



Ohio Association of Community Colleges

The Forum

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS AND INFORMATION

RAFINSKI IS INTERIM OACC PRESIDENT

Karen Rafinski, Ph.D., has been named the Interim President of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

Dr. Rafinski, who is President Emeriti of Clark State Community College in Springfield, began her duties with the OACC on Sept. 16 and will stay on as interim leader of the OACC until a permanent president is selected.

“I know community colleges inside and out; I know the culture,” said Dr. Rafinski. “I’m looking forward to helping the OACC with a seamless transition to a new permanent president.”

Dr. Rafinski succeeds Dr. Ronald Abrams, who retired this fall as president of the OACC. Dr. Rafinski recently retired as president of Clark State Com-

munity College, where she served as the leader for 16 years.

Dr. Rafinski has completed 41 years of work in the nation’s community colleges and 26 years in presidencies in Ohio and Minnesota state colleges and universities. Her roles have ranged from faculty and athletic director (she was the first woman in Minnesota to direct a men’s athletic program), coaching, resource development, student services and academic affairs.



Rafinski

In 2008, the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) selected Dr. Rafinski as the re-

ipient of the Mary Martin Chief Executive Award, which honors the country’s top CEO. That same year, Dr. Rafinski was also selected as the CEO of the Year for the Central Region, which covers ten Midwestern states. Dr. Rafinski, who resides in Springfield, serves on many local boards in the Miami Valley.

She has a bachelor’s degree from Minnesota State University at Moorhead; a master’s degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and an MPA from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Rafinski completed the Harvard Institute for Higher Education in 1998, and received an honorary doctorate from Urbana University in 2000.

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

The OACC’s Presidential Search Committee has finalized a Request for Proposals to secure a search firm to find the next President of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges.

The Presidential Search Committee is expected to tap a search firm soon to find a permanent leader for the OACC.

The Presidential Search Committee is made up of the following people representing the various OACC tiers:

- Brad Ebersole, President, Washington State Community College; Liz Gates, Trustee, Belmont College
- Paul Brown, President, Zane State College; Matt Smith, Trustee, North Central State College
- Ron Erickson, President, Hocking College; Dave Kalina, Trustee, Lakeland Community College
- Steve Johnson, President, Sinclair Community College; Mark Walton, Trustee, Cincinnati State Technical & Community College; Richard Rosen, Trustee, Columbus State Community College

OACC Chair Diana Talmage, Trustee, Owens Community College and OACC Vice Chair Kevin Boys, President Southern State Community College, are co-chairing the Search Committee.

A permanent leader to take over for Ron Abrams, who recently retired, is expected to be tapped early next year.

Ohio Association of Community Colleges

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COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT: WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Claudia Y. Owens, Executive Director, Marketing & PR

Exploring the possibilities at Washington State Community College (WSCC) is becoming easier every day.

With new programs all across campus, it is simple for prospective students to experience higher education. New initiatives, such as the Online Success Course, the Student Voice, and STEP program, have been put into place to prepare students to go on to a four-year degree program or to go directly into the workforce.



Through professional training and a caring staff, students are prepared for life after college and will retain a valuable education that will follow them for the rest of their lives. The new initiatives being implemented at WSCC facilitate communication between students and staff and

provide more educational options for prospective students.

Many prospective students are unsure whether or not they would be interested in taking a course online. The Online Success Course is a free week long online course that helps students learn what skills are necessary for online learning. While online classes are wildly popular among some groups of students, others may be apprehensive about trying an online format for the first time.

WSCC has taken the stress out of this process by providing a free week long trial course to check a student's preparedness for online learning. With this program, students are no longer forced to enroll and pay for an online class before they understand what will be required of them in an online classroom setting. This new initiative takes the guesswork out of online courses.

WSCC values the comments and concerns that are expressed by students. The Student Voice initiative provides a structured environment that allows students to discuss their views of campus and help shape the future of WSCC.

To ensure a positive experience on campus, the Center for Student Success has spearheaded a program that allows students to discuss ideas that are then taken directly to the administration.

David Scheimann, Coordinator for the Center for Student Success at WSCC explains, "The key to this program is that we are creating a process, not a one-shot focus group, so the communication will be ongoing." This program guarantees open communica-

tion between students and administrators on campus. Ideas that are implemented as a result of this program will be marked with



the programs symbol to acknowledge that it was suggested by a student. This program is already streamlining the feedback process between students and administrators.

WSCC also acknowledges that many students look at a two-year college as a great stepping stone to attaining a degree at a four-year institution. WSCC now offers the Strategic Transfer Education Plan (STEP) to help students seamlessly transition from WSCC to a degree program at Ohio University (OU).

Students participating in STEP receive guaranteed admission to OU if all academic requirements are met. WSCC also provides on-site transfer advising and guarantees transfer and applicability of coursework toward a degree from OU.

Amanda Herb, Chief Enrollment and Student Success Officer at WSCC, commented that, "Washington State Community College is excited to work with Ohio University on the STEP program. Although our students have always had the opportunity to transfer to Ohio University, the STEP program provides a clear pathway for students that can be integrated early into a student's educational plan. Furthermore, it clearly demonstrates the strong partnership between the two institutions and how we work together to promote education that is in the best interest of the students we serve."

These are just a couple of the new initiatives that are examples of Washington State Community College's commitment to student success.

With new programs and activities being introduced every day, there is always something new and exciting happening on the WSCC campus. For more than 40 years, WSCC has provided residents of the Mid-Ohio Valley the opportunity to realize dreams, enhance skills, and broaden understanding. Whether you are a recent high school graduate or a non-traditional student looking to move your life in a new direction, Washington State has the classes to suit your needs.



From Feb. 10 through Feb. 13, community college leaders will be gathering in Washington, D.C. to learn about the latest policy priorities for community colleges at the Association of Community College Trustees Community College National Legislative Summit.

Community college leaders will be able to advocate with their congressional delegations on a host of issues ranging from increasing student success to financial resources for higher education to many others.

The 2014 Community College National Legislative Summit comes on the heels of tight budgetary times for higher education at the federal level and in communities across this great nation. As community colleges have faced difficult budgetary times, they have been working against the backdrop of students seeking to further their education and workers looking for retraining.

Attendees will have the opportunity to highlight the importance of community colleges to our nation's economic strength with their representatives in Congress and in the Senate.

More information at the ACCT's Web site: www.acct.org.

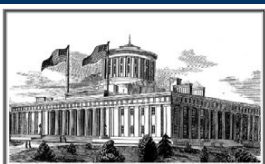


OACCPA UPDATE

Presidential Assistants: Mark your calendars for the OACCPA Briefing Day 2014 on March **28**.

Additional details will follow and we are looking to build in a tour of the historic Ohio Statehouse as part of this day.

So again, mark your calendars and make plans to attend the OACCPA Briefing Day 2014!



CAPITAL INSIDER

A Perspective on Ohio Politics from the Viewpoint of Key State Leaders



Each quarter, The Forum invites state leaders to share their views and opinions on policies and issues that have a direct impact on Ohio's community colleges.

Ohio Senate President Keith Faber of Celina offers his insight in this issue's "Capital Insider" column.

Over the past three years, we have been working tirelessly in the Statehouse to foster an environment in our state where businesses and jobs can grow and thrive. Our goal is to make Ohio the best possible place to live, work, and raise a family. It is my strong belief that our community colleges are playing one of the most vital parts in achieving that goal.

In Ohio, we currently have tens of thousands of open jobs just waiting for people with new skills and training to seize these valuable career opportunities. This is why it is so important for us to focus on developing the state's workforce to match good workers with stable career opportunities.

Ohio's community colleges are perfectly positioned to understand local workforce needs and design their educational programs to help students develop the skills to meet those job requirements.

As the husband of an instructor at a local branch campus (and former community college professor), I know firsthand the tremendous value higher education in general, and community colleges in particular, have for our state. And with nearly 193,000 Ohioans enrolled in these institutions just last year, it's clear I'm not alone. In fact, community college enrollment accounts for

more than one-third of all higher education enrollment in Ohio.

Community college students come from all sorts of different positions in life. From recent high school graduates to working moms and dads, community colleges in Ohio are providing all types of students with a valuable resource by helping them find their calling while guiding businesses in recruiting educated, hard-working employees.

Earlier this year, the Senate's new workforce committee produced an initiative to help individuals and families better afford the costs of additional education and training. Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Senators Beagle and Balderson creates a \$25 million revolving loan fund administered by the Board of Regents. Each year, job training programs can apply for up to \$100,000, distributing up to \$10,000 per student.

To ensure the greatest possible impact from this investment, the fund will give preference to programs that already have close ties with local employers. This symbiotic relationship helps educators better understand workforce needs while giving employers a pool of rising talent to recruit onto their team.

It is my expectation that this bipartisan initiative will empower more Ohioans to seek the education and job training they need to find meaningful, new employment. As the initial loans are paid back either interest-free or at very low rates, the fund will automatically rejuvenate itself to allow future students to continue taking advantage of this new tool.

Of course, the most important part of any educational or career training program is seeing students through to completion. Through this year's state bud-

et, we acted upon the recommendations of community colleges, career and technical schools, and the state's universities to tweak higher education funding so the focus is not just on enrollment, but on course completion and graduation. While performance-based funding is by no means new in Ohio, making it an even more central part of higher education is a logical next step.

There are 35 other states currently using or considering similar funding methods and I commend Ohio's community colleges for displaying courage and leadership on this innovative and student-centered approach to education.

Ohio has made great strides over the past few years. We tackled an unprecedented \$8 billion budget shortfall, created the Common Sense Initiative as a new way to ensure job-creators aren't burdened by unnecessary red tape, and we've responsibly cut taxes to put more money back in the pockets of Ohio's students, employees, and employers.

In the Statehouse, we share your vision that every Ohioan be afforded the opportunity to pursue their educational goals, take hold of their career, and achieve their dreams. I look forward to the years ahead as we move forward as partners in creating a stronger Ohio and welcome your input on what we can do to continue making Ohio an even better place to live, work and raise our families. You can reach me at 614.466.7584 or via email at Keith.Faber@OhioSenate.gov.

Senator Faber represents Ohio's 12th Senate District, which encompasses all of Allen, Champaign, Mercer, and Shelby Counties as well as portions of Auglaize, Darke, and Logan Counties. He currently serves as President of the Ohio Senate. Learn more at www.OhioSenate.gov/Faber.

RECAP 2013 ACCT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONGRESS IN SEATTLE

More than 40 Ohio community college trustees, presidents and others attended the 44th Annual Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress from Oct. 2-5 in Seattle to learn more about moving the needle on student success. Many Ohio delegates were on panels and many others attended sessions learning about the latest in community college issues.

Thank you also to those who attended the OACC's reception for Ohio delegates on Oct. 3. Attendees were able to network with their fellow Ohio delegates as well as some attendees from neighboring states. (A few pictures are below)

Mark your calendars for the 2014 ACCT Leadership Congress to be held Oct. 22-25 in Chicago!



STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER DIRECTOR WINS AWARD; COMPLETION COACHES AT OADE

OACC Student Success Center Executive Director Ruth Silon was honored Nov. 1 with the Outstanding Developmental Educator Award from the Ohio Association for Developmental Education.

Also at the OADE conference, the AmeriCorps College Completion Coaches were able to discuss the program with conference attendees.

Here are pictures. At left, Ruth Silon receives her award as the Outstanding Developmental Educator. At right, Kimberly Randall, who is a second year College Completion Coach at Columbus State Community College, staffs the AmeriCorps table.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. For more information, or to use the OACC Conference Room for your next meeting, contact Leah Dickinson at ldickinson@ohioacc.org or (614) 221-6222. Additional information is available online at www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org.

December

12 CAO Meeting, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

13 CFO Meeting, 10 a.m., Co-
lumbus State Community College

13 OACC Governing Board &
Presidents Meeting, 10 a.m.-2
p.m., Sheraton on Capitol Square,
Columbus

January 2014

9 CAO Meeting, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

10 CFO Meeting, 10 a.m., Co-
lumbus State Community College

17 OACC Presidents Meeting,
10 a.m.-2 p.m., OACC Offices,
Columbus

31 OACC CSAO Meeting, 10
a.m., Columbus State Community
College

February

7 CFO Meeting, 10 a.m.,
Columbus State Community
College

13 CAO Meeting, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

21 OACC Presidents Meeting,
10 a.m., OACC Offices, Colum-
bus

21 OACC CSAO Meeting, 10
a.m., Columbus State Communi-
ty College

OACC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Diana H. (Dee) Talmage
Chair
Trustee, Owens Community College

Mark D. Walton
Chair Elect
Trustee, Cincinnati State Technical &
Community College

Dr. Kevin Boys
Vice Chair
President, Southern State Comm. College

Dr. Cris Valdez
Vice Chair Elect
President, Edison Community College

Liz Gates
Secretary
Trustee, Belmont College

Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley
Treasurer
President, Rio Grande Community College

Matthew P. Smith
At-Large Trustee
Trustee, North Central State College

Dr. Paul Brown
At-Large President
President, Zane State College

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Belmont College • Central Ohio Technical College • Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
Clark State Community College • Columbus State Community College • Cuyahoga Community College
Eastern Gateway Community College • Edison Community College • Hocking College
Lakeland Community College • Lorain County Community College • Marion Technical College
North Central State College • Northwest State Community College • Owens Community College
Rhodes State College • Rio Grande Community College • Sinclair Community College
Southern State Community College • Stark State College • Terra State Community College
Washington State Community College • Zane State College