accomplish whatever they put their minds to, and I hope that I am giving them the tools that will help them succeed."
Community Involvement in Coshocton

COTC’s Coshocton Campus has always enjoyed a special connection with the community, and the past autumn has been no exception. For the second year, the Coshocton Campus was a sponsor for the annual Kiwanis Pancake Day. The popular benefit raises thousands of dollars for Kiwanis-sponsored events such as the Special Olympics Track and Field Day.

Coshocton Campus Administrator Melanie Bolender took part in the fun when she played the part of the schoolmarm during Roscoe Village's Apple Butter Stirrin’ Festival. COTC was a sponsor for the event’s Spelling Bee contest.

Additionally, the Coshocton Campus supported the Coshocton County Junior Livestock Sale at the county fair in October, and sponsored two of the Roscoe Village Candlelighting ceremonies in December.

On October 8, COTC welcomed donors and friends of the college to the third annual Friends of the Coshocton Campus event. COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., welcomed the many community members who have been an integral link between the college and the community. Coe spoke about the continued enrollment growth experienced by the Coshocton Campus, which reached a headcount of 488 face-to-face students and 350-plus online students during autumn quarter 2009.

Knox Campus

Ariel Hall Renovation Scheduled

Change will be coming to COTC’s Knox Campus when the college’s current Knox location, Ariel Hall, undergoes a complete renovation from autumn 2010 through August 2011. The campus will move to a temporary site at the former Fredericktown High School, only seven miles away from the current campus. The college anticipates a return to Ariel Hall in the summer of 2011.

Joel Daniels, vice president for extended campuses and new business development, and Knox Campus administrator, is leading the Task Force which will plan and execute the move. Administrative offices and eight classrooms will be utilized at the high school, with prep work for the move beginning this winter.

"It is our plan to move the Knox Campus operation as quickly and efficiently as possible, creating a smooth transition for our students," said Daniels.

The Knox Campus served nearly 800 face-to-face and online students during autumn quarter 2009, and will potentially continue to utilize the Fredericktown space after the Ariel Hall remodel is complete. The college has already held a Basic Police Academy at the facility. Daniels commented that COTC is "looking forward to being a part of the Fredericktown community and anticipate new opportunities will emerge as a result of our relocation."

At the Friends of the Knox Campus event held last October, donors and guests toured Ariel Hall. COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., shared plans for the building’s remodel and the college’s vision for continued service to the area.
COTC Receives Approval for Pataskala Property Purchase

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) received official approval from the state controlling board on Monday, December 14, to proceed with the purchase of a facility on Broad Street, just west of Pataskala.

The facility, formerly a banquet hall known as Grand Host East, is planned for purchase by the college to provide much needed space—16,200 square feet and more than 4.5 acres—for an intermediate home for its Pataskala Campus. Overall, COTC’s enrollment has increased by more than 22 percent autumn quarter of this year as compared to 2008; a large part of that growth is due to the Pataskala Campus and its appeal to residents of Franklin County and surrounding areas.

“Since we began offering classes in Pataskala in 2006, the college has been searching for a facility that could accommodate classrooms, labs, offices—an intermediate home for the COTC Pataskala Campus. The Grand Host East will provide for that, until such time as we are able to secure land for new development,” stated Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., president of COTC.

This (state controlling board approval) is the final step in the process for a higher education institution to proceed with a property acquisition. “Obviously we have a purchase agreement in place with the seller,” stated Coe, adding that the college anticipates closing on this property within the near future barring any unforeseen challenges. Due to rapid growth, the college will continue to utilize current Pataskala Campus locations in addition to the Grand Host East.

David Brillhart, vice president for business & finance with COTC, said, “We could not be more pleased from a financial perspective since the purchase price is $1 million, considerably less than the appraised value. The facility is structurally sound with ample parking in a highly visible area.”

COTC is proceeding with the purchase of the former Grand Host East on Broad Street to serve as an intermediate home for the college’s Pataskala Campus.

Health Career Expo
Explore Educational Opportunities

Thursday, March 4
COTC Newark Campus
The John Gilbert Reese Center
Free & Open to the public

Learn about: Nursing, Sonography, Radiologic Technology, Surgical Technology, Emergency Medical Services

8:30 a.m. – Optional campus tour
9:00 a.m. – Technology information tables and refreshments
9:30 a.m. – President’s welcome
10:00 a.m. – Career exploration with hands-on activities

Register: Call 740.366.9139 or email mrice@cotc.edu. RSVP by February 28
A Family Tradition at COTC

You might say that Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is in Cameron White’s blood. After all, he’s the fifth person in his family to attend COTC. His mother and father, Kim and Dennis White, both graduated from COTC’s nursing program. Then his older brother and sister, Clinton and Jennifer, enrolled at COTC, also both in nursing.

So, when Cameron, a 2009 Utica High School graduate, thought about college, COTC was the obvious choice.

“When I was looking at colleges, I knew that COTC had an excellent reputation,” noted Cameron. “My mom and dad knew firsthand that I would get a great education here, so they were very happy about my decision.”

He’s even chosen to follow in his parents’ and siblings’ footsteps and would like to become a registered nurse.

“When I was younger, I always wanted to be a nurse like my parents,” said Cameron.

He remembers coming to COTC’s Newark Campus as a young child, while his parents were both students. “I love this campus,” said Cameron. “It’s such a great place; it’s easy to feel at home at COTC.”

During high school, Cameron scored high in science classes like anatomy and physiology, and thus feels that nursing will be a good fit. Since beginning classes during autumn quarter 2009, Cameron has been focusing on doing well in his general education courses, but admits that he’s drawn to eventually working in a trauma unit after completing his degree.

“I like the idea of a job that will require me to think on my feet and react quickly,” said Cameron. “Perhaps someday I’ll be able to help people and save lives,” he added.

He believes that there is a high demand for male nurses, and feels that choosing nursing as a profession is an excellent career choice.

Cameron also likes COTC’s affordability. He’s living at home to save money while attending full time, and with tuition at just over $100 a credit hour, COTC continues to keep college a realistic option. Just like many traditional-age students, Cameron plans to work during the summer to earn additional money to pay for his education.

So far, Cameron’s COTC experience has been great. He’s been impressed with his professors, whom he characterizes as accessible and fun. In addition, he loved the fact that his math homework was all available online, and he noted that his writing in Comp 101 improved consistently throughout the quarter. Not a bad start to a college career, even for someone with COTC in his blood.

Grad Has a Career She Loves

Digital Media Design grad Brooke Rosselott found a job that she loves, thanks to her degree from COTC.

Rosselott is employed as a graphic designer with Facility Source in Columbus, Ohio. The 2008 graduate noted that she loves working with computers and enjoys the challenge of creating visually appealing documents and designs.

She credits the education she received at COTC with giving her the skills she needed to get a job in today’s competitive marketplace.

COTC’s Digital Media Design major is demanding, noted Rosselott. But the hands-on, deadline-focused curriculum helped prepare her well for her current position.

In addition, Rosselott noted that at COTC, "the teachers are very personable and give you a good idea of what a prospective boss will expect of you. They challenged me in ways they knew I needed, and made learning fun."

As do many COTC students, Rosselott worked full time while she attended school. Now that she’s working in her chosen career, her dreams of education haven’t concluded, however. She hopes to return to college and complete a bachelor’s degree in marketing.

With a sound education and real-world experience behind her, Rosselott believes that she can accomplish anything, and perhaps someday even start her own business.
Striving for Excellence

Ohio Magazine Acknowledges Two COTC Faculty Members

Two Central Ohio Technical College faculty members were recently acknowledged by Ohio Magazine’s 2009 Excellence in Education recognition program. Sandy Siegrist, M.A., professor of mathematics, and Kimberly Goudy, M.B.A., associate professor of Business Management Technology, were recognized along with other of Ohio’s top college and university professors in the December 2009 issue of the magazine.

“I view my professor position as one of service to my students and our community. I try to create a learning environment that empowers students to seek their own expectations, not those set by others. I hope to inspire each student to always play the role of student; learning and absorbing the world around them, to participate, and to care.”

Sandra Siegrist, M.A.
Mathematics

“Teaching is not a job; it is what I am. It has been my privilege to teach math at COTC for more than 20 years. I’ve seen innumerable students accomplish their educational goals and it has been very rewarding to be a part of that process. I could retire from teaching today, but I would still be a teacher.”

Kimberly Goudy, M.B.A.
Business Management Technology

Transitions Award Created

Cardiovascular Sonography Clinical Coordinator and Assistant Professor Kelley Cupp has been selected for COTC’s inaugural Transitions Award. COTC’s Alumni Council created the Transitions Award to recognize COTC alumni, faculty, and staff who have made the transition from student to partner in career development, making a difference in the lives of current students. Cupp was presented with the award at COTC’s December 2009 Commencement ceremony.

Cupp earned her Associate of Applied Science at COTC, graduating with honors as a member of the college’s first Diagnostic Medical Sonography class. She went on to further her education at Oregon Institute of Technology, earning a Bachelor of Science in Echocardiography. She is currently enrolled in a University of Illinois’ master’s of education program with a focus on two-year colleges. Before becoming a faculty member, Cupp was employed in both hospital and out-patient cardiac facilities.

In 2008, Cupp was awarded the COTC Teaching Excellence Award, which is presented annually to a full-time faculty member in recognition of and to promote teaching excellence. Faculty are nominated by students, staff, fellow faculty or alumni. She was also recognized by Ohio Magazine’s 2008 Excellence in Education program.

Cupp has been a guest speaker at The Ohio State University, and she represented COTC as a speaker at the Ohio Medical Ultrasound Society. On the national level, she is a committee member within the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

Assistant Professor Kelley Cupp received the inaugural COTC Transitions Award.
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, newark.osu.edu, or call 740.366.9355 for up to date information.

Thursday, January 21
COTC AutoCAD Workshop – FREE
Join COTC’s experienced faculty for a workshop exploring the fundamentals of AutoCAD.
LeFevre Hall, COTC Newark Campus, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
To register or learn more, call Michael Rice @ 740.366.9139 or mrice@cotc.edu

Saturday, January 23
Buckeye Visit Day – FREE
High school students are invited to interact with students, staff, and faculty while learning about the great opportunities available at Ohio State Newark.
Registration required: www.newark.osu.edu/visit.
To learn more, contact Kathy Millard @ 740-364-9548 or millard.34@osu.edu

February 2010
Thursday, February 4
COTC Discovery Days - FREE
Open to anyone with an interest in furthering their education. Learn about careers and educational opportunities at COTC. Meet faculty, participate in hands-on lab activities, and learn about college financial aid options.
The John Gilbert Reese Center, COTC Newark Campus 5:30 p.m. campus tour, 6 p.m. information session.
To register or for more information call 740.366.9494 or 1.800.963.9275 (ext. 494)

Thursday, February 4
Faculty Lecture Series – FREE
Howard J. Marcum, Ph.D., Professor, Mathematics
“Music of the Spheres: An Invitation to Homotopy Theory”
The John Gilbert Reese Center, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
More information or to RSVP (not required but helpful) 740-364-9635 or rsvp-newark@osu.edu.

Thursday, February 11
Great Performers Series - FREE
Jason Vieaux, classical guitar concert
Vieaux often plays a mix of contemporary and “traditional” compositions.
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 8 p.m.
For more information: Ron Emoff @ 740.366.9271 or emoff.1@osu.edu

Monday, February 15
Disability Services Information Meetings
Open to prospective students and their families and ALL other interested persons.
John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center Room 230, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Monday, February 15
Buckeye Visit Day – FREE (see Jan. 23 entry for info.)

Friday, February 19
COTC Discovery Days - FREE
The John Gilbert Reese Center, COTC Newark Campus 9:30 a.m. campus tour, 10 a.m. information session.
To register or for more information call 740.366.9494 or 1.800.963.9275 (ext. 494)

Thursday, March 4
COTC Health Career Expo - FREE
Explore educational opportunities in health fields.
The John Gilbert Reese Center, COTC Newark Campus 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Register by February 28 @ 740.366.9139 or mrice@cotc.edu

Thursday, March 4 - Saturday, March 6; and March 11 - 13
“Psych” – winter theatre production; A comedy-thriller, for mature audiences only.
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 8 p.m.
$3/students; $4/general public
Information: Director Dave Williams @ 740.366.9474 or williams.1341@osu.edu

Monday, March 8 (see Jan. 23 entry for info.)
Buckeye Visit Day – FREE

Wednesday, March 10
University Chorus: “Songs from the Shape-Note Tradition” – FREE
Founders Hall, 8 p.m.
For more information: 740.366.9315 or white.1291@osu.edu

Friday, March 19 (see Feb. 19 entry for info.)
COTC Discovery Days - FREE

Non-Discrimination Statement
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.

Register online at www.cotc.edu