A Report to the Community

The ability to adapt to an ever changing world will be the primary determining factor for stability and success whether a business, individual, community or a college. The attack on our nation in 2001 followed by the collapse of the economy in 2008 forever altered the constants in our world, creating a new reality of adaptation for survival. In higher education, it will be those institutions with a dedication to their mission, a clear vision and a commitment to continuous quality improvement that will be best positioned to respond to the influences of emerging technology and the evolution of the workforce.

COTC is one of those institutions. This publication provides an overview of the fourth year of a five-year strategic plan, a road map guiding the direction of the college with a foundation built upon a steadfast commitment to the mission. The fundamental theme is continuous quality improvement as the college strives to provide the highest quality programming and as a result, workforce ready graduates.

As was designed in the plan, 2012 was the culmination of several major initiatives. The quarter to semester conversion was successfully implemented in the fall aligning COTC and all of Ohio’s public institutions on a single, semester-based academic calendar. Though one of the major accomplishments of the year, it was a factor contributing to one of the greatest challenges in the history of the college, an enrollment decline creating a $3.75 million budget gap. Swift action by the college leaders was guided by the vision established in the Strategic Plan along with a commitment to preserving the core of the institution. Bold decisions and a restructuring have ensured the fiscal viability of the college.

The college made great strides in its commitment to access when the doors were opened this year to the newly renovated building in Knox County, Ariel Hall. One of the most technologically advanced educational facilities in the region, Ariel Hall has the capacity to serve 1,000 students annually and is becoming a highly utilized resource for community meeting space. The strongest show of support for access to higher education came from the community, under the leadership of COTC, The Ohio State University at Newark and the Newark Campus Development Fund, pledged nearly $21 million in the Next Generation Challenge scholarship campaign exceeding the campaign’s goal by almost $1 million. The impact of this generosity is unimaginable and was greatly impacted by the $10 million matching challenge from J. Gilbert Reese and Louella H. Reese. The first scholarships were distributed this fall and early estimates indicate the potential to generate an additional 500 scholarships a year in perpetuity.

The conclusion of 2012 brings with it the start of the next strategic planning cycle. Work has already begun on the institution’s next plan scheduled to be rolled out in late 2013. The new five-year plan will build upon the accomplishments of 2012 and the momentum that has been generated. An unyielding dedication to continuous quality improvement will be the driving force propelling the college toward academic excellence. The resolute commitment to the mission endorses flexibility as the college strives to respond today to the higher education needs of tomorrow.

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.
President
Central Ohio Technical College strives to meet its students at all levels of their preparedness and help them to fulfill their varied educational goals. The College provides a broad range of programs that lead to: immediate, rewarding employment for its graduates; seamless transferability of credits; and the pursuit of meaningful lifelong learning.

Below are highlights of COTC’s recent initiatives to increase access, learning and success.

**Center for Academic Success**

The Center for Academic Success serves all campus locations and since opening in autumn quarter 2009, has been a pivotal resource to assist students. From fall quarter 2011 through the end of summer quarter 2012, the center has served:

- over 4,000 visits to the COTC Math Lab
- over 900 visits to the Nursing Student Success Center
- over 2,000 visits to the Communications Resource Center

“When I first came to COTC I knew very little English. Attending the labs has been very helpful and I learned most of my English from having other students and teachers help me. If it wasn’t for these labs, I wouldn’t be as advanced as I am today, and for that I am very thankful.”

Ruby Begley - COTC student

**COTC Comprehensive eLearning Study**

President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., initiated a comprehensive analysis of the COTC Virtual Campus – eLearning. This study provides COTC with another opportunity to move the institution forward and strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of the college.

Major aspects of this comprehensive study includes:

- Assessing quantity of online options available to students
- Identifying strengths and weaknesses in the Virtual Campus
- Providing recommendations to improve areas of weakness
- Identifying potential courses to be offered
- Assessing quality of current online offerings

**Workforce Development Innovation Center**

*Hollywood Casino Columbus*

COTC and Hollywood Casino Columbus announced a unique partnership early in 2012. Through this partnership, COTC provides non-gaming work force training for potential casino employees, such as security, slot machine technical support, and accounting. Over 200 participants have gone through these training programs to date.

**Lifelong Learning Institute**

The LLI provides non-credit educational opportunities for mature learners. Members broaden and extend their knowledge, share life experiences, become more attuned to community resources, and interact with other lifelong learners.

Classes are offered year-round at campuses that are easily accessible. These courses, as such are non-credit, and not subject to higher education state and accrediting agency standards. This allows for the LLI to offer courses that include college-level learning in shorter than typical class time, without tests and assignments.

**Early College Academy and High School Options**

COTC provides high school students the opportunity to expand curricular options by earning college credit while still in high school. The following programs are offered through High School Options at COTC:

- Dual Enrollment Program
- Post-Secondary
- Concurrent Enrollment Program
- Tech Prep Program

Additionaly, COTC has early college partnerships with the Early College Academy, Licking Heights Early College and the Rural Ohio College High School.
GOAL 2: Institutional Identity

COTC is firmly committed to providing stellar technical education. Although a number of technical colleges in Ohio have dropped the word “technical” from their name, COTC has purposely and proudly retained its name and expanded its technical programs. COTC’s pursuit of excellence in instructional technology helps the College ensure that its students are afforded the opportunity to be successful in a rapidly changing, technologically advanced, global society.

ECO Summit
From September 30 – October 5, top leaders in the ecological sciences came to Columbus, Ohio for the international EcoSummit 2012. The event featured workshops, focus groups and presentations regarding sustainability and restoration of the earth’s eco-system services. In keeping with the commitment towards strengthening the college’s identity as a leader in technical education and technological innovation, COTC was a major sponsor of the summit.

This was the first EcoSummit in history to combine the academic aspects with wrap-around lectures and forums focusing on business, government, and non-profit policy. Over 1,600 delegates and 398 students representing 76 countries attended.

Ariel Hall Renovations Completed
Students attending the COTC Knox Campus were welcomed back to a newly renovated Ariel Hall for the start of winter quarter classes in 2011. The move back to Ariel Hall marks the culmination of a complete renovation on the 35,000 square foot building that began in 2010.

Partnerships with other Two and Four Year Institutions
COTC has increased partnerships with multiple institutions to ensure that students have a variety of continuing training and education options. Recent partnerships include:

- Dual Enrollment options with Ohio Christian University, Ohio Dominican University and Muskingum University
- COTC college credit earned at Career and Technical Education Centers of Licking County (C-TEC) for Ohio Firefighter I and II training
- Ohio Fire Academy courses are applicable to the Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Science Technology

Mobile Access

Did you know?
Over 12% of the total visits to the cotc.edu website were from a mobile device between September 22 – October 22, 2012.

COTC named to 2013 Military Friendly Schools list
COTC has been named to the 2013 Military Friendly Schools list by Victory Media, the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life. COTC received the honor for the third consecutive year.

The 2013 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

“I was hesitant about coming back to school after 15 years but the military education advisors at COTC made coming back easy and painless, and I’ll graduate December 2012.”

Jennifer Bray Haas

A public dedication ceremony for Ariel Hall was held on March 20, 2012.

The MOX Smartphone App for COTC faculty, staff and students will be available by summer semester of 2013. This will provide an interface between the Datatel Student system, myCOTC Portal and the Moodle Learning Management System. Additionally, the college plans to redesign the cotc.edu website by early 2014 to ensure that the site is mobile-friendly.
GOAL 3: Diversity

Strengthen a culture that embraces the value of diversity

Student learning is augmented significantly when students are exposed to a wide range of perspectives, especially those that challenge their own views in positive ways enabling them to grow intellectually, to respect others from whom they are different, and, ultimately, to broaden their experiences and enjoy a higher quality of life.

Diversity is critically important to the college, and faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities on campus for cultural engagement and learning, including:

American/Italian Exchange Program

During summer 2012, 14 COTC students took the trip of a lifetime when they traveled to Italy as part of the college’s third consecutive cultural exchange program. From a home base in Regello, the group traveled throughout western Italy to directly experience Italian life, language, and culture. The diverse student group, comprised of 10 women and four men, ranged in age from 20 to late 40s.

COTC’s cultural exchange program began in July 2010, when the first group comprised of 10 COTC students experienced the depth and beauty of Italian culture first hand during a 10-day trip similarly based with Regello host families.

During summer 2011, the bookend trip for that inaugural experience occurred with Italian students living with Newark-area host families.

The cultural exchange program has been continuously sponsored through the generosity of Granville philanthropists J. Gilbert and Louella H. Reese, who once again graciously covered all program fees, including flight, in-country travel, meals, and all excursions and field trips.

Diversity Award created

The President’s & Dean/Director’s Diversity award was established in 2011 to recognize significant contributions to the enhancement, support, and/or furtherance of diversity at Ohio State Newark and COTC, and in the community. This annual award recognizes outstanding achievements which advance the campus’ overall awareness of and sensitivity to differences among people. Professor Ron Emoff, Ph.D., Ohio State Newark and Associate Professor Lisa Varrasso M.A., COTC were recognized as the initial recipients of the award. Marti Chaatsmith, associate director of the Newark Earthworks Center at Ohio State Newark, received the award in 2012.

Third Annual Community Intercultural Relations Conference

The third annual Community Intercultural Relations Conference was held on May 18, 2012. Business leaders and owners, and educators were invited to learn about the various ways of respecting and understanding different cultures that co-exist in local communities. 63 people attended the conference.

The Community Intercultural Relations Conference (CIC) is comprised of leaders from Boeing, COTC, Girl Scouts of Ohio’s Heartland, Licking County Job and Family Services, Mental Health America of Licking County, Ohio State Newark and State Farm Insurance Co., Inc.

International Flags

Central Ohio Technical College recognizes and respects the diversity of our students and graduates. With this in mind, the college has proudly displayed the flags from the many countries of origin represented by the diverse student population on campus, during public events throughout the year since 2011.

Armenia • Bangladesh • Belarus • Cameroon • Canada • China • Ethiopia • Gambia • Germany • Ghana • Greece • Guinea • Haiti • India • Italy • Jamaica • Japan • Kenya • Laos • Liberia • Malawi • Morocco • Nigeria • Philippines • Romania • Sierra Leone • Somalia • South Africa • Taiwan • Thailand • Turkey • United Kingdom • Vietnam
Accountability and responsibility are paramount to a public higher education institution. COTC, through its Board of Trustees and administration, must ensure that the college is always striving to utilize and build its resources in an efficient and effective manner. By building a culture of stewardship, the college will continue to strengthen its overall financial position as well as maintain its physical assets.

**AEP Energy Efficiency Recognition**

Central Ohio Technical College was recently recognized by AEP Ohio for commitment to energy efficiency and the environment by participating in AEP Ohio’s savings incentives programs for business.

As a result of completing the energy efficiency projects, COTC will:

- Reduce energy use by 60,096 Kwh per year
- Reduce CO2 emissions by 51.4 tons

_These totals will equal as many as eight cars off the road per year!_

**Eliminating Debt**

Even after continued investment in technology, facilities and programs, COTC was able to fulfill the goal of eliminating all debt by 2012. Key highlights of this include eliminating the remaining balances related to the financing of the Pataskala Campus and Montgomery Hall, along with the Datatel software system.

**Challenge Exceeded: The Next Generation Challenge**

The Next Generation Challenge scholarship campaign at Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University at Newark surpassed its $20 million goal making it the most successful fundraising effort in the history of the two institutions. The campaign began in April 2010 and culminated on June 30, 2012, with a final donation that propelled the grand total past the $20 million goal to $20,950,410.

Granville philanthropists J. Gilbert Reese and Louella H. Reese challenged the community by personally matching all gifts, multi-year pledges and planned gifts dollar-for-dollar up to $10 million to support the growth of endowed scholarships at both schools. It was through a tremendous outpouring of community generosity that the Next Generation Challenge achieved its profound success.

Culminating the campaign was the final gift, a combined $2 million from Ariel Corporation and Ariel Foundation, headquartered in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Karen Buchwald Wright, President and CEO of Ariel, has a long-standing relationship with COTC and was instrumental in establishing a permanent home for the COTC Knox Campus in downtown Mount Vernon. The $2 million gift will benefit Knox County students attending either COTC or Ohio State Newark.

The first Next Generation Challenge scholarships were allocated during autumn semester 2012, with 15 COTC students receiving scholarships. The number of students receiving scholarships is expected to grow in the near future.

**LEED Certificate**

Ariel Hall is the first COTC building to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. An internationally recognized mark of excellence, LEED certification acknowledges that a building was designed and built using strategies aimed at achieving high performance in key areas of human and environmental health; sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.
GOAL 5: Positive Relationships

COTC’s mission statement underscores the importance of the college’s relationship to the community. The college recognizes the enormous wealth of interaction between it and all stakeholders including alumni, friends, and industry partners. Partnerships in the years ahead promise benefits to our students, our community’s economy, and local citizens.

Market Analysis Study

COTC has worked with nationally recognized consulting firm Tripp Umbach to conduct a market analysis study. Initial results of the study show that regional stakeholders have identified the college’s strengths to include:

• Cost Effectiveness
• Quality
• Size
• Collaboration with Ohio State University at Newark

Additionally, the following have been listed as the top three attributes identified by current and prospective COTC students:

• Availability of financial aid/scholarships
• Good value
• Graduates get good jobs

The results also list that both current and potential students feel that COTC provides a positive environment for students of all cultural backgrounds, and that it is easy to transfer credit from other colleges and universities to COTC, and that it is likewise easy to transfer credits from COTC to other colleges and universities. Lastly, they believe that COTC prepares students for careers in their chosen fields.

Ohio Fire Academy

Through a groundbreaking partnership, The Ohio Fire Academy (OFA) and COTC joined forces to provide training that will get students ready for the job faster and enable veteran firefighters to advance their careers through additional education.

Since the OFA courses are approved for college credit, students benefit from hands-on training in burning buildings and on a wide variety of apparatus. Students will earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in Fire Science Technology and will be certified to take a job upon graduation.

Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention

The Ohio Region of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held their Awards Convention on March 2nd and 3rd, 2012 on the Newark campus of Central Ohio Technical College. This year was the 25th anniversary Gala celebration. Keynote speakers included the Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa, Dr. Rod Risley and Coaches Bill Yoast and Herman Boone, made famous due to the movie Remember the Titans. This convention hosted 225 members and was the largest one ever held in the Ohio Region.

In January, Cindy Carbone, Dean of Arts and Sciences at COTC, was appointed to serve on Phi Theta Kappa’s Board of Directors as the Regional Coordinator Representative. Carbone served as a Phi Theta Kappa chapter advisor at Edison Community College from 1993 to 2009 and currently is an advisor at Central Ohio Technical College. She became Ohio Regional Coordinator in 2003. Carbone has also served as advisor of the Alpha of Ohio Region Alumni Association since October 2010. In 2009, Carbone earned recognition as Distinguished Regional Coordinator - the top recognition provided a Regional Coordinator who has served at least five years. She has served as a Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar and is a former member of the Honors Program Committee.
Central Ohio Technical College shares its Newark Campus with The Ohio State University at Newark. While governance, mission, curriculum, and faculty at COTC and Ohio State Newark are autonomous, the two institutions have complementary missions and a collaborative relationship that benefits all.

Newark Campus Framework Plan
The Newark Campus Framework Plan is a joint initiative between the Ohio State University at Newark and Central Ohio Technical College to plan for the future of the physical campus. The plan will guide decision making and physical change over the next 50 years, ensuring the academic mission of each institution drives the physical environment. The framework provides a holistic approach by integrating academic, physical and financial planning as the institutions build toward a long-term vision for the campus.

Next Generation Challenge
The Next Generation Challenge scholarship campaign surpassed its $20 million goal with a grand total of $20,950,410, making it the most successful fundraising effort in the history of the two institutions. The first scholarships were allocated during autumn semester 2012 and the number awarded is expected to grow in the near future, with a potential to generate 550 new scholarships each year.

Degree Completion Pathways
COTC is consistently working with The Ohio State University to create additional degree completing pathways between the two institutions. Examples of this include:

- R.N. to B.S. in nursing degree
- A.A.S. in Human Services to B.S. in Social Work
- A.A.S. in Culinary Science to B.S. in Food Science and Technology
- A.A.S. in Early Childhood Technology to B.S. in Education

GOAL 6: Partnership with The Ohio State University

GOAL 7: Talented Workforce

Central to the success of any college is the quality of its faculty and staff. In order to sustain and maintain its ability to deliver high-quality educational services and opportunities, COTC must continue to attract the highest quality employees despite today’s highly competitive market.

Legends of Loyalty Award
Established in 2011, the Legends of Loyalty award is presented annually to an individual or group of individuals displaying the qualities of dedication and commitment to the college.

The inaugural Legends of Loyalty award was presented to Alex Roletta, John Merrin, Kay Duncan, Cathie Clippinger, Amy Bishoff, J. Gilbert Reese and Howard E. LeFevere. In 2012, the award was presented to James R. Woolard, Ph.D. and Linda Reynard.

Special Recognition – 2011 to Present

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., President, COTC

Awarded the 2011 Association of Community College Trustees’ (ACCT) Regional Chief Executive Officer Award for the central region of the U.S.

Jackie Parrill, Vice President for Institutional Planning & Human Resources Development

Named as a finalist for Executive of the Year in Columbus CEO Magazine’s 2012 HR Excellence awards

Mark Ramser, Board of Trustees

Awarded the Council for Resource Development 2012 Benefactor of the Year award

Sandra Walker, Nursing program administrator

Named Vice Chair for the Ohio Council of Associate Degree Nursing Education Administrators
Realizing the Vision

Being #1 is all about quality—providing high quality programs and services, delivered by highly talented faculty and staff in aesthetically pleasing, state of the art learning environments, while providing quality educational opportunities at affordable rates.

In higher education, the most highly recognized stamp of quality is accreditation. COTC holds the highest level of institutional accreditation - regional accreditation- through the Higher Learning Commission. In addition, many of our degree programs are nationally accredited at the programmatic level.

**Programmatic Accreditation/Approvals**

**Nursing Technology associate degree program**
Accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
Approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing

**Radiologic Technology program**
Accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiographic Technology

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technology program**
Approved by the Joint Review Committee on Education of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

**Surgical Technology program**
Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs through the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting

**Law Enforcement Technology program**
Approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Council

**Practical Nursing certificate program**
Approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing

**Early Childhood Development Technology, Teaching Option degree program**
Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

**Emergency Medical Services program**
Accredited by the State of Ohio EMS Board

**Affordability**

The high cost of tuition is something that is often discussed today in regards to higher education. COTC has always focused on maintaining affordable tuition to students while providing a quality education. The result has made COTC a great value for students.

The estimated cost for a full-time student beginning college level courses pursuing an associate degree is $175/credit hour, $2,100 semester (12-15 credit hours) and $10,500 degree (5 semesters, 60-75 hours).

COTC offers financial aid from several sources, including grants, scholarships, Federal Work Study and loans. In autumn semester of 2012, 70% of students received financial aid.

According to the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC), students who plan to continue to earn a bachelor’s degree can start at COTC, go on to a public university and reduce overall costs by at least one-third to one-half of overall college costs.

Published by: The Office of Marketing & Public Relations

Newark Campus 740.366.9222 1179 University Drive, Newark, OH 43055
Toll Free 800.963.9275 Ext. 69222
Coshocton Campus 740.622.1408 200 N. Whitewoman St., Coshocton, OH 43812
Knox Campus 740.392.2526 236 South Main St., Mount Vernon, OH 43050
Pataskala Campus 740.964.7090 8660 East Broad St., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

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