



Ohio Association of Community Colleges

The Forum

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS AND INFORMATION

HERSHEY IS NEW PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE OACC

Jack Hershey, formerly the Associate Vice President of Government Affairs at The Ohio State University, is the Ohio Association of Community College's new President and Chief Executive Officer.

Hershey comes to the OACC after spending nearly ten years at Ohio State where he managed the university's relations with state government.

As part of his role at Ohio State, Hershey served as Project Director for Governor Kasich's Quality and Value Initiative, a position to which he was appointed by Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor John Carey and former Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee. Hershey also served as the staff leader on successful collaborations by all state colleges and



Jack Hershey

universities to produce a unified approach to funding for both the capital and operating budgets for public campuses statewide. Both models were endorsed not only by public higher education leaders, but also Governor Kasich. The

models won bipartisan support in the Ohio General Assembly. Before coming to Ohio State, Hershey was Deputy Director of the Office of Budget and Management under former Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and served as Director of Finance and as a Financial Analyst in the Ohio House of Representatives under former House Speaker Jo Ann Davidson.

Hershey holds a bachelor's degree in public policy management from the University of Akron and he is pursuing a master's degree in public policy management from Ohio State University.

Hershey, his wife, Sharon, and their two children live in the Columbus suburb of Upper Arlington. He began his new duties on July 1.

2014 ACCT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Join the dozens of Ohio community college trustees and leaders who will join their colleagues from around the country at the 2014 Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress, to be held October 22-25 in Chicago.



The ACCT Leadership Congress is the largest national gathering of community college trustees, presidents and administrators. An anticipated 2,000 people from around the country are expected to descend on the Windy City to learn and network under the theme of "Winds of Change: Staying the Course to the American Dream."

Also, the OACC is hosting a reception for the Ohio delegation as well as delegations from neighboring states on Wednesday, Oct. 22 from 6:45-8 p.m. in Plaza A. Green Level, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Sign up and register and get more information on the ACCT Web site: www.acct.org.

Ohio Association of Community Colleges

INSIDE ...

Hershey New President
page 1

ACCT Promo
page 1

College Spotlight—
Rio Grande
page 2

New OACC Officers
page 3

Capital Insider
page 4

New Presidents
page 5

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT: RIO GRANDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Eric McKinney
Director of Marketing and Communications



Forty years ago the economic landscape of southeastern Ohio changed forever when on Sept. 13, 1974 Rio Grande Community College opened its doors in a unique partnership with the University of Rio Grande.

Plenty has changed in 40 years, but Rio Grande remains an oasis of learning, innovation and technology offering more than 70 academic programs and a robust campus life to students from 18 states and 11 countries.

The fall semester kicked off Monday, Aug. 25 with 2,225 enrolled and an 11 percent increase in residential students.

“I definitely like it. It feels like home; A small community where everyone knows each other and helps out,” said Tommy Staten, a freshman accounting major from Mount Sterling, Ohio. “I don’t know what to expect. I’m just going to roll with things and have the time of my life.”

Since the community college opened, Rio Grande has awarded 12,756 degrees with 5,265 of them Associate’s Degrees. An additional 266 certificates also have been awarded.

Aside from the 40th anniversary of the community college, the fall semester also marks the reopening of Robert S. Wood Hall following a \$3.5 million state capital renovation, return to competition in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (KIAC) for the RedStorm’s 11 scholarship sports and the launch of block scheduling.

Rio Grande’s commitment to maintaining an optimal educational environment for its students is evident in the shift to block scheduling. All face-to-face and hybrid classes are now offered on Monday-Wednesday or Tuesday-Thursday groupings to offer greater flexibility for all students – including commuter and post-traditional – as well as more consistent class meeting times. Laboratory and studio classes may continue to be offered Monday through Friday, with courses containing clinical components not required to follow the block scheduling.

Block scheduling also allows for an additional 5 minutes added onto each class, which ultimately shortens the total duration of the semester to 14 weeks of instruction and one week of exams. It also allows for more evening offerings with courses starting as late as 9:50 p.m., and lighter course loads on Fridays allows students convenient times for interaction with faculty, advising and student activities.

“There are a lot of exciting changes happening at Rio Grande and this promises to be a memorable year,” said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Richard Sax, Ph.D. “With an increased number of students living on campus and so many co-curricular and extracurricular activities, campus life will be both fun and educational.”

The biggest change this fall is the reopening of Wood Hall, a 37-957-square-foot facility that has largely served as the epicenter of education on campus since it opened in 1988. The nine-month project included a new student lounge, computer lab, conference rooms, psychology and social work observation studios, a faculty



lounge and study, new furniture, new roofing, a new heating and cooling system, a new family restroom and a host of other bells and whistles.

“It looks a lot better; hands down,” Rio Grande senior Cassandra Mosher said. “It’s something we can take pride and ownership in.

“It has a more inviting feel; a little warmer. I like the lounge with the laptop bar, because I’m one of those students who carts my laptop around campus.”

Mosher was one of several student ambassadors who provided guided tours to guests following a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, Aug. 15 that included local, regional and state dignitaries. The festivities included a proclamation from Governor John Kasich and guest speaker Barbara Gellman-Danley, Ph.D., president of the Higher Learning Commission and former president of Rio Grande.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was followed by student-guided tours and a catered reception that included the Rio Grande Jazz Ensemble and a showcase of student artwork.

“It was really important to us at the end of this project that we have some wow factor,” said Rebecca Long, Vice President of Administration for RGCC. “I think that we were very successful in doing so. There is state-of-the-art technology throughout the building.

“Rio Grande Community College gives students from some of the most impoverished counties in the state an opportunity to gain an education,” Long continued. “We change people’s lives and I think it’s important we remember that. So ... we’re celebrating Wood Hall and what we mean to our entire community.”

For more information about the University of Rio Grande visit rio.edu or call 800-282-7201.

JONES NEW VICE CHAIR ELECT; ERICKSON NEW TREASURER; HARRISON LEGISLATIVE CHR

The Ohio Association of Community College's next Vice Chair Elect will be Dr. Para Jones, the President of Stark State College in North Canton.

Dr. Jones' selection to replace Dr. Cris Valdez, the former president of Edison Community College who has left the state for another presidency, as ratified by the Governing Board, means that she will take over leadership of the OACC Presidents Committee effective at the conclusion of current OACC Vice Chair Dr. Kevin Boys' two-year term. Dr. Boys is the President of Southern State Community College in Hillsboro.



Jones

Erickson

Harrison

Vitaz

Dr. Jones, who became president of Stark State in January of 2012, is the fourth President in the College's more than half-century of existence. Dr. Jones had previously been the President of Spartanburg Community College in South Carolina.

Also, replacing Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley, the former President of Rio Grande Community College and the University of Rio Grande, as Treasurer of the OACC will be Dr. Ron Erickson, President of Hocking College. Dr. Gellman-Danley is the new President of the Higher Learning Commission in Chicago.

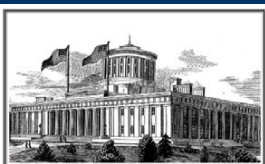
Columbus State Community College President David T. Harrison replaces Dr. Gellman-Danley as the new Chair of the OACC Legislation Committee, which ensures association member engagement and support of the OACC's strategic policy direction.

In addition, Lakeland Trustee Beverly Vitaz is the new Chair of the Trustee Engagement & Leadership Committee while Lynn Sprague, Trustee of Zane State College is the Vice Chair.

The OACC looks forward to working with all of our leaders and, indeed, all of our members on impacting the important issues facing community colleges in the great state of Ohio.

The OACC Officer Slate through the end of this fiscal year now reads as follows:

- **Diana H. "Dee" Talmage, Trustee**, Owens Community College, Chair of the OACC.
- **Dr. Kevin Boys**, President, Southern State Community College; Vice Chair of the OACC; Chair of the OACC Presidents Committee
- **Mark D. Walton**, Trustee, Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, OACC Chair Elect
- **Dr. Para Jones**, President, Stark State College, Vice Chair Elect
- **Elizabeth Gates**, Trustee, Belmont College, Secretary, Executive Committee
- **Dr. Ron Erickson**, President, Hocking College, Treasurer of the OACC
- **Matthew P. Smith**, Trustee, North Central State College, At-Large Trustee of the OACC
- **Dr. Paul Brown**, President, Zane State College, At Large President of the OACC



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.

State Senator Randy Gardner offers his insights in this issue's "Capital Insider" column.

As a former teacher and longtime advocate for higher education, I have believed for years that State of Ohio would be better if our state's primary and secondary and higher education systems collaborated more directly. This is why I was one of the Legislature's earliest supporters of establishing dual enrollment programs.

With the recently passed College Credit Plus program, high-school students in the Buckeye State can now go as far and fast as they want to gain college credit before they leave high school.

The program that the Ohio General Assembly approved this past summer that brings more uniformity and standards to dual enrollment, and should allow many more high school students to gain college credit while still in high school.

This program should bring dual enrollment programs to scale statewide and will do more to cut down on college costs and to shorten the time to a certificate or degree than anything else that state government has done.

The development of this program was done in collaboration with Ohio's universities and community colleges and your partners

in the primary and secondary schools. This collaboration truly brings the best thinking in both arenas to bear to make a good program even better by allowing for consistency among programs as well as innovation and flexibility.

The enhancements made to dual credit programming as a result of College Credit Plus should help increase participation in dual credit programming beyond the current 5 percent of high school students. Certainly that is a number that state leaders expect to see rise once the program is fully implemented.

College Credit Plus, which goes into effect with the 2015-2016 academic year, provides a funding mechanism based on a school district's state support for its funding thereby ensuring that the program is sustainable. The model should ensure financial viability and also that institutions of higher education are incentivized to participate.

Improvements that we were able to make during legislative deliberations make sure that colleges can recover a percentage of direct expenses of delivering the program including professional and program development for high school teachers and college faculty, mentoring and curriculum adjustments to ensure that high school requirements are also met.

The program now requires public high schools and public colleges and universities to participate, while also allowing private high schools, private colleges and universities and home-schooled students to participate.

Also, students who take part in a College Credit Plus program must meet admission and college-readiness standards set by the participating college or university.

Enhancements to dual-credit programming are just one of the good things that are occurring in higher education, look for more work in the area of workforce-development and job creation as we strive to continue to work to make Ohio the best state in the nation to live, work and raise a family.

In the Ohio Senate, we are laser focused on improving the state's economy and improving the livelihoods of all the state's residents. Our success depends on a skilled workforce and that starts with a quality education. Ohio has some of the finest institutions of higher education in the world yet only about 36 percent of adults in Ohio have a post-secondary credential. In order to grow the economy of Ohio, we must grow that number.

I look forward to that journey.

I'm very interested in your feedback. You can reach me at (614) 466-8060.

Senator Gardner represents Ohio's 2nd Senate District, which encompasses Wood and Erie counties and portions of Fulton and Lucas counties. He currently serves as the chairman of the Senate Education Finance Committee and as a member of the Senate Education and Senate Finance committees. Learn more at <http://www.ohiosenate.gov/gardner>.

NEW PRESIDENTS AT BELMONT & RIO; NEW PRESIDENTS EXPECTED AT THREE COLLEGES



New Presidents have been named at Belmont and Rio Grande community colleges.

Dr. Paul Gasparro is the new President of Belmont College after being selected by the college's Board of Trustees. He began his new duties in August. Dr. Gasparro most recently served at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, as a District Vice President. He also served as the Eastern Campus President/College Vice President and as District Vice President for Special Initiatives.

Dr. Paul Gasparro Dr. Michelle R. Johnston “We are pleased to welcome Dr. Paul Gasparro to Belmont College,” Mrs. Elizabeth Gates, Board of Trustees Chair, said in a statement. “We believe through his leadership that Belmont College will continue to advance the educational opportunities for all the students that we serve. We look forward to welcoming him and his family to this region in Ohio.”

Dr. Gasparro, who replaced the retired Joe Bukowski at Belmont, began his higher education career by serving as managing director of computer science, programming and networking in 1994 at Tyler Junior College. He held this position for eight years and gained his first insights into the community college segment of higher education. Since then, his career has included numerous leadership experiences in student and academic affairs across a variety of institutional settings and in the U.S. Air Force.

At Rio Grande Community College, Dr. Michelle R. Johnston is the new President of that institution and of the University of Rio Grande, effective Sept. 29. Dr. Johnston takes over for Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley, who became the President of the Chicago-based Higher Learning Commission.

Johnston most recently served as Senior Vice President for Administrative Affairs at the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Ala.

“The presidential search was a collaborative process from start to finish, and that unified effort produced an outstanding leader who will guide Rio Grande to new heights,” Jack Finch, Chair of the URG Board of Trustees and Co-Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, new Presidents are expected at three community colleges around Ohio in the next year.

A new president is expected at Edison Community College in western Ohio with the departure of former President Dr. Cristobal Valdez, who took the presidency at Central Wyoming College.

Dr. Karen Rafinski, formerly the Interim President of the Ohio Association of Community College and retired President from Clark State Community College in Springfield is the Interim President at Edison until a successor is hired.

a new President will be named at Eastern Gateway Community College as Dr. Laura Meeks just in August announced her retirement effective July 31, 2015, after 16 years of service to the college. The Board of Trustees at that institution will be conducting a search.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

September

1 Labor Day,
OACC Offices closed

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

11 Chief Academic Officers Meeting, 10 a.m., OACC Offices, Columbus

12 Chief Fiscal Officers Meeting, 10 a.m., Columbus State Community College

October

9 Chief Academic Officers Meeting, 10 a.m., OACC Offices, Columbus

10 Chief Fiscal Officers Meeting, 10 a.m., OACC Offices, Columbus.

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

22-25 ACCT National Leadership Congress, Chicago

22 OACC Reception (ACCT), 6:45 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago

November

13 Chief Academic Officers Meeting, 10 a.m., OACC Offices, Columbus

14 Chief Fiscal Officers meeting, 10 a.m., Columbus State Community College

17-18 University System of Ohio Trustees Conference, Columbus State Community College

18 Presidents Meeting, 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. Para Jones
Vice Chair Elect
President, Stark State College

Liz Gates
Secretary
Trustee, Belmont College

Dr. Ron Erickson
Treasurer
President, Hocking College

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

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

OACC STAFF

Jack Hershey
President
jhershey@ohioacc.org

Jeff Ortega
Director of Public Affairs
jortega@ohioacc.org

Brittany Hlavin
Administrative Assistant
bhlavin@ohioacc.org

Mike Snider
Project Leader
msnider@ohioacc.org

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

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

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