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

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) autumn quarter 2008 headcount enrollment has reached an all-time high of 3,574, an increase of 15.5 percent over autumn 2007 enrollment. The figure includes students taking classes at the four COTC locations: Newark, Coshocton, Mount Vernon, and Pataskala, as well as online enrollment.

COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., credits the exceptional growth to a combination of factors and COTC initiatives, including:

• desire for local access to higher education provided by COTC’s four convenient campuses
• increased distance learning offerings
• implementation of the Gateway, COTC’s national award-winning customer service model
• affordable tuition
• renewed interest in COTC’s widely respected programs, such as Allied Health Technologies and Nursing Technologies
• implementation of COTC’s annual strategic marketing plan, which has enhanced the college’s broad visibility throughout the region.

“COTC’s student-centered focus, convenient locations and affordability, combined with a hands-on curriculum that teaches in-demand skills, is highly desirable for students,” said Coe. “With today’s uncertain economic climate, COTC’s focus on employable skills makes the college an even more important educational partner serving our local communities.”

The college offers 40 associate degree and certificate options, and enjoys very high graduate placement rates. Typically, 95 percent of COTC graduates are employed within six months of graduation, with most working in the technology they studied at COTC, according to a 2006-2007 Alumni Follow-Up Survey conducted by the college.
As the days shorten and the depths of increasing cold envelope the frost-covered countryside, pulling us inevitably toward the conclusion of 2008, we reflect upon the milestone year that Central Ohio Technical College has experienced – and what a year it has been! Several critical initiatives and projects were successfully implemented thanks to the dedication, devotion and passion demonstrated by our faculty and staff. In addition, the generosity of our community partners has enabled the college to move ahead with key capital improvements that will benefit students and our constituent communities for years to come.

As 2008 draws to an end, we look back at the past year’s accomplishments with profound gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all of the members of the greater college community.

- **January** – Montgomery Hall, the beautiful permanent home of COTC in Coshocton, was dedicated. What an auspicious start to a pivotal year for the college.
- **May** – Six reviewers from The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools recommended that COTC be granted 10 years of continued accreditation, recognition of Knox and Pataskala as full-service campuses, and approval for the Business Management Technology program in an online format.
- **June** – COTC’s Gateway, a campus one-stop center for customer service, admissions, and academic advising, garnered a 2008 national Innovation of the Year Award from the League for Innovation in the Community College.
- **September** – COTC enrollment reached an all-time high of 3,574, an increase of 15.5 percent over autumn 2007 enrollment.
- **October** – One of the premier higher education facilities in the country is opened with the dedication of the John L. and Christine Warner Library and Student Center on the Newark campus. This extraordinary facility is a splendid symbol of the community’s support as nearly 75 percent of this building’s cost was funded through private sources.
- **December** – As the Knox Campus Capital Campaign draws to a close, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to all of COTC’s supporters in Knox County.

These accomplishments are truly shared by all and were made possible only through the tremendous commitment of many. Though we speak of institutional triumphs and successes, it is the human spirit that provides the inspiration for all that we accomplish. From our faculty and staff who serve at all four COTC locations, to the exceptional and unique community relationships the college so gratefully enjoys, it is the commitment to higher education expressed by so many extraordinary individuals that has made these successes possible.

In January 2009, the college will begin to implement a new Five-Year Strategic Plan. As we continue to chart the college’s course for the future, especially in these overwhelming and uncertain times, COTC’s solution will be a continued focus on our prescribed goals, including further strengthening the college’s financial status; actively pursuing growth, both quantitatively and qualitatively; and by aggressively pursuing talent acquisition.

I am hopeful, excited and energized by the possibilities that lay ahead. We are tremendously grateful to all who contributed to the many accomplishments of the past year. We also look ahead with great anticipation as COTC continues to work toward becoming the number one technical college in Ohio.

**A Letter from the President**

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**COTC to Host AutoCAD Workshops**

COTC will host a free AutoCAD (computer aided drafting) workshop on Friday, January 23, 2009, from 9 a.m. - noon, for members of the general public interested in learning the fundamentals of the design program. The workshop will be held in LeFevre Hall, on COTC’s Newark Campus.

Workshop participants will have the opportunity to explore the world of architecture and civil engineering through the use of computer aided drafting. The free workshop is designed for those who have no previous experience with the design program.

Free AutoCAD workshops are held three times annually at COTC, once during each of the autumn, winter and spring quarters. An additional workshop will be held on Thursday, April 30, 5:30 - 9 p.m. COTC’s Drafting and Design Technology program offers two areas of specialization: Architectural Design and Civil Design. Both options award the associate of applied science degree. For more information, contact Heather Pursley at 740.366.9429 or email to hpursley@cotc.edu.
Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is pleased to announce the official notification of ten-year continued accreditation status from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC). The ten-year accreditation is the maximum length that the HLC can approve.

The HLC board of trustees has now confirmed the recommendations made by the six-person visiting peer review team and provided the college with:

- ten years of continued accreditation
- recognition of Knox and Pataskala as full-service campuses
- approval to offer the Business Management Technology in an online format.

COTC has been accredited by the HLC since 1975. Accreditation provides assurance to the public and to prospective students that standards of quality have been met, and ensures transferability of credits as well as federal funding eligibility for student aid, grants and projects.

Teaching Excellence Winner

Cardiovascular Sonography Clinical Coordinator and Assistant Professor Kelley Cupp has been selected for the COTC Teaching Excellence Award for 2008.

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

Remarked Cupp after receiving the award, “It was an absolute utter surprise. There are so many truly exceptional members of the faculty at COTC — I was honored simply to be nominated for this award.”

Before turning to teaching, Cupp gained valuable clinical work experience for several years at The Vascular Lab in Newark, Ohio. To keep current with emerging trends and technologies, Cupp maintains contingent staff sonographer positions at both The Vascular Lab and Licking Memorial Hospital.

Cupp earned her Associate of Applied Science at COTC, graduating with honors as a member of the college’s first Diagnostic Medical Sonography class. “The faculty here inspired me,” said Cupp. “They were a big part in my wanting to teach and emulate their example.”

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.

Cupp noted that COTC’s Cardiovascular Sonography program has seen great success with graduate placement. All of the graduates in the class of 2008 are employed in their field.

A COTC tradition invites each year’s Teaching Excellence Winner to deliver the college’s Winter Commencement address. In her remarks, Cupp reflected her own COTC experience to the graduates, asking them to think about the many ways each of their lives had been shaped and changed for the better through their college experience at COTC.
Top Ohio Honor Awarded to a COTC Board Member for Third Consecutive Year
Robert Robinson Receives Special Achievement Award

The Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) has named former Central Ohio Technical College Trustee Robert (Robby) Robinson as the 2008 recipient of the prestigious Maureen C. Grady Award for Special Achievement. This is the highest award the OACC can bestow on a present or former trustee. Robinson, a long-time Coshocton resident, currently lives in Dublin, Ohio.

This is the third consecutive year that a COTC board member has been honored with the Maureen C. Grady Award: J. Gilbert Reese, trustee emeritus, received the award in 2006, and the late Jane Cook McConnell, trustee emeritus, received the award in 2007. The Maureen C. Grady Award for Special Achievement is given to a trustee who has shown outstanding leadership and devotion to a community college.

“That a COTC board member has won this award for three consecutive years speaks to the extraordinary vision and devotion of our board,” said COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D. “We are truly thankful for the years of dedication Robby Robinson has given to not only COTC, but to improving access to education for all citizens of Coshocton County.”

In 2003, the Coshocton Campus became the first extended campus established by COTC. Developed as a collaborative, higher education partnership with Muskingum College, state education leaders have referred to this campus as a model for higher learning. In 2008, the college opened the doors to a newly renovated building, Montgomery Hall, which provides students with one state-of-the-art location for all classes and services.

Coshocton Campus Joins Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education

Central Ohio Technical College’s (COTC) Coshocton Campus is the newest member of the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education (OACHE). Established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1993, OACHE is a consortium of public colleges and universities in the 29 counties of Appalachian Ohio. Funded by the state, this special program unites colleges, universities, K–12 schools and the private sector to help raise the educational attainment of the region’s citizens.

At the heart of the group’s efforts is the Access Project grant program for K–12 school districts and member higher-education institutions. Access Project grants provide services such as career planning and financial aid, as well as other resources to help students learn about higher education options.

“Joining OACHE will definitely make a difference for the Coshocton Campus,” said Dorothy Skowrunski, campus administrator. “OACHE can provide students with access to additional resources, as well as become a potential funding source. As more area residents look to higher education to secure job skills, it will be more important than ever to educate area residents about their higher education options.”

State Senator Joy Padgett of Coshocton was instrumental in bringing Central Ohio Technical College’s name before the Ohio General Assembly for possible inclusion in the OACHE.

OACHE member institutions are: Belmont Technical College, Hocking College, Jefferson Community College, Kent State University (East Liverpool, Salem and Tuscarawas campuses), Ohio University (Eastern Campus), Rio Grande Community College, Shawnee State University, Southern State Community College, Washington State Community College, and Zane State College.

Degrees that Work
Knox Campus

Contribute to the Knox Capital Campaign until December 31

In summer 2007, the college launched a capital campaign to raise funds for the renovation of Ariel Hall, 236 South Main Street, Mount Vernon. Local philanthropists and the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County purchased a former theater in downtown Mount Vernon, now named Ariel Hall, and gifted it to the college. Additional donations in the excess of $3,211,000 have been received to date, totalling more than $4 million in support of this capital campaign, which is drawing to a close at the end of December.

The need for access to higher education in central Ohio remains critical:
- Jobs requiring an associate degree are increasing at a rate of 21.7 percent — faster than any other job category in Ohio.
- In the next four years, Ohio's economy is projected to create more than 560,000 new jobs — 60 percent will be filled by individuals with at least some college education.
- 79 percent of Knox County residents 25 and older do not have a college education.
- Every dollar invested in a two-year institution produces $18 in future economic growth for the community.
- Community and technical college graduates in rural areas account for as much as 20 percent of all income in their region.

Last year, COTC's rate of growth was ranked 13th of 5,000 two-year colleges in the nation. The need for renovated additional classroom space and lab space in Ariel Hall is evident. Student enrollment on the Knox Campus has increased dramatically, from 120 students in autumn quarter 2005 to 463 in autumn 2008; an increase of nearly 300 percent in three years.

We invite you to be a part of this innovative Knox Campus Capital Campaign. You may wish to consider a one-time check or credit card payment, a multi-year pledge, or a gift of stock. For those 70 1/2 or older, you might consider the IRA Charitable Rollover provision. For questions regarding your donation, please contact Diane Henwood, Knox Campus Capital Campaign Coordinator, at dhenwood@cotc.edu or 740.397.1975.

Pataskala Campus

Pataskala Hosted Successful Open House

COTC's Pataskala Campus enjoyed a high turnout for an autumn Open House on October 25, held at the campus’s administrative offices at 621 W. Broad St. Close to 60 prospective students had the opportunity to meet with academic and financial aid advisors, and explore the educational opportunities available at the Pataskala Campus. In addition, Pataskala Mayor Steve Butcher was in attendance to show his strong support for the college’s presence in Pataskala.

Pataskala Campus Administrator Julie Maurer noted that while the majority of attendees were from Pataskala and Reynoldsburg, the event drew interest from residents in other communities, including Pickerington, Columbus, Hebron and Etna.
Lisa Lyons was a single mom working three part-time jobs when she decided to go full force toward her higher education goals. An internship with the Knox County Juvenile Court helped to solidify her interest in the field of law enforcement. Lyons, a COTC graduate in criminal justice, has found many doors of opportunity have been opened to her since she obtained her education and additional training.

Upon completion of her associate degree in criminal justice, Lyons then completed the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy (OPOTA) training and certification. As a volunteer auxiliary police officer for the village of Danville, she maintains her OPOTA certification, as well as connections throughout the county. Lyons also holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and psychology from Ashland University.

“I was waiting tables, going through a divorce, and I knew that I had to do something permanent and rewarding. I wanted something involving youth but really had the interest in law enforcement. I went through the COTC View Book and found my niche.”

Lisa Lyons, Chief Probation Officer
Knox County Court of Common Pleas

“I nearly all my COTC credits transferred to AU,” she stated.

The COTC graduate encourages everyone, but especially women, to pursue a career in this field. “It’s (the law enforcement field) wide open for women now; police, the courts, corrections – this is an awesome field (for women) to go into today,” Lyons said.

“I am so glad that the Knox Campus is finally getting the criminal justice program – students can complete it here without having to drive to Newark,” said Lyons. “It will really help, especially with non-traditional students. It’s been a long time coming, and the demand is great,” added the Danville resident.

Lyons currently serves as an adjunct instructor for the college and as chair of the criminal justice advisory board for COTC. She is also the program director for the Community Corrections Act with Knox County Common Pleas Court and is a member of the Facility Governing Board of the Licking-Muskingum Community Correction Center.

Since joining the college in late September, Ferdinand Avila-Medina, learning skills specialist, has found his calendar full. COTC offers a broad range of academic support services, including free programs that help students sharpen the skills necessary to succeed in college, and Avila-Medina is pleased that so many students are taking advantage of the opportunity to increase their learning potential. Services are free to enrolled students.

“I provide learning and study skills assessments and student consultations on a one-on-one or group basis to all four COTC campus locations,” said Avila Medina. “These meetings provide opportunities for students to understand their individual learning styles and find learning strategies that will make them more efficient, effective learners.”

Avila-Medina also conducts workshops and makes classroom presentations that instruct students on note taking, time management, and test-taking skills — strategies that will help them succeed in college.

Student referrals to the learning skills specialist frequently come from faculty, but many students are self referred, or come because a friend has told them about the service. Avila-Medina holds a B.A. in Hispanic Studies from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, and an M.A. in Higher Education Administration/Adult Education from Michigan State University.

“One of my greatest passions is to help learners reach their full intellectual potential and assisting people in developing their lifelong learning skills,” said Avila-Medina.
Faculty and Staff Profiles

Excellence in Education

Three Central Ohio Technical College faculty members have been acknowledged by Ohio Magazine’s Excellence in Education program. The three were recognized along with other of Ohio’s top college and university professors in the December 2008 issue.

Kelley L. Cupp, B.S.
Diagnostic Medical Sonography
“Teaching has allowed me to go to work everyday and love what I do. I believe that education opens the door of possibilities for students. I am honored to be a part of the journey which gives students the opportunity to be successful in their lives and careers.”

Donna Melick, M.S.N.
Nursing Department
“In my varied nursing career a common thread was woven throughout — teaching! Now in my nursing education role that trend continues. Teaching has allowed me to make a difference in the lives of patients, colleagues, and now with student nurses. What an honor to participate in educating healthcare’s future.”

Laura McDonald, M.S.W.
Human Services
“Classrooms hold people who are attempting to learn something new and become someone different. That is a favorite element of mine about higher education. It takes courage, belief and hope to go to college, and I like being around students who possess those qualities.”

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is pleased to announce that Tara Houdeshell recently accepted the newly-developed, full-time position of Community Access Coordinator with the college. Houdeshell will be responsible for enhancing community engagement for COTC, with her primary function to provide consistent and continuous on-site and on-campus programming to community agencies and schools.

In November, Houdeshell helped organize the Next Steps Workshop, a collaborative effort between the C-TEC Adult Education Center, The Ohio State University at Newark, COTC, and Opportunity Links. The workshop was a free step-by-step primer in going back to school, brushing up job skills, and locating community resources for training, education and employment. The event was geared toward GED graduates or those planning to earn a GED in the near future; ABLE program participants needing to enhance employability or prepare for higher education; displaced workers; underemployed and unemployed Licking County residents.

Houdeshell is currently leading a COTC initiative in which college staff members spend 20 minutes a day with Newark High School students to deliver hands-on, thought-provoking activities to heighten college awareness, access, and career exploration. She will also coordinate COTC’s CollegeASPIRE program, a technology-based workshop experience for middle and high school students.

“The Community Access Coordinator position was created out of an identified need within our communities, to better serve the at-risk and non-traditional students,” stated Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., COTC president.

Houdeshell holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Michigan University. She has recently been accepted into the Master of Information Strategy, Systems and Technology program at Muskingum College.
Events at The Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College

Open to the public!

Thursday, January 8; Friday, January 9
Auditions! – Israel Horovitz’s *The Indian Wants the Bronx and Line*
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Friday, January 16
Winter Reading: Anne Sexton’s poems
Theatre Department - FREE
John L. and Christine Warner Library & Student Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 23
AutoCAD Hands-On Workshop – FREE
LeFevre Hall, 8:30 a.m. – noon
For more information: Heather Pursley at hpursley@cotc.edu

Tuesday, January 27
COTC Alumni Council Meeting
4 - 5 p.m.
John Gilbert Reese Center, 125 F & G
Open to all COTC alumni

Thursday, February 5
Faculty Lecture Series - FREE
Melissa K. Jungers, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology
“Cognitive Aspects of Music & Language”
John Gilbert Reese Center Ballroom, 7 – 9 p.m. – RSVP by February 3 to 740.364.9517 or rsvp-newark@osu.edu (RSVP’s are not required but will help to ensure adequate seating and refreshments)

March 4, 6, 7 and 12, 13, 14
Winter theatre production - Two plays by Israel Horvitz: *The Indian Wants the Bronx and Line*
$3/students; $4/general public
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10
COTC Health Career Expo
5:30 - 8 p.m.
John Gilbert Reese Center Lobby
Open to All

Friday, March 13
University Chorus Concert – FREE
“The Liebeslieder (Love Song) Waltzes,” Opus 52 and other selections from Johannes Brahms
Founders Hall Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Monday, March 16
Great Performers Series – FREE
The Carolina Chocolate Drops - Banjo, fiddle, guitar, voice and jug
Alford Performing Arts Hall
John Gilbert Reese Center, 7 p.m.
More information, Dr. Emoff at 740.366.9271 or emoff.1@osu.edu

April 2009
Thursday, April 2 & Friday, April 3
Auditions! *The Laramie Project*
Black Box Theatre, LeFevre Hall, 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Friday, April 10
Spring Reading: Ambrose Bierce’s Devil’s Dictionary- FREE
John L. and Christine Warner Library & Student Center, 7:30 pm

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