Qualified Students Admitted to Nursing Program Every Semester

Registered nurses (RNs) make up the fifth largest occupation in the U.S. and nursing is by far the largest occupation in healthcare, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Health care services are expected to be in demand and employment of registered nurses is projected to grow faster than average from 2010 to 2020. Graduates of nursing programs are needed to fulfill these positions and to replace a large wave of nurses nearing retirement.

“Nothing has changed regarding nursing education. It’s still true that nurses can get great, high-paying jobs with the associate degree credential,” said Dr. Mark Knutsen, Chief Academic Officer for Central Ohio Technical College. Adding, “Nearly half of all the Registered Nurses in the U.S. are associate degree graduates and nursing remains a nearly recession-proof career choice. The Nursing Program at COTC provides the necessary education and skills for entry into the nursing profession. While many colleges have wait lists, COTC admits qualified students to its nursing programs each semester.”

In Ohio, both RNs and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) lead the health care industry in total annual job openings. The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services predicts employment of RNs and LPNs to grow 20 percent and 17 percent, respectively, between 2010 and 2020. In fact, Ohio is the fifth largest employer of LPNs in the U.S. with LPNs accounting for 26% of all nurses in the state.

An education in nursing provides extensive opportunities for employment. Graduates not only join the workforce and become productive upon graduation, but many continue their education to earn advanced degrees. There are three education paths to become a RN, but associate degree nursing (ADN) is chosen by nearly half of RNs. LPNs must complete a one-year certificate program. In both occupations, licensure is achieved by passing a national licensing exam.

COTC offers nursing opportunities in: Associate Degree Nursing (RN) - COTC graduates earn an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Nursing Technology with this traditional five semester plan of study; LPN to RN Transition - COTC offers a four semester transition option for Licensed Practical Nurses; and Practical Nursing (LPN) and State Test Nursing Aide (STNA) Certificate programs.

The Nursing Program at Central Ohio Technical College is Accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing.
Strategic planning is as much of an art as it is a science - developing a plan that is solid in its foundation and structure yet fluid enough to allow an institution to creatively act or react as needed. COTC’s five year strategic plan (2008-2013) will conclude in December and for the past five years has effectively guided the institution through, among other things, new program development, facility expansion, and most recently the state-wide enrollment decline of last fall. Diligent adherence to this plan resulted in a balanced budget for fiscal year 2013 and has perfectly positioned the college for growth and expansion.

I am pleased to report that enrollment is rebounding at all of the COTC campuses and conversations are taking place regarding program expansion at the extended campuses. The college continues to be embedded in the communities it serves and is working to respond to local workforce needs. This year, COTC introduced its revitalized Engineering Technology department and in the fall of 2014 will launch a Heavy Equipment Operator One-Year Certificate program in response to market demands. From a facility perspective, plans are under way for the next building on the Newark campus that will address growing lab and classroom needs.

As we wrap up the current strategic plan, much of the focus throughout 2013 has been the creation of the next plan scheduled to launch in January. Constituencies across the campus and in the communities have been involved in the planning process that will ultimately result in a document that will guide the next five years of the college, recommitting the institution to its technical education mission and to meeting the current and emerging needs of the workforce.

Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.
President

Facility to Provide Critical Academic Expansion

Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University at Newark are requesting state funding to construct a 61,000 square-foot science and technology facility on the campus the two institutions share. The proposed building would allow the campus to better meet Ohio’s workforce needs by expanding academic programming in the fields of science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine (STEMM). The unique partnership and cost-effective nature of the shared campus makes this project a perfect fit for both COTC and Ohio State Newark.

The building’s primary purpose is to provide critical space for biological and physical sciences and other academic support. This facility would allow renovation of existing space for the expansion of academic programs relative to workforce needs in engineering and health sciences. The planning and design phase was approved by the COTC board of trustees and during The Ohio State University capital project approval process.

“With internationally-known architects and nationally-known construction firms, the quality of this proposed facility’s development is going to be phenomenal,” said Brian Boehmer, superintendent, facilities.

There is a strong focus throughout Ohio and the U.S. on education and jobs related to science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine, or STEMM fields. More than 26 million jobs in the U.S. require a high level of knowledge in any one STEMM field. Demand continues to increase for workers in these areas, including those prepared at both associate’s degree and bachelor’s degree levels.
New Engineering Technology Programs Offered at COTC

Central Ohio Technical College re-launched the engineering technology department with a diverse array of engineering technology degrees and certificate programs.

“If I were asked to describe the COTC engineering technologies in one word, it would be revitalized,” said Dean Vicki Deketelaere, Ph.D. “The new programs are cutting-edge, directly connected to the job market and will prepare students with the skills most in demand by employers.”

“The new engineering technology program readies students to participate in a wide variety of industries after graduation,” added Assistant Professor and Program Director Amir Nassirharand, Ph.D. “This is so because the breadth of the program is expanded while having a depth in each particular discipline.”

COTC offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Engineering Technology with majors in architectural, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering. An Engineering Technology-Computer Aided Drafting-Architectural certificate and an Engineering Technology-Computer Aided Drafting-Civil certificate are also available.

For more information and registration, call the COTC Gateway Office at 740-366-9222 or visit http://www.cotc.edu/programs-of-study/engineering/.

Nursing Scholarship Awarded to Local Student

Anne S. Brown has been awarded the Alice L. Clift Nursing Scholarship. Brown is pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing Technology at the Coshocton campus of Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) and received $1,000 for the 2013-14 academic year.

“I thank you [scholarship committee] for realizing that while the first year of nursing school takes courage, the second year takes fortitude,” Brown said of her journey.

A former horse breeder and trainer, Brown said she had to reinvent herself and chose nursing to acquire both the knowledge and paycheck to support her family. Brown completed COTC’s Practical Nursing Certificate program in 2012, and she is currently enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) to Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Transition program.

The Alice L. Clift Scholarship is awarded annually by the Coshocton Foundation to a Coshocton County resident enrolled in the LPN to ADN program at the COTC Coshocton campus. Clift was a longtime Registered Nurse in the Coshocton community. She began the scholarship fund in 1991 with a gift of $25,000 to help others obtain a degree in nursing. The Practical Nursing Certificate and LPN to ADN Transition program can be completed at COTC’s Coshocton campus.

Health Sciences Graduates Recognized at Pinning Ceremonies

Central Ohio Technical College held two recognition ceremonies to honor Surgical Technology and Nursing Technology program graduates. The graduates were recognized for their achievements and received COTC pins.

The pinning ceremony is a long-held tradition marking the passage of student to the ranks of professional nursing. The ceremony originated in the 1860s at London’s Nightingale School of Nursing. Florence Nightingale, who had recently been awarded the Red Cross of St. George for her selfless service to the injured and dying in the Crimean War, chose to extend this honor to outstanding nursing graduates by presenting each of them with a medal for excellence.

Jeff Mutter
Retired Fire Chief to Lead Fire Science Technology Program

The Institute of Public Safety at Central Ohio Technical College has added retired Fire Chief Gary Johnson to its full-time faculty. Johnson will lead the Fire Science Technology program.

“I chose to teach at COTC not only because of the technical education and training focus but, just as important, the passion that I have witnessed in the faculty and staff towards program quality and excellence in services we deliver to our students,” said Johnson.

The COTC Fire Science Technology Program awards an Associate of Applied Science Degree to both new firefighters and seasoned professionals. The Fire Science Technology Program follows the U.S. Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) recommended curriculum. Additionally, COTC has joined forces with the Ohio Fire Training Academy.
Service Awards

Staff and Faculty Recognized for Years of Service, Contributions

Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University at Newark recently honored campus employees with Years of Service Awards. COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., and Ohio State Newark Dean and Director William L. MacDonald, Ph.D. thanked the award recipients for their continued dedication to higher education at a campus luncheon held in the John Gilbert Reese Center.

Those honored for years of service:

45 YEARS OF SERVICE
Sandra Sturman

35 YEARS OF SERVICE
Cathie Clippinger
Howard Marcum, Ph.D.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE
Murray Brunton
Marie Dacus
Marilyn Lees
Elaine Stevens

20 YEARS OF SERVICE
Mary Bendixen-Noe, Ph.D.
Jose Cabral, Ph.D.
Bill Kinkade
Don Marchlenski, Ph.D.
Matthew Stenzel, Ph.D.

15 YEARS OF SERVICE
Lin Ba
Rachael Bailey
Brian Boehmer

10 YEARS OF SERVICE
Bonnie Buchanan
Charles Courson
John Crissinger
Tim Deaver
Terrence Gill
Michael Mangus, Ph.D.
Edie Norlin
Jennifer Seas
Christopher Taylor
Dionisio Viscarri, Ph.D.
Dave Williams, Ph.D.

5 YEARS OF SERVICE
Tressa Arnold
Ferdinand Avila-Medina
Dennis Beach
Lynne Benninghoff
Lu Bline
Anne Burkhart, Ph.D.
Sheila Carpenter
Peter Celello, Ph.D.
Lori Crocker
Michael Drobnack
Holly Hagans
Howard Imhof
Karen Ingersol
Sudha Kolathu-Parambil
Kenneth Madsen, Ph.D.
Erin McGuire
Kathleen McNally
Elizabeth Phelps
Randi Redman
Jane Reed
Charlene Ross
Janet Sorrels, Ph.D.
Asuman Turkmen, Ph.D.
Bret Whitaker
Jeri Whiteaker

Special Awards Were Presented to:

Julius & Joette Greenstein Award

Rhonda Carter, Office Production Assistant-Services Center, received the Julius & Joette Greenstein Award. This prestigious award is given annually to a regular staff member, administrator or faculty member of The Ohio State University at Newark and/or Central Ohio Technical College whose efforts, attitude, deeds and behavior made a major contribution toward the perpetuation of a genuine spirit of mutual respect and cooperation between Central Ohio Technical College and Ohio State Newark. The award is named for long-time campus chief administrator, Julius S. Greenstein, Ph.D. and his wife, Joette.

Diversity Award

Elizabeth Weiss, Psychology Faculty, and Tara Martin, Social & Behavioral Sciences Faculty were recognized with the President’s & Dean/Director’s Diversity Award.

This annual award was established to recognize significant contributions to the enhancement, support, and/or furtherance of diversity at Ohio State Newark, COTC, and in the community. This award recognizes outstanding achievements which advance campus awareness and sensitivity to differences among people.
Campus News

COTC Named to Military Friendly Schools List

Central Ohio Technical College and The Ohio State University have been named to the 2014 Military Friendly Schools® list. The Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

“Inclusion on the 2014 list of Military Friendly Schools® shows Central Ohio Technical College and Ohio State’s commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students,” said Sean Collins, Vice President at Victory Media and a nine-year Navy veteran. “The need for education is growing and our mission is to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools.”

The Military Friendly Schools® media and website, found at militaryfriendlyschools.com, feature the list, interactive tools and search functionality to help military students find the best school to suit their unique needs and preferences. The 1,868 colleges, universities and trade schools on this year’s list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience. These schools have world-class programs and policies for student support on campus, academic accreditation, credit policies, flexibility and other services for those who served.

Digital Media Design and Early Childhood Education Programs Move into New Home

Central Ohio Technical College held an open house to celebrate the opening of the newly renovated North Classroom Building. This event welcomed faculty and students of the Digital Media Design Technology and Early Childhood Education Technology programs to their new classrooms.

“After spending years at an off-campus location, I am delighted to welcome back the Digital Media Design program to the Newark campus. With renovations of the North Classroom Building including new digital media labs, this program will now share the building with our Early Childhood Education program that also has a new classroom and Educational Media Resource lab,” said Dean of Arts and Sciences Cindy Carbone.

Carbone added, “The renovation project supports the high-tech training needs of our Digital Media Design students and the innovative education strides made in our nationally accredited Early Childhood Education program. Faculty in both programs will be recognized for their efforts in making this a smooth transition.”

The Digital Media Design Technology curriculum at COTC is a broad-based and intensive exploration of the process and the business of digital design. The web design option offers students the opportunity to explore many different areas of web design, from navigation to e-commerce. The digital graphics option offers students the opportunity to explore many different areas of digital design, from print to Web to 3-D to video.

Students in the Early Childhood Education Technology program experience the joy of being an early childhood teacher who guides young children in discovery and learning. This program focuses on the development of a professional educator through knowledge of inquiry-based teaching practices and skill development to be used in preschool classrooms.
William T. McConnell Honored at 
Tree Dedication

Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) and The 
Ohio State University at Newark honored William 
T. McConnell during a ceremony on Friday, May 10, 
2013 at Founders Hall at the Newark campus. A tree 
was dedicated to recognize McConnell’s service and 
leadership. McConnell served as Chair for the Next 
Generation Challenge scholarship campaign that raised 
nearly $21 million to ensure scholarship dollars for 
students in perpetuity.

“We dedicate this newly planted tree to serve as 
constant remembrance of you and all you have done 
for Central Ohio Technical College, the students of 
today and for those countless students who have yet 
to cross through our doors,” said COTC President 
Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D.

“Bill, you were 100 percent what we needed, and you 
delivered on your promise in ways that exceeded our 
expectations,” added Ohio State Newark Dean/Director 
William L. MacDonald, Ph.D.

The first Next Generation Challenge scholarship awards 
were allocated during autumn semester 2012 to 30 COTC 
and Ohio State Newark students. For its 
second year, nearly $800,000 is available for 
student scholarships. This represents about a 
quarter million growth in scholarship dollars 
in just one year.

Integral to the success of this scholarship 
campaign is the $10 million matching gift 
challenge from J. Gilbert and Louella H. Reese. 
This challenge inspired the community to give 
over $10 million. In total, nearly $21 million dollars raised 
in this historic campaign will provide financial assistance to 
students for years to come.

Inaugural Alumni Celebration Brings 
Friends Back to Campus

Central Ohio Technical College Alumni Council 
and The Ohio State University at Newark Alumni 
Office hosted the inaugural Independence Day 
Alumni Celebration prior to the fireworks display and 
concert on the Newark Campus. The celebration attracted alumni from both institutions back to the 
Newark Campus through a fun, family-friendly event.

The Alumni Celebration featured prime reserved seating 
for the fireworks, a picnic-style dinner, outdoor games 
for children and adults, and 
opportunities for alumni to chat with Dr. Coe and 
Dr. MacDonald as well as other guests. During the 
evening, alumni from both institutions talked with 
other alums, reconnected with old college friends and 
reintroduced themselves to the Newark Campus.

Several alumni commented during and after the 
event that they were very impressed and had not been 
back to campus. Both the COTC 
Alumni Council and the Ohio State Newark Alumni Office 
view this event as a potential 
signature alumni event and an 
annual opportunity for building 
alumni engagement and 
involvement.
Central Ohio Technical College Celebrates Summer Commencement

Central Ohio Technical College held its Summer 2013 Commencement Ceremony in the Adena Hall Gymnasium on the Newark campus.

A total of 208 graduates were eligible to receive associate degrees and certificates. COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D., presided over the ceremony.

COTC Assistant Professor of Philosophy Steven R. Huizenga, Ph.D., delivered the commencement keynote address. Huizenga is the 2013 COTC Teaching Excellence Award recipient. The award is presented annually to a COTC full-time faculty member in recognition and promotion of teaching excellence.

COTC commencement ceremonies are held in May, August and December with the conferring of degrees and certificates. A student who completes requirements at the end of the Autumn or Spring Semester, or during Summer Term is invited to participate in the Graduating ceremony for that term.

Newark Campus Goes Tobacco-Free

Central Ohio Technical College joined the ranks of educational institutions that are tobacco-free. Use of tobacco products or products designed to simulate tobacco is prohibited on all campuses of COTC and Ohio State Newark, including buildings, athletic facilities, parking lots, and outdoors.

“Both Dr. MacDonald and I believe that the move to 100% tobacco free is the right one,” said COTC President Bonnie L. Coe, Ph.D. “We are truly concerned with the health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and community. We acknowledge and support the findings of the Surgeon General that tobacco use in any form, active or passive, is a significant health hazard. We also are concerned about recent increases in trash left behind by smokers, and in complaints about individuals smoking near doorways and walkways. This policy will help eliminate those issues, and will, we hope, be a catalyst for employees and students to stop smoking or otherwise using tobacco.”

The State of Ohio, Healthy Ohio Program, and the Ohio State Board of Education support tobacco free colleges and universities and are advocating for all campuses to go tobacco-free.