

# Southern State Community College

April 2011 President's Report to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Kevin Boys, President

## Professor Emeritus

I am honored to bring forward and affirm the Faculty Senate's recommendation to posthumously bestow the rank of Professor Emeritus upon Professor Bill Horne. Prior to taking action on this recommendation is an amendment to the previously Board-adopted language used to define the rank.

The proposed revised definition: **^ d Z Z } v } Œ } ( & μ o š Ç u Œ ] š p faculty member Œ v š š**  
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## OACC Spring Conference

The 2011 OACC Annual Spring Conference is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, and Friday, May 27, and will take place at the Embassy Suites (2886 Airport Drive in Columbus). The OACC will be inviting Governor John Kasich and Senator Rob Portman to participate in the conference. You may view the agenda on the OACC web site at [www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org/](http://www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org/) (go to the **Upcoming Events** section). If you are available and would like to attend, please let Stevetta know and she will make the arrangements.

## Board Policy Manual

For your reference, a bound copy of the Board Policy Manual



## Program Development

Southern State Community College has been approached by several businesses in recent months to assist them with preparing a qualified workforce. The academic division is currently developing programs in Food Technology and Processing and Industrial Electronics. These programs are being designed rapidly by faculty members with the expectation students can begin taking courses in both programs by fall quarter 2011.

## Higher Learning Commission Approval

Southern State Community College has received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer programs at the Scioto County Career Technical Center. The Scioto County Career Technical Center has a large adult workforce program which provides certification programs in various programs. Southern

week-long program. Although some increased capacity is gained by changing to eight-hour days and four weeks, the primary reason is the people. Students and instructors both tire after 10 hours. With the reduction to staff and “bunching” starts every three weeks, instructors are often needed at sites distant from their home. For example, due to heavy enrollment at Wilmington recently, two Piketon area instructors were needed to work at Wilmington. Adding the travel time, this made for 14-hour days. That is much too long, especially week after week. Additionally, it is anticipated student success will be better among the marginal students if the training is spread out over a little longer period of time.

### Workforce Development

The monthly Resource Board meeting of the Highland County Enterprise Initiative (HCEI) was conducted March 16. The Resource Board works closely with Enterprise Facilitator Sid Raisch to provide free, confidential assistance to new and existing entrepreneurs. There are currently 41 clients on Sid’s March report, compared to 36 the month before.

Faye Williamson, Assistant Director of Fayette County Job and Family Services, monitored the fiscal portion of its contracts with us to operate the One-Stop at the Fayette Campus. Ms. Williamson’s financial review summary indicated the computations, payments, and coding were correct and accurate, “accurate, based on assigned codes and allocation process,” and timely. She also noted the 259 new customers was an increase over the previous year, and that the duplicated count served was 3,407. She closed her letter by saying, “It is my hope that WIA and TANF funding will continue to allow us to contract for these services listed above. Our agency appreciates the partnership that we have with Southern State Community College.”

### Continuing Education & Departmental Notes

Connect Ohio classes were completed by 25 participants in Adams, Fayette, and Highland counties. There is sufficient enrollment already to offer classes in all three

## Networking

Coordinator Brewer participated in the following networking events:

- March 8 – Ohio Appalachian Country Western Regional meeting, Winchester
- March 23, 24 – Ohio Continuing Higher Education Association Annual Conference, Columbus

## Presentations

Coordinator Brewer presented at the following:

- March 21 – Adams-Brown Micro-Enterprise Program, Georgetown

# Communications/Planning/Assessment

## Communications

### Marketing

#### Grad Tab Ads

Coming soon, many of our local newspapers will print a special section featuring the graduating seniors of our area high schools. Southern State has strategically secured prominent positioning in these sections throughout the region including full-page color ads in most publications. This year's advertisement addresses the affordability of SSCC in comparison to four-year institutions. The text is written in a spunky, yet informative tone and incorporates relevant information about financial aid within an affordability context. A copy of the ad will be available at the meeting.

#### Digital Signs

The Communications Team is pleased to unveil new digital signage across the institution. A technology that has been around for years yet sparsely adopted in some areas of our region, digital signage offers a cutting-edge approach to messaging on campus. This new communication medium enables the college to customize messages based on location while also sharing institution-wide information about events and activities impacting students and campus guests. The initial phase of the system includes two digital signs per campus and one sign in the Patriot Center. Installation is complete at all campus locations.

### Web

#### New Site Launch

Behind the scenes, the entire Communications Team, with leadership from Webmaster Katy Markey, has developed a new, fresh web presence for SSCC which is ready for a soft launch (internal audiences only). Grounded in extensive research, the [new site](#) reflects a cutting-edge approach to web development. The soft launch period, which is expected to last for several weeks, will provide the opportunity to resolve any glitches and enhance user familiarity prior to a public launch scheduled for later this spring.

#### Public Relations

For complete information regarding special events, news releases, and special interest stories around campus, visit the online newsletter "[This Week at SSCC.](#)" Specific highlights include the following:

- Cabin Fever Arts Festival, March 19
- The Final Farewell (2011 Graduation Speaker Nominations), open through April 8
- Ohio Watercolor Society Exhibition at South, April 4-27

## Assessment

### Institutional Assessment

preparation of department/function-specific processes. Regina's office is located in the director's office area at the North Campus. Regina's first day at Southern State was April 4.

### Alternative Retirement Plan and 403(b) Plan

The Ohio Attorney General's office has contracted with outside legal counsel to provide compliance, advice and assistance to Ohio higher education institutions regarding the Alternative Retirement Plan (ARP) and the 403(b) Plan.

As such, the Administration seeks the Board of Trustees' authorization to amend both the Southern State Community College Chapter 3305 Alternative Retirement Plan (the "ARP") document and the Southern State Community College 403(b) Plan (the "403(b) Plan") document in order to bring the Plan into compliance with the Pension Protection Act ("PPA"); the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act ("HEART"); and the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act ("WRERA").

These amendments are technical in nature and resulted in minor changes to the ARP and 403(b) Plan documents. These amendments are required by the IRS to be included in the ARP and 403(b) Plan documents to comply with PPA, HEART and WRERA. The Plan options on vesting, eligibility, loans, and distributions remain unchanged.

### Leadership Training Series

One of our strategic vision goals included the desire to be the **best place to work**. A bold step toward this is to enhance the work

# Student Affairs/Enrollment Management

## Financial Aid

### Dispersals

The Financial Aid Office has been busy getting ready to disburse financial aid for the spring quarter. With the addition of a second Scheduled Pell Grant in a single award year, spring will be the first quarter that this new regulation will come into play, causing an all-manual evaluation of each student who is Pell eligible for the current academic year.

### Regulations

There are several new Federal Program Integrity regulations that were passed Oct. 29, 2010, that are effective July 1, 2011. Therefore, policies and implementation procedures are being written for many different areas. Financial Aid is making sure students receive notice of the changes, and that the changes are placed in publications and on the SSCC web site in a timely manner.

### Change in Satisfactory Academic Progress Definition:

One of the requirements for eligible students to maintain while receiving federal financial aid is Satisfactory Academic Progress. The institution must measure the qualitative or cumulative grade point average and pace or the percentage of completion. Both of these items must be monitored by the institution each quarter. The current federal guidelines required is that a student have at least a 2.0 GPA during their sophomore year and complete at least 67 percent of their attempted courses each quarter.

Our current requirement has exceeded the federal requirements and allowed for a progressive grade point average beginning in the student's freshman year. We have required a 1.5 GPA for freshman and a 2.0 GPA for sophomores. In looking at the data and experiences of our students, we have found students to have great difficulty bringing a grade point average from a 1.5 to a 2.0 in such a short amount of time. Therefore, changing the minimum GPA for freshman to a 1.75 GPA will prompt intervention and require more from the students so that they can remain successful and have a better chance of meeting the sophomore requirement on time.

Secondly, even though the federal regulations only required a completion of 67 percent, we wrote our requirement years ago to be a completion rate of 75 percent. This was determined during the time that most of the courses were equal to three credit hours. If a student dropped or withdrew from one class, he or she would still meet the 75-percent requirement. Over the years many of our courses have changed to a four-credit-hour status and therefore, if a student drops or withdraws from one course, he or she is likely unable to meet the 75-



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Financial Aid has received close to 2,000 financial aid applications for the coming 2011-12 academic year. Processing student eligibility cannot take place until Congress passes the federal budget, currently slated for April 8.

### Scholarships

The application deadline for the 2011-12 Trustee and Foundation Scholarship applications was March 15. Financial Aid is busily reviewing all scholarship applications to make selections. This process will be done in time to notify high schools of their recipients for graduation and awards banquets.

### Trainings

Financial Aid staff has attended multiple federal training sessions over the last month to help with the implementation of all new regulations, making the office effective in the implementation of new rules.

### Disability Services

#### Accommodations

Currently, the Office of Disabilities Services is providing accommodations for 33 students for spring quarter. In addition, eight student files are in process due to lack of necessary documentation.

#### Office Hours for Spring Quarter:

Monday 1-

## Tutoring

### Numbers

As of March 15, 2011:

- 194 Southern State students had requested a tutor for winter quarter
- 368 lab sessions were conducted
- 184 one-on-one sessions were conducted
- 32 tutors served students

### Open Labs

Open labs and a directory for all other available tutors at all campuses have been finalized for the spring quarter and will be continually updated to meet student needs.

### Online Tutoring Platform

The Tutoring Center continues to work with the IT department on building an online tutoring platform via **Wimba Classroom**

### Advertisement to Students

During the first week of spring quarter, the Tutoring Center promoted the free tutoring services by setting up a display in the lobby of each campus. To impress students that tutoring is not about failure but success, each display board featured a poster of the Academy-Award winning movie, **Speechless** with a reminder that students were able to learn about tutoring services and sign up for a tutor at the table.

### SSCC Web Tutorials

The Tutoring Center conducted **SSCC Web Tutorials** during the first week of spring quarter. The objective of the tutorials was to provide personal, one-on-

## Workshops

Workshops entitled "Stand Out from the Herd"

## Patriot Center

- The Patriot Center is in the process of establishing a fitness room. It will contain one elliptical, one treadmill, two fitness bicycles and one weight bench. It will be opening to the campus soon.
- A trophy case is now on display in the lobby.
- Open gym hours are:  
Monday