Calling COTC Alumni

Recent graduate or established professional – if you attended or graduated from COTC, the college is looking for you! Plans are currently under way to create a COTC Alumni Program.

More than 6,500 students have graduated from Central Ohio Technical College since it was chartered by the Ohio Board of Regents 36 years ago. That’s just one of the many ways COTC has made an impact on the people of Central Ohio.

At this time, COTC is actively recruiting alumni volunteers to serve in an advisory capacity to help establish and formulate the Alumni Program’s initial scope and direction.

The COTC Alumni Program will provide valuable career and life networking opportunities as well as the chance for volunteer engagement with the college. In addition, the college has planned to reinstitute the Distinguished Alumni Award, which recognizes alumni for notable contributions to their profession, community and civic service, or charitable pursuits.

Stay connected, or take this opportunity to reconnect, with the college that changed your life – Central Ohio Technical College.

If you are interested in serving on the advisory committee, or in learning more about future alumni programs, please take a moment to update your contact information with the college by contacting Director of Development Jennifer Roberts at 740.364.9644 or email to jroberts@cotc.edu.

www.cotc.edu
It has been said that community and technical colleges are the most mutable institutions in higher education. The ability to respond quickly to changing workforce needs has been called their greatest strength. This cohesive relationship between an institution and the workforce it serves is rapidly moving to the next level as the demand for college educated employees increases.

In today’s global marketplace, the fate of local, state and national economies depends on the ability to educate and retain a qualified workforce. By 2010 only one in every seven jobs in Ohio will be filled by someone with only a high school diploma. Data shows that employment for Ohio associate degree graduates is expected to grow by 23.1 percent over the next decade; this is the fastest increase among all education and training categories. Nationally the growth for associate degree graduates is 31 percent.

This is an exciting time for Central Ohio Technical College with new opportunities on the horizon fostering a renewed sense of commitment to our constituents. The expansion plans in Coshocton, Knox County and Pataskala are under way and flourishing. That communities are responding is evident through enrollment increases, as well as community commitment pledged through our capital campaigns. Our college is privileged to have active board members and positive relationships with community and business leadership.

This time next year, the Newark campus will undergo its own expansion as it prepares to open The John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center. This unique building combining a shared library and student center will be at the forefront of student service and further provide a holistic collegiate experience for students choosing the Newark campus.

COTC is wonderfully positioned to be on the forefront of economic change. From now until 2010, we will have infused an additional 2,000 college graduates into Ohio’s technology-driven marketplace. We have secured the facilities, established community relationships, ensured appropriate and quality programming and have a team of leaders committed to student success – the outcome of which has the potential to change lives and impact communities in central Ohio and beyond.

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., President

COTC and The Ohio State University at Newark are now making it easier for more Ohioans to attend college. Through an agreement with the Ohio Board of Regents, both institutions will offer the TANF Educational Awards Program (TEAP), a plan aimed at helping low-income Ohioans obtain access to and succeed in higher education. Students who qualify may receive up to $1,200 per year.

TANF, an acronym for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, provides cash assistance and work opportunities for needy families as authorized under the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

A collaboration between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Board of Regents, a TEAP award may be used for tuition and educational expenses not covered by other grant programs, lab fees, application fees, child care expenses, books and course supplies, direct tutoring, counseling, computer/Internet access, and other costs related to attending and succeeding in college.

To be eligible for TEAP, a student must be enrolled in an undergraduate program during the 2006-2007 academic year, a United States citizen, an Ohio resident (as defined by the Ohio Board of Regents), and enrolled at a public or private not-for-profit Ohio institution of higher education which has elected to participate in the TEAP Program. In addition, a student must also meet TANF income and family requirements, but is not required to be receiving TANF cash assistance. The student must also have successfully completed at least 15 credit hours of college-level work with an accredited institution of higher learning, and not be receiving TEAP funds at any other college. The application deadline is June 1, 2007. For more information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 740.366.9435.
Joining COTC from Victor Valley College in Victorville, California, where he served as the institution’s deputy superintendent and executive vice president, instruction, is Dr. Richard J. Prystowsky, who began his duties as dean of faculty on December 11, 2006.

Previously, Prystowsky served as professor of English and humanities at Irvine Valley College for 15 years, and as the division chair for math, science and engineering at College of the Redwoods. During this time, he helped develop an engineering program as well as increase enrollment, and recruit, hire and mentor new faculty members.

As dean of faculty at COTC, Prystowsky is the chief academic officer of the college and is responsible for providing leadership in all elements of academic affairs, such as divisional planning, organization and academic human resource matters. In addition, he will also oversee the implementation of curricular and classroom changes or modifications as needed. Prystowsky received his doctorate in English with an emphasis in critical theory from the University of California, Irvine. He also holds a master’s degree from the University of Michigan and a bachelor’s degree from The Pennsylvania State University.

COTC and The Ohio State University at Newark welcomed new Director of Development Jennifer Roberts in early January. Roberts comes to COTC and Ohio State Newark from the United Way of Licking County, where she served as the funds development director.

At the United Way, Roberts managed the Annual Workplace Campaign, and was responsible for recruiting and managing volunteers as well as making personal requests for support. Prior to her work with the United Way, Roberts served as the assistant director of alumni giving at Denison University, where she managed the Alumni Reunion Giving Program.

As the director of development at COTC and Ohio State Newark, Roberts will be responsible for a range of development and alumni relations’ activities for both institutions, including establishing a COTC Alumni Program. Her office is located in the Reese Center on the Ohio State Newark and COTC campus.

A Granville resident, Roberts holds a bachelor’s degree from Denison University.

In this newly created position, Academic Director for New Program Development Keith Fowlkes will be responsible for the development of new academic programs at COTC, with an initial focus on programming for the Knox campus, including program development for the forthcoming Institute for the Study of Advanced Engineering Technology in Fredericktown. He will serve as the primary liaison for new program development with external constituencies including the Ohio Board of Regents, and will facilitate discussions with area business and industry leaders to evaluate locally emerging demands for technical education and training.

Fowlkes has served as an Instructional Designer at COTC since 2004 and brings to his new role an extensive background in curriculum development. Previously, he worked as an instructional designer for the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s School of Health Professions.

Fowlkes, a Newark resident, is currently pursuing a master’s degree in leadership in higher education at Capella University. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi.
Pataskala Campus

Demand for educational opportunities continues to be an overriding concern for western Licking County, and enrollment and program offerings are correspondingly on the increase at COTC’s Pataskala campus, which opened in autumn 2006. The campus has seen growth in each successive quarter since its opening. Spring quarter is under way with more than 300 students enrolled, an astounding increase of 22 percent since last autumn. COTC anticipates offering four associate degree programs, along with many General and Basic education courses at this campus.

To accommodate the rising enrollment, the campus opened a new computer classroom at the site’s administrative facility at 621 W. Broad St., in Pataskala.

One exciting new addition being offered at Pataskala is the Evening Basic Police Academy, which began in Winter quarter 2007. The program is designed to meet the requirements of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), and involves classroom as well as hands-on training, including driving, firearms, self-defense, traffic stops, building searches and training in DUI cases. Tuition includes ammunition, use of firearms and a bulletproof vest. Cadets in the program will be able to complete the requirements in approximately six months. Students successfully completing the Academy will be well on their way to earning an associate degree in Law Enforcement Technology. The Law Enforcement program courses will begin in Pataskala in the evenings during Autumn quarter, 2007.

Knox Campus

Members of the newly created COTC Knox Campus Advisory Board were appointed to their positions at the December 2006 meeting of the COTC Board of Trustees.

The Knox Campus Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity to the COTC fiduciary board and will maintain standing committees regarding a wide range of areas relating to the college such as finance, facilities, planning, and academic affairs, as well as student, campus and community affairs.

"The appointment and organization of the Advisory Board is a major milestone in the overall development of the Knox campus," said Joel Daniels, Knox campus administrator.

"The quality individuals serving this board will be critical to achieving the college's goals in the next several years," Daniels added. "This group will provide necessary advice and assistance to the college’s administrative leadership as decisions are made about the future of the Knox campus. Their service to our students, faculty and staff will be invaluable."

Advisory Board Chairman Gordon Yance stated that all of the board members are proud to be associated with COTC.

"We've got a strong Advisory Board whose members are committed to making COTC's efforts for the Knox campus and surrounding area a success," said Yance. "This is a great opportunity, and on behalf of all of the board members, we are looking forward to our association with COTC."

Monthly Advisory Board meetings will be held at the Knox campus building, 236 S. Main Street, Mount Vernon. COTC Board Member Mark Ramser serves as the liaison to the Knox Campus Advisory Board.

Members of the new Advisory Board are:

Douglas Brenneman, Sr., retired CEO of the Brenneman Lumber Company
Terry Divelbiss, President of Divelbiss Corporation
Mary Jo Hawkins, Knox County Clerk of Courts
Dan Humphrey, Fredericktown School District Superintendent
Georgene Risko, Ph.D., Alumni Career Coordinator at Kenyon College
Fran Rodstrom, early childhood special needs teacher for the Knox County Education Service Center and
Gordon Yance, Chairman of First-Knox National Bank
In January, COTC announced the results from its very successful Coshocton Campus Capital Campaign. Due to the generosity of many donors and tremendous community support, the campaign raised a total of $4,004,904.50, exceeding the initial goal of $4 million. A total of 149 donors contributed to this amount. Funds from the campaign will be used in the renovation of The Montgomery Hall, formerly Coshocton’s Roscoe Village Inn.

"The outpouring of support from civic organizations, foundations, businesses and individual donors has been tremendous, and students as well as the entire community will benefit from the renovations to this historic building," said Calvin Roebuck, COTC development officer for the extended campus affiliations.

The Coshocton campus is an innovative approach to higher education offering associate, bachelor and master’s degree programs from COTC and Muskingum College. Kent State University offered course work in engineering during the Winter 2007 quarter. The Coshocton campus is the proctor test site for online universities and offers certificate and non-credit courses through the Business and Industry Institute. In addition, the campus is the official GED test site for Coshocton County and an OhioLINK drop-point for the community. The campus will continue to add partners as the need within the community grows.

Central Ohio Technical College has been accredited since 1975 by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association, one of the six regional agencies that accredit U.S. colleges and universities.

Every ten years, the HLC reviews COTC to evaluate whether the college continues to meet the requirements for accreditation, with the next HLC visit scheduled for May 12 – 14, 2008. To prepare for this site visit, COTC is currently conducting a comprehensive Self-Study whereby the college critically evaluates its operations against five criteria defined by the HLC.

Having the HLC’s stamp of approval ensures the public and our students that they are receiving a quality education. Additionally, being accredited enables students to obtain financial aid and veteran’s services, allows COTC to participate in projects funded by federal grants, enables students to transfer credits to other accredited colleges and universities, and ensures that the college can recruit and retain quality faculty and staff.
It's Pay Back time for COTC Grad

As commencement speaker for COTC’s December 8 graduation ceremony, and himself one of the 175 proud graduates receiving associate degrees and certificates that day, Newark native Gary Schworm encouraged his fellow graduates to “pay back” all of the good each has received through “this great opportunity called COTC.”

“I fully understand that I live in a really great community with many educational opportunities that a lot of people throughout the world do not have,” said Schworm. “COTC is right here, providing educational opportunities for those who want to better themselves.”

For Schworm, completing his associate degree at COTC was an important step, even though he has enjoyed a long and successful career in industry. He spent 25 years with the Dow Chemical Company, starting out at the Licking River Film Center in Hebron as a production technician. Over the years Schworm’s self determination and initiative helped him rise to the position of Environmental, Safety and Health Compliance Specialist, a job he performed at Dow’s Michigan Operations for several years until his retirement in 2003.

When Schworm moved back to Ohio, he settled in Granville, where he found work in research and development with Owens Corning. It also gave him the opportunity to finish what he had started years before – his associate degree at COTC. However, as Schworm quickly discovered, there was just one obstacle. COTC no longer offered a degree in the major he had already begun - manufacturing technology.

“I was seven classes away from finishing,” said Schworm. “But instead of telling me that there was nothing they could do, COTC went out of its way to find a way to allow me to finish my degree in manufacturing. COTC made it possible for me to complete my degree in the summer of 2006 and graduate in December.”

Today, Schworm is continuing his education by working toward a bachelor’s degree in business administration at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

Open Yourself to Learning

“Every day, there is something new to learn, and you can learn from everyone and from every situation,” said Coshocton resident Katy Michael, speaking before Practical Nursing Certificate Program graduates and their families at the March 18, 2007, Nursing Recognition Ceremony held in Coshocton. Michael is herself a good example of someone who has opened herself to learning. A member of the first cohort to graduate from the COTC Coshocton campus Practical Nursing Certificate Program, she has returned to COTC to complete her Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Technology degree through the LPN to RN Transition Program.

Her message to the graduates was both inspirational and true to life. By relating her own experiences, both on the job as a nurse, as well as through the family trauma of her father’s terminal illness, Michael urged the graduates to always continue learning.

"Everything has a lesson; you just have to open yourself to its teaching,” she said. Learning can come from working with other nurses, from negative experiences, and from patients, Michael continued. Nurses and caregivers should take the opportunity to learn from everything, she explained – from children, from store clerks, from the people we encounter in our daily lives. Also, exceptional nursing, according to Michael, is filled with ordinary acts of kindness and caring, yet they make us feel extraordinary.

“The five minutes you spend in the afternoon chatting with an elderly man, or just listening to a young mother cry makes a difference. Fresh water, hot food, a warm blanket, or just your time, can mean the world to a patient... Remember why you chose this profession..”
Faculty Members Appointed to National Program

Faculty members Margaret Trim, interim academic director for general education, and Amiee Wagner, natural science instructor, were recently appointed to the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) Redesign Scholars Program. The two were selected for the prestigious appointment from among hundreds of applicants nationwide, and will join colleagues from institutions such as Carnegie Mellon University, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Adding to this notable distinction, COTC is the only institution from which two Redesign Scholars were chosen.

The Redesign Scholars Program enables faculty and administrators experienced in large-scale course redesign to serve as a resource for less experienced colleagues at other colleges and universities. Course redesign projects sponsored by NCAT are specifically geared toward utilizing information technology to achieve better learning outcomes as well as reducing institutional costs. Program members are appointed for three-year terms.

Margaret Trim, a Gahanna resident, assisted in the redesign of COTC’s Human Anatomy and Physiology course in 2004-2005 as part of NCAT’s collaborative program with the Ohio Learning Network (OLN). “Course redesign is not just about putting courses online,” said Trim. “It is about rethinking the way we deliver instruction in light of new technology to engage students in life-long learning.” Trim, who has taught at COTC since 2002, holds a B.S. in zoology and an M.S. in entomology from The Ohio State University.

Amiee Wagner has extensive course redesign experience at COTC and has been involved in large-scale course redesign projects at several institutions. The Groveport resident has taught at COTC since 2004, and served as both the primary investigator and course designer for the Human Anatomy and Physiology course redesign grant. She presented the project results at the 2006 Ohio Digital Commons for Education (ODCE) conference, an audio conference for the Instructional Technology Council, and at the OLN Information Summit. “I’m pleased to be working with the Redesign Scholars in sharing innovative teaching strategies with colleagues across the nation in an effort to engage students and to increase student success,” she said. Wagner earned a B.A. in life sciences and physics at Otterbein College and an M.S. in molecular biophysics from The Ohio State University.

Excellence in Education Awards

Two faculty members, Linnea Hopewell and Carolyn Simpson have been acknowledged by Ohio Magazine’s Excellence in Education program. The two were recognized along with 150 of Ohio’s top college and university professors in the December 2006 issue.

Hopewell, M.Ed., COTC radiographic technology program director, has been with the college since 1985. “It is critical that we prepare our students for what the world will become during the next 20 to 30 years,” said Hopewell. “As an educator, I hope to motivate students to have a passion for their career and continued learning.”

Simpson, M.S.N., has more than 30 years of teaching experience, and currently serves on both the COTC Curriculum and Nursing Program Committees. “Education changes the direction of a student’s life,” said Simpson. “The experience of teaching has provided me with some of the most rewarding experiences in my personal and professional life.”
Calendar of Campus Events - April 24 - June 18, 2007

**Tuesday, April 24**
COTC Knox Campus Information Session, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Dan Emmett Conference Center, Mount Vernon

**Wednesday, April 25**
Ready-Set-Go! Senior Transition to College Day
Sponsored by COTC, C-TEC and Tech Prep, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., COTC Newark campus

Basic Police Academy Information Meeting, 6 p.m. - Hopewell 68, COTC Newark campus

**Thursday, April 26**
Knox Campus Advisory Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Knox campus

Basic Police Academy Information Meeting, 2 p.m. - Hopewell 68, COTC Newark campus

**Friday, April 27**
AutoCAD Competition, COTC Newark campus

**Thursday, May 3**
7:30 p.m. - Dr. Daniel Goldmark, Diversity Presentation, Newark campus

7 p.m. - Dr. Sara Staats, “30 Years of Hope” Faculty Lecture, Reese Center, Newark campus

**Thursday, May 10**
7:30 p.m. - Dr. Beverly Greene, Diversity Presentation, Newark campus

**Friday, May 18**
8 p.m. - OSU Jazz Ensemble, Reese Center, Newark campus

**Tuesday, May 22**
Ohio State Newark Graduate Celebration & Awards Ceremony, Reese Center

**Friday, June 8**
6:30 p.m. - COTC Spring Commencement Ceremony, Adena Hall

**Monday, June 18**
Summer Quarter Classes Begin for COTC and Ohio State Newark students

**Wednesday, June 20 - Sunday, June 24**
Chautauqua comes to Newark campus - hosted by Ohio State Newark

Events are subject to change. For information please call 740-364-9517.