

## Recent High School Graduates Concerned About Fall Semester? Do *Year 1 at Home*

*By Kevin Boys, President – Southern State Community College*

The only thing to come on us as suddenly as the pandemic was something equally unexpected—the recession. With unemployment topping 16 percent in Ohio, the pandemic's impact on our state'

If that is the case—or even a possibility—how can the high cost of that tuition be justified? I'd be hard pressed to answer that. After all, first-year general education courses are essentially the same at every two- and four-year institution in Ohio. Southern State is joining our state's other 22 community colleges to promote the idea that you consider Year 1 at Home.

It's an effort to remind incoming first-year students that the best option for getting their first year's general education courses under their belts at a low cost, in a safe setting, free of fears of what may or may not happen, is to enroll in their local community college for online instruction in the fall. Yes, we too, are planning to offer some classes on our campus, but even many of those classes will be offered in a hybrid fashion, with less time being spent on campus and some time via remote tools. As a result of the CARES Act, we even have limited funds available to assist students with some technology, hotspots, or WIFI access.

Ohio's community colleges are built for the ease, convenience and support of students. We know how to work around students' needs and the biggest need they have right now is certainty, and that's something we can supply.

Credits can be easily transferred later to four-year institutions once the public health situation has stabilized and, and we all agree, the sooner the better.

In addition to the certainty, convenience and low cost of *Year 1 at Home* at Southern State Community

**James Bland, Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management | Title IX Lead Coordinator**  
100 Hobart Drive, Hillsboro, OH 45133 | [jbland@sscc.edu](mailto:jbland@sscc.edu) | 800.628.7722, Ext. 2510

**Mindy Markey-Grabill, Director of Human Resources | Title IX Coordinator**  
100 Hobart Drive, Hillsboro, OH 45133 | [mmarkey@sscc.edu](mailto:mmarkey@sscc.edu) | 800.628.7722, Ext. 2550