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SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESS RELEASE

Earn Your Associate Degree in Education through Southern State's Online Pathway

Southern State Community College now offers a two-year associate degree in education and ALL classes can be taken online. Students enrolling in the program can attend classes from the comfort and convenience of their own homes, all while saving precious dollars on college tuition costs.

Every year, many people earn their teaching degrees and are poised to make a difference in the minds of future generations. According to the National Center for Education Information (NCEI), the number of teachers employed is expected to grow to nearly 4 million. You also may be surprised to learn that salaries are competitive. Generous benefits and extensive vacation time also make getting a teaching degree even better.

Leading Southern State's education program is full-time faculty member, Nicole Sheppard.

Sheppard attended the University of Cincinnati and earned an Associate of Science degree as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in education. Following graduation, she attended Northern Kentucky University and earned a Master of Arts in education. Sheppard was a preschool teacher for 16 years before moving into higher education. She is dually certified as a regular education teacher and a special education teacher.

"I believe in high-quality, affordable, and accessible education for all," says Sheppard. "Southern State exemplifies all of these qualities. The staff at Southern State are welcoming and accepting. They go above and beyond to meet the needs of students. It's like a home away from home," she said.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for high-quality teachers is expected to grow by 18 percent.

Southern State offers several programs for students who may be interested in pursuing a career in education. All three programs can be completed online while still receiving direct support from education faculty.

- Paraprofessional Education – Associate Degree Pathway: Southern State is one of the only schools in Ohio that offer a Paraprofessional Education – Associate Degree Pathway. Paraprofessionals work in school districts and play a critical role in