COTC and Ohio University Forge Partnership

Bachelor degree programs will become more accessible and affordable for local students

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) and Ohio University announced a new partnership at an articulation signing ceremony held on March 18 on COTC’s Newark Campus. As a result of the agreement, COTC students can obtain a bachelor’s degree by completing up to three years of higher education at COTC and one year of academic courses through Ohio University’s distance learning program or at Ohio University’s Zanesville campus.

“It is through innovative partnerships such as this that COTC continues to demonstrate our commitment to serving central Ohio students,” stated Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., COTC president. “In fact, this collaborative partnership with Ohio University is aligned directly with the goals of our five-year Strategic Plan, including the goals of maximizing student access, learning and success, along with cultivating positive constituent relationships. We could not be more pleased.”

Greater access to higher education is imperative if Ohio is to compete successfully in the global economy, Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut has said.

As a result of the agreement, COTC students can obtain a Bachelor of Technical and Applied Sciences degree by maximizing transfer of credits earned from any of COTC’s Associate of Applied Science or Applied Business degree programs. In addition, Ohio University’s Bachelor of Criminal Justice degree will provide a convenient and affordable advancement path for COTC students who have completed an associate degree in a criminal justice area.

While pursuing their bachelor’s degree, students will have the option of taking some academic courses from COTC and others online from Ohio University or at the university’s Zanesville campus.

The new program provides affordable options, as well as streamlines transfer of credits, student services and financial aid for students in the program, making the ability to move between the two institutions seamless.
The welcome arrival of spring brings with it the annual conclusion of another academic year. It is incredible to realize it also marks the end of my eighth year as an administrator with Central Ohio Technical College. Upon my arrival in 2001, I began to develop a simplified strategic action plan through 2008 focused on two critical needs: growing the college both quantitatively and qualitatively and stabilizing its financial position. Having generally achieved these goals with an enrollment increase of 82 percent over the last eight years and more than doubling the institution’s capital net assets, I felt the college was well positioned to move toward a more defined and documented strategic plan.

Work began in late 2007 and through the leadership of Jackie Parrill, vice president for institutional planning & human resources development, and the efforts of many including faculty, staff, community members and alumni, COTC launched its new strategic plan, Securing the Future, in January 2009. Targeting 2009 through 2013, the plan defines what is important to the college and will be used to influence the institution’s strategic priorities for the next five years.

Long range planning can seem daunting recognizing the economic challenges locally, statewide and on the national front. However, we believe the federal stimulus package will bring significant dollars to Ohio and are relatively optimistic the state will stabilize. However, as a result of aggressive fiscal management and continued enrollment growth, COTC has never been better positioned to sustain whatever the future holds.

Early indications are that we will continue to have record breaking enrollment this autumn which will further stabilize our financial position and allow for the expansion of programs, services and facilities. With this growth comes job security for our faculty and staff as well as the strengthening of our marketability in the higher education arena. I have said it before – Education is the answer – and even more so now with the technological demands of the rapidly changing workforce. To borrow an analogy from well-known author and futurist Alvin Toffler, we are in the midst of a “transition from muscle work to mental work” and we believe COTC will play an instrumental role in this evolution directly linking education to employment. I encourage you to visit the COTC website and read through the strategic plan as we embark on an exciting future. http://www.cotc.edu/cotc/ResearchandPlanning/Attachments/SecuringtheFuture2008.pdf

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., President
College ASPIRE Coming in June

Central Ohio Technical College will open its doors to the youth of central Ohio again this summer with the return of its popular CollegeASPIRE program. The series of hands-on workshops offers students ages 11 through 18 a taste of higher education through engaging technology-based activities presented in a college-like setting. CollegeASPIRE was created to encourage all central Ohio students to pursue a college education, regardless of their circumstances, and to help both students and families realize that college is possible and accessible.

CollegeASPIRE is offered free of charge. The high-quality workshops are taught by college faculty and this year will be offered at more locations than ever before, including all four COTC campuses.

Applications are due no later than June 1, 2009. Apply online at www.cotc.edu. For questions or more information, contact Tara Houdeshell, CollegeASPIRE Coordinator, at thoudesh@cotc.edu or 740.364.9632.

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COTC Collaborates with Newark High School

Photographing crime scene evidence, understanding basic camera operations, following forensic science procedures—skills needed for the proficient forensic photographer. Last autumn, ten Newark High School students had the opportunity to work on developing these essential skills in Central Ohio Technical College’s Forensic Science laboratory.

Two days a week from mid-August to mid-December, the group of eight seniors and two juniors rode the college bus to COTC’s Newark Campus—a difference of only a few miles in distance, but a difference that Newark High School educators hope will encourage students to pursue a college education.

"An idea was proposed by COTC to develop a high school-college class, and this partnership seemed perfect," said Jeanne Andersen, the Newark High School science teacher who accompanied the students.

The Forensic Science collaboration between the two schools truly began several years ago when COTC Forensic Science Program Director Richard M. Vade Bon Coeur lectured at Newark High School’s Forensic Science class. Vade Bon Coeur was also instrumental during the preparation of the (then) new high school forensic science class curriculum, said Andersen.

"This class provided a very positive college opportunity," said Andersen, "which will hopefully encourage the students to pursue education after high school."

Register Online at COTC!
Coshocton Campus

Since the College opened the doors on Montgomery Hall at 200 North Whitewoman Street in Coshocton in January, 2008, the community has responded with enthusiasm for the uniquely renovated facility. Countless community organizations and individuals have toured and visited the beautiful building. The structure, formerly the Roscoe Village Inn, has been completely updated as a state-of-the-art educational facility, including more than 15 new classrooms, laboratory space, a lecture hall, digital media design lab, nursing lab, and distance learning classrooms. Currently serving approximately 600 students each quarter (including those taking online classes), the college's Coshocton Campus is grateful for the warm embrace that it has received from the Coshocton community.

Locating the COTC Coshocton Campus in Montgomery Hall is directly related to the support from the community, and certainly, from the Roscoe Village Foundation. COTC was fortunate to obtain a no-interest mortgage loan through the Roscoe Village Board of Directors. The final payment of $300,000 was made in December, 2008, one year earlier than planned.

"I am very pleased with the success of the Coshocton Campus as well as COTC's overall financial stability...because of this, the college was able to pay off the debt on Montgomery Hall earlier than anticipated," stated David Brillhart, Vice President for Business & Finance, COTC. “This action combined with the highly successful capital campaign to renovate that building means that the facility costs of a top-tier academic building will not have to be passed on to the future students of the Coshocton campus. This is truly a gift and a tribute to the visionaries and donors.”

The partnership between COTC and the Roscoe Village Foundation is also an asset for the community. Debbie McDonald, Marketing Director for the Roscoe Village Foundation, said, “The village offers a great experience for COTC students, combining education and history. We’ve had some business students who completed successful internships, and while they intern, the students are also engaged in community activities and learning about the history of Roscoe Village. It's a win-win situation.”

Central Ohio Technical College looks forward to a long continuing relationship with the Roscoe Village. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Roscoe Village and various events are being held to celebrate; visit www.roscoevillage.com or call 740-622-9310. For more information about COTC’s Coshocton Campus, go to www.cotc.edu and click on Coshocton.

Extended Campus Advisory Boards

New members of Central Ohio Technical College’s extended campus advisory boards were approved by the college’s Board of Trustees at its November meeting.

New advisory board members are:

Coshocton Campus: Jim McClure - executive director of the Historic Roscoe Village in Coshocton; Rhoda Crown - chief executive officer of the Coshocton Grain Company; and Deborah Kapp-Salupo - (rotating superintendent) superintendent for the Coshocton County JVSD.

Knox Campus: Dr. Peggy Dunn – executive board member of Interchurch Social Services in Knox County; Bart Moody – registered professional engineer with Kokosing Construction of Fredericktown; and Stephen Rhoades – director of project management at Rolls Royce.

Pataskala Campus: Steve Cohen – president of Screen Machine Industries; Dick Knapp – retired 28-year United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) representative; and Forest Yocum – Superintendent of Southwest Licking Local Schools.

The boards serve in an advisory capacity to the COTC fiduciary board and address a wide range of areas relating to the college such as finance, facilities, planning, academic affairs, student, campus and community affairs.
Pataskala Campus

Knox Campus Capital Campaign Wrap Up
The College is delighted that the community stepped up to support the Knox Campus Capital Campaign, which officially closed at the end of December. After the final press conference was held in Mount Vernon and attended by nearly 100 people, additional funds were received through grants and donations, bringing the total funds raised through this campaign to $5,332,269 (including the purchase of the building).

“We appreciate the community’s generous support,” stated Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., COTC President. “The soaring enrollment of more than 600 students at the Knox Campus (estimated headcount, spring 2009) certainly demonstrates the need for capital funds to renovate Ariel Hall, our Knox campus home.”

COTC has a schedule for the renovation project, including these next steps: architect selection and contract approvals; program, design and construction documents; site plan review; board approval and bidding; award construction contracts; construction process; and, construction completion and occupancy of the building. All of this will take a considerable amount of time and diligent effort behind the scenes.

“As COTC has been entrusted with the community funding and confidence in our ability to provide much-needed technical education, we look forward to the next phase of this project,” stated Joel Daniels, Vice President for Extended Campuses and New Business Development.

Pataskala Campus

Open House at COTC Pataskala Campus
If you’re thinking about continuing your education, contemplating a career change, or returning to school to finish your degree, come to the COTC’s Pataskala Campus Open House and learn how COTC can help you achieve your goals.

The Open House will be held on Saturday, May 16, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the campus’s administrative offices at 621 W. Broad Street, Pataskala. Prospective students and anyone interested in learning more about higher education are encouraged to attend. Community members are welcome to attend this free event.

Participants can learn about COTC’s associate degree and certificate programs, as well as the admissions and financial aid process. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 740.964.7090.

COTC Welcomes Director for the Institute for Public Safety
Richard B. Weinblatt, Ed.D., recently joined COTC as the college’s director for the Institute for Public Safety. In this newly created position at COTC, Weinblatt will oversee establishment of the Institute, which will unify under one organizational construct the college’s associate degree programs in Criminal Justice Technology and Law Enforcement Technology, as well as COTC’s Basic Police Academy and Emergency Medical Services certificate programs.

Weinblatt 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 previously served as chairman of the Public Services Department at South Piedmont College in North Carolina.

“The establishment of the Institute will create 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,” said Weinblatt. Weinblatt has taken more than 1,000 hours of advanced training and holds many certifications, including the Certified Law Enforcement Trainer (CLET) designation by the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers. He holds a Doctor of Education and an Education Specialist degree from Argosy University/Sarasota, a master’s of public administration in criminal justice from City University in Bellevue, Washington, and a bachelor’s degree in administration of justice from Guilford College in North Carolina.
It’s Never Too Late to Go Back to School

She’s a former pastry chef, a mom to twin teen-age girls, a student worker in COTC’s Gateway, as well as a dedicated and successful college student. Tamarak Harris knew that returning to college to further her education was a great career move, and the Newark resident initially looked to COTC because it was close to home and convenient. In addition to her experience as a pastry chef, Harris had also previously worked in marketing and business, and wanted to bolster her resume with a degree in Business Management. After enrolling, she quickly discovered additional strengths that set COTC apart from other institutions, including great customer service and an atmosphere that truly welcomes students of all ages and backgrounds.

“There are many non-traditional students here at COTC,” said Harris. “Older people worry about returning to school, but I found that everyone here is very friendly and that help is always available.”

Harris credits COTC’s Gateway—an award-winning one-stop shop for customer service, admissions, advising, academic advising and student records—with easing the transition.

“At the Gateway, students can get all of their questions answered in one place,” she said.

Harris has excelled academically and become a student leader at COTC. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, and was also honored with the Outstanding Student Leader Award in spring 2007. She is the student director for the COTC/Ohio State Newark campus AIDS Task Force, and is the president of the campus Gay/Straight Alliance.

“I’ve made friends here with people from age 20 to 60,” said Harris. “I encourage everyone to take my advice—it’s never too late to go back to school.”

Alumna Found Career that she Loves

Elaine Siekkinen worked as an LPN for eleven years, but always dreamed of returning to school to complete her degree. Through the years, she took some college classes, but was disappointed when she found herself out of sync with programs geared only toward traditional age students.

“I had a young family,” said Siekkinen. Her daughters were born, the first right after finals during her first year, and the second shortly after she took her state nursing boards following graduation. “We laugh that I got two babies and a degree in two years,” she said.

Siekkinen noted that the COTC faculty went out of their way to see that all students received everything they needed to be successful. She also liked that her COTC education was affordable, and noted that she was able to pay each quarter without taking out loans.

During her years as an LPN, she worked with MRDD, geriatrics, and dialysis, but added that hospice is truly her love. Now a certified hospice and palliative care nurse and case manager with Heartland Hospice, the Danville resident enjoys taking care of friends and neighbors in Knox County.

“COTC opened up a world of opportunities for me,” said Siekkinen. “I’ve always felt well equipped with the skills that I need for success. Realistically, the best jobs go to those with college degrees.”
Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) announced recently that former State Senator Joy Padgett has accepted the position of Director of Government Relations with the college.

As the Director of Government Relations, Padgett will be instrumental in assisting the college to achieve Goal Five of the college’s current Strategic Plan, which is focused on cultivating positive constituent relationships. She will provide leadership for college governmental relations activities and collaboratively develop the college’s legislative agenda in concert with The University System of Ohio and college administration. Padgett has stated that, “My approach to educational policy and funding is simple: a strong local economy is critical to building the funds that can support education.” Padgett brings to COTC a unique understanding of the important relationship between the economic environment, education, and business.

During her tenure as a state senator for the 20th Senate District from 2004 through 2008, Padgett repeatedly demonstrated her commitment to higher education. During the last state of Ohio operating biennium, Padgett was pivotal in working with the Ohio Board of Regents to reinstate an enrollment-based subsidy formula for public colleges. She was also elected to four consecutive terms as a state representative for the 95th House District, from 1993 to 1999. In addition to her strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Ohio, Padgett also has a strong foundation in and understanding of education at the local level. Prior to her work as a state senator, she spent twenty years as a public high school teacher.

A resident of Coshocton, Joy Padgett attended Three Rivers High School and later obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education from Kent State University. She assumed her new role with COTC on March 2.
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, April 30
AutoCAD Hands-On Workshop – FREE
For more information: Heather Pursley at hpursley@cotc.edu
LeFevre Hall, 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 7
Faculty Lecture Series - FREE
Bruce Mainland, Ph.D., Professor, Physics
"How to Build a Universe: Leptons, Quarks and Dark Matter"
Reese Center Ballroom, 7 – 9 p.m. - RSVP to 740.364.9517 or rsvp-newark@osu.edu.

Thursday, May 14
Ernest Gaines: A talk by the author - FREE
Author of “A Lesson before Dying” and “The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,” among others
The Alford Performing Arts Hall, Reese Center, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 16
Open House at COTC Pataskala
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm
COTC Pataskala Campus, 621 W. Broad Street
Refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public
For more information call 740.964.7090

May 28, 29, 30 (Thursday – Saturday) and June 4, 5, 6 (Thursday – Saturday)
Spring play – The Laramie Project, by Moisés Kaufman
$3/students; $4/general public
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 8 p.m.

Friday, June 5
University Chorus Concert – FREE
“Humor in Music,” a program of whimsical choral works, from “Yankee Doodle” to “Bohemian Rhapsody.”
Founders Hall Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Friday, June 12
COTC Spring Commencement
Keynote Speaker: Chris Mercogliano, author & teacher
Adena Hall, 6:30 p.m. formal ceremony
Reception immediately following in
Martha Grace Reese Amphitheatre

Friday, July 3
Independence Day Concert & Fireworks
Martha Grace Reese Amphitheatre
Details forthcoming

Need a course schedule? Go to www.cotc.edu