



Ohio Association of Community Colleges

The Forum

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS AND INFORMATION

AMERICORPS COLLEGE COMPLETION COACHES INITIATIVE EXPANDS



It's the second year for the AmeriCorps College Completion Coaches Initiative, a strategic partnership between the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC), AmeriCorps, and ServeOhio (Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism).

It is funded by a \$329,000 grant from ServeOhio. "We are pleased to be able to expand this program from its inception last year," said OACC President Ron Abrams. "These 'coaches' will provide their students with the support needed to create their educational completion plan, and then mentor them through challenges they may encounter as they move ahead through their plan."

This year's program will feature 25 coaches at 11 colleges, up from the 22 coaches at 10 colleges last year.

The following colleges will be participating in this program: Clark State Community College; Columbus State Community College; Cuyahoga Community College; Lakeland Community College; Lorain County Community College; North Central State College; Northwest State Community College; Southern State Community College; Stark State College; Terra State Community College and Zane State College.

These coaches will each serve a 100 students who in developmental education. Coaches serve as a valuable support system that will

help students in progressing through their completion plan.

Participating coaches will receive a modest living allowance and \$5,550 education award to help with college debt at the successful completion of their 11-month service term.

The OACC has also hired Program Manager Sharmaine Y. Pechac, who formerly worked as the Preferred Pathway coordinator at Columbus State Community College, to oversee the AmeriCorps College Completion Coaches Initiative.

Ohio Association of Community Colleges

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OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS

Northwest State Community College graciously hosted this July's OACCPA Annual Meeting and the OACCPA would like to thank President Tom Stuckey and Lynda Cramer for their hospitality as well as the Northwest State staff who took time out of their busy schedules to support OACCPA professional development! Tami Norris, Business & Industry Training Coordinator, provided an excellent session on desktop manual creation which included a variety of tips and shortcuts for some of the programs Assistants use most.

Mike Jacobs, Admissions Recruiter, took the group on an in-depth tour of the campus including a stop in the nursing department which provides not only hands on opportunities, but the latest in training equipment and patient simulations. The group also had the opportunity to check out a number of state-of-the-art classrooms focused on machining and had the benefit of viewing beautiful, donated artwork throughout the campus facilities.

During the OACCPA business meeting, new officers were confirmed as follows:

Julie MacLaine, President; Leah Konopka, Vice President; Lynda Cramer, Secretary; Steve Williams, Immediate Past President; Heather Lanham, Member-At-Large.



Back Row (L to R) - Lynda Cramer, NSCC; Brittany Hlavín, OACC; Julie MacLaine, Zane State.
Front Row (L to R) - Heather Lanham, Edison; Leah Dickinson, OACC; Elizabeth Schank, Terra.

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT: SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Adam Murka, Director of Public Affairs

At nearly 130 years, Sinclair is one of the nation’s oldest community colleges and stands today as a leader in the push for educational reform and for meaningful policy change.

The college’s founder, David Sinclair, provided us with a motto, “Find the need and endeavor to meet it,” that permeates throughout all that we do.

Sinclair Community College is proud to serve as the Ohio Cadre leader in the groundbreaking Completion by



Design (CbD) Initiative that seeks to dramatically increase student completion throughout the entire community college system. The Completion by Design Initiative consists of community colleges from Florida, North Carolina, and Ohio. Sinclair is proud to partner in this project in the Ohio Cadre with Stark State Community College and Lorain County Community College.

Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the initiative seeks to provide easier to navigate pathways through college and to build stronger relationships between advising services, instruction, and career coaches. The national partners also seek to educate policy makers and thought leaders as to institutional and state policy changes that could have a dramatic impact on student success. A major goal for the Ohio cadre is a completion rate for the 2015 cohort that is 40% higher than the current rate.

Completion by Design draws from a strong foundation of research into where college students struggle as they move through the educational process, including focus groups with students about the factors that most helped and hindered their progress overall.

The Completion by Design colleges have carefully researched plans and strategies for improving student success and are now working to implement the policies at their colleges. In the coming months and years, the goal is for the work to be scaled so that it can be implemented at community colleges of all sizes throughout the state and nation.

Among the many aspects of the plan, Completion by Design is working to revamp developmental education through the work of the Developmental Education Initiative (DEI) which includes strategies such as boot camps, math modules, and accelerated English courses. Sinclair is also working to increase the number of students who test as college ready while still in high school.

A key component of the CbD project is the focus on optimizing student support to ensure students are given accurate and timely information to help them with academic, personal, financial and career choices. Students will also be required to take part in helpful and mandatory meetings with their academic advisers throughout their academic careers and to attend mandatory student orientation that acclimates them with the college and is tailored toward their career goals.

Embracing policies and ideas that encourage students to complete their community college educations could lead to dramatic results. A higher completion rate results in a better workforce and is a boon to our local economies. The certificates and degrees that these students earn dramatically increase their value to employers and the amount of earnings they will accumulate over the course of their lifetimes.

As an example of this, Sinclair’s most recent class of 3,139 degrees and certificates will produce an expected nearly \$300 million in increased earnings over the next ten years to the Dayton Region. Adding additional students to our future graduating classes dramatically improves the lives of those students, their families and the organizations in which they work and the communities in which they live.

STATE BUDGET IMPACT ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Here's a brief run down on how the two-year, \$62 billion state budget (HB 59) that took effect July 1 will impact community colleges:



- **State Share of Instruction Levels:** Plus \$16 million for community colleges for biennium. (Plus 1.9 Percent compared to previous appropriations).
- **Tuition Caps:** \$100 maximum
- The final bill retained performance based funding system; OACC-backed provisions for statewide certificates of value; elimination of certain reports our campuses have to file.
- The final bill retained the Senate provisions on College Credit Plus (the proposed revisions to Post Secondary Enrollment Option and Dual Enrollment) – creation of a study committee including the OACC and other stakeholders to work on the issue with recommendations due in December.
- The final bill retained the reauthorizing language for Early College High Schools and the subsidy of \$2,000 per student (\$2.4 million over the biennium).
- The final bill retained the Senate version of the provision requiring colleges to develop “completion plans” that said that completion plans must be approved by an institutions’ board of trustees and filed with the Board of Regents.
- Also retained in the final bill was the Senate modification to the House-added provision that the Board of Regents establish a 1-year option credit articulation system for Ohio Technical Center graduates to include a deadline for BOR to develop the option and adds quality assurance language to ensure that degree quality isn’t diminished.
- The governor line item vetoed a House-passed provision reinserted by the Conference Committee that established an \$8 million pilot project Workforce Training Fund for Economically Distressed Areas; as well as provisions for BioOhio and community colleges (\$1 million) and Central Ohio Technical College (\$500,000).

CONNECT WITH THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



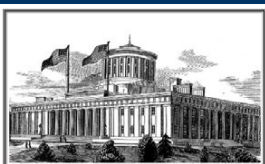
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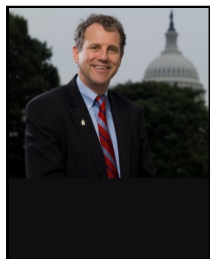


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CAPITAL INSIDER

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.

U.S. Senator Sherrod

Brown of Ohio offers his insight in this issue's "Capital Insider" column.

As a society, few investments we make are more important than our investment in education. Education remains one of nation's great equalizers — creating a pathway to the middle class for many Americans.

Each year, I host an annual Ohio College Presidents Conference to discuss the challenges facing our higher education system — including costs, workforce development issues, and completion rates. The conference brings together leaders at two-year, four-year, private, public, and community colleges to discuss shared challenges and goals for students and institutions of higher learning.

Cooperation and collaboration are at the heart of workforce development efforts in Ohio. And community colleges are on the forefront of efforts to tailor our workforce development efforts to meet the needs of emerging, high-growth industries.

Many community colleges are already working to address the skills gap that has affected job openings in industries like healthcare, clean energy, and manufacturing. This skills gap denies workers new opportunities they deserve and undermines our nation's economic competitiveness. It also lim-

its our state's ability to attract new jobs and businesses.

That's why I've introduced legislation to help attract new economic development by partnering community colleges with businesses to train Ohioans for the jobs of the 21st century. My bipartisan *Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act* (SECTORS) would connect our education, job training, and economic development programs with high-growth and emerging industries to support regional workforce needs. If we want to attract employers in these 21st century industries like clean energy and medical innovation, we must assure them that our state has a well-trained and well-educated workforce.

Community colleges can help give more Ohioans the opportunity to earn a college degree and obtain the skills employers want. From our veterans returning home, Ohioans re-entering the workforce, and students preparing for four-year degrees, community colleges are providing new opportunities for talented Ohioans throughout our state.

But we need to do more than update the education training we offer to Ohio students. We need to improve college affordability.

We should be clearing barriers to college, not creating more hurdles and costs to getting a degree. That's why I introduced the *Student Loan Affordability Act*, which would keep college affordable for more middle-class and low-income students by maintaining the current interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans at no extra cost

to taxpayers. This bill is one part of ensuring that graduates do not face a lifetime of never ending school debt. The *Student Loan Affordability Act* ensures that 361,000 students in Ohio will not have their loan rates subject to the whims of Congress, however, it does not address the private student loan debt many Ohioans take on to cover the gap between college costs and federal loans.

There are 2.9 million American students with more than \$150 billion in private student loan debt. Private loans typically have higher interest rates, some that can top 18%, and offer none of the flexibility that makes federal student loans so important. To provide relief to individuals burdened with high private student loan debt, I introduced the *Refinancing Education Funding to Invest for the Future (REFI) Act*. This bill would authorize the Treasury Department to make the private student loan market more efficient by allowing borrowers with private student loans to refinance their costly private loans into more affordable ones.

Ohio's community colleges are helping produce the next leaders. It is their work — and their commitment to strengthening the entire pipeline from cradle to career — that will ensure our economy continues to grow and succeed.

—
Sherrod Brown is the senior U.S. Senator from Ohio. He is a former U.S. Representative, Ohio Secretary of State and Ohio state Representative.

NEW PRESIDENTS TAKE THE REINS AT CLARK STATE AND TRI-C



Clark State Community College in Springfield welcomes Jo Alice Blondin as the college's fifth president. President Blondin, who began her new duties on July 1, takes over from Karen E. Rafinski, who served as president of Clark State for

16 years.

President Blondin had served as the Chancellor of the Arkansas Tech University – Ozark Campus. Among her past positions were stints as the Chief Academic Officer at ATU – Ozark Campus and lead faculty of the departments of English, Rhetoric, Speech and Social Sciences at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith.

President Blondin holds a Ph.D in English and a Master of Arts in English from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University majoring in English with a minor in Spanish.



At Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Alex Johnson, who led Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus from 1993 to 2003, has returned to the college as its fourth President.

President Johnson, who began his duties in July, had been the President of the Community College of Allegheny County, an institution with nearly 60,000 students on nine campuses and centers in the Greater Pittsburgh area. After leaving Tri-C in 2003, Johnson became the Chancellor of Delgado Community College in New Orleans, serving in that capacity during the devastating Hurricane Katrina.

Johnson earned a doctorate from Pennsylvania State University, a master's degree from Lehman College and a bachelor's degree from Winston-Salem State University.

Johnson succeeds former President Jerry Sue Thornton, who retired after nearly 21 years as president.

PROFILE: JOHN CAREY IS THE NEW CHANCELLOR OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS



Governor John Kasich has appointed John Carey to be the ninth Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. Chancellor Carey's first day on the job was Monday, April 29.

An experienced lawmaker, Chancellor Carey served nine years in the Ohio House of Representatives and eight years in the Ohio Senate.

He is one of the few legislators in history to serve as chairman of both the House Finance and Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee. Prior to his work as a legislator, he was mayor of the City of Wellston and was an aide to former Congressman Clarence Miller of Lancaster.

Most recently, Chancellor Carey served as Assistant to the President for Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives for Shawnee State University in Portsmouth.

As a legislator, Chancellor Carey's focus on education and job creation led to numerous awards and accolades from organizations such as the Ohio Development Association, the Ohio Bankers League, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Ohio University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Chancellor Carey is a graduate of Ohio University with a degree in political science, and is a first-generation college graduate. He was born in Chillicothe and currently resides in Wellston with his wife, Lynley, a school teacher, and their two sons, Justin and Jordan.

Chancellor Carey replaces Jim Petro who retired earlier this year. Vice Chancellor Stephanie Davidson had been Interim Chancellor.

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@ohiocc.org or (614) 221-6222. Additional information is available online at www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org.

August

12 Data Analysis & Reporting Consultation, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

15 Community College Funding Consultation, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

September

4 Community College Funding Consultation, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

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

20 Presidents Meeting, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

20, OACC-HR Meeting,
10 a.m.

26 Community College Funding Consultation, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

October

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

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

18 OACC Presidents Meeting, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus

23 Community College Funding Consultation, 10 a.m.,
OACC Offices, Columbus.

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

OACC STAFF

Jeff Ortega
Director of Public Affairs
jortega@ohiocc.org

Leah Dickinson
Director of Operations
ldickinson@ohiocc.org

Brittany Hlavin
Administrative Assistant
bhlavin@ohiocc.org

Mike Snider
Project Leader
msnider@ohiocc.org

Ruth Silon
Executive Director
OACC Student Success Center
rsilon@ohiocc.org

Laura Rittner
Director of Research & Data Analysis
lrittner@ohiocc.org

Sharmaine Y. Pechac
Manager, AmeriCorps Completion Coaches Initiative
spechac@ohiocc.org

175 South Third Street • Suite 560 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • Office: 614-221-OACC (6222) • Fax: 614-221-6239

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