

2015

ANNUAL REPORT

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

OZARKS TECHNICAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ANNIVERSARY

1990-2015

Founded 1990



FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE



▲ Dr. Hal Higdon, Chancellor,
Ozarks Technical Community College.

Since 1990, the mission of Ozarks Technical Community College has been to provide high quality, accessible and affordable learning opportunities to the residents of southwest Missouri. In its 25th year, the college continues to fulfill this mission. The success of our region – measured by a skilled workforce, lower unemployment rate and the creation of new jobs – is evidence that OTC is a vital and significant part of the economy of southwest Missouri.

As you will see in the pages of this report, it was a year of milestones for OTC. Community College Week, once again, named OTC one of the nation's top associate degree producers. Our service area grew as Branson citizens voted to join the OTC district. Our faculty and staff were recognized nationally for their outstanding achievements. And, the OTC Foundation launched its second capital campaign "Passion. Purpose. Promise. – The Campaign for OTC."

The growth the college has experienced in its first quarter-century is remarkable. It was nearly 25 years ago when Heart of the Ozarks Community Technical College opened its doors to 1,198 students. Today, Ozarks Technical Community College serves tens of thousands of students. Highlighted in this report are a few of our students' stories. We have graduates who are attending prestigious universities, former students who are breaking traditions in the technical field, and many more who are conquering obstacles to achieve their dreams.

As the college celebrates its 25th Anniversary, I want to thank you for the part you have played in OTC's continued success. We are proud to share this community with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hal L. Higdon".

Chancellor

CONNECT WITH OTC



Mission Statement

The college mission is to provide accessible, high quality, and affordable learning opportunities that transform lives and strengthen the communities we serve.

2 CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
The college family gathered to celebrate its 25th anniversary and plan for the future.

4 OTC IN REVIEW
A reflection on a year of news, awards, opportunities, events and new appointments.

14 STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS
Former OTC students head to Yale University, compete on a national athletic stage and break traditional gender roles.

20 DONOR PROFILES
The Jared and Towery families are deeply committed to supporting OTC's mission.

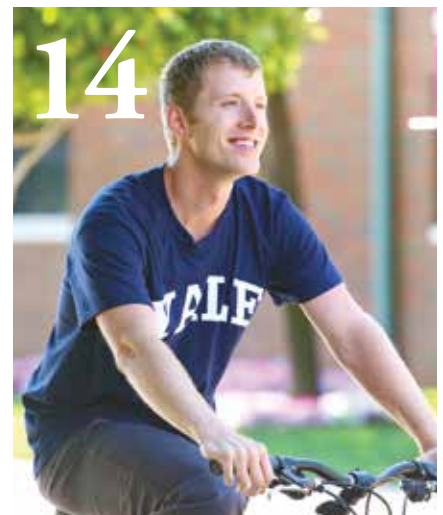
22 DONOR HONOR ROLL
A listing of those who generously donated in 2015.

30 FOUNDATION REPORT
A summary of the OTC Foundation's assets.

31 ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT
An enrollment overview from the fall semester.

32 SUPPORT OTC
Invest in the students at OTC by considering a charitable gift.

33 COLLEGE LEADERSHIP
Meet OTC's dedicated leaders.





OTC celebrates its 25th anniversary

April 3, 2015

Ozarks Technical Community College commemorated its 25th anniversary with a celebration on the student plaza of the OTC Springfield Campus. The celebration marked the election on April 3, 1990, when voters established the Junior College District of Central Southwest Missouri. In the fall of 1991, Heart of the Ozarks Community Technical College opened its doors to 1,198 college students.

Since its creation, OTC removed the “heart” from its name, opened five additional locations, which includes a robust online program, and has grown to serve tens of thousands in the community.

“In the last quarter century, OTC has played an integral role in training our community’s workforce and making it possible for students to further their educational goals through our accessible, affordable programs,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC. “Our 25th anniversary celebration is the perfect opportunity to reflect on our humble beginnings, thank those involved in our continued success, and look toward a bright and promising future.”

At the celebration, “Passion. Purpose. Promise. – The Campaign for OTC” was unveiled along with the college’s master plan. A time capsule, installed in 2000, was opened for the occasion as well. It was filled with documents and keepsakes from the turn of the century. New items have been selected for a time capsule that will be opened in 2040.

President Emeritus Norman K. Myers spoke to the audience, which gathered for the celebration.

“I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who made OTC possible, especially the students who responded to the opportunity provided by this wonderful college,” he said.



▲ Dr. Norman K. Myers (left) and long-time OTC employee Alice Jefferson (right) present items for the 25th anniversary time capsule. OTC trustees, employees and community members attend the ceremony. Dr. Higdon and Dr. Myers pose in the 25th anniversary photo booth.



▲ Chancellor Higdon presents a photo book to be buried in the college's 25th anniversary time capsule. OTC culinary students prepare and serve cake at the reception. Dr. Norman K. Myers addresses the crowd during the anniversary ceremony.



- ▲ Neal Spencer was honored with the naming of the Neal Spencer Student Lounge on the OTC Springfield Campus.
- ▲ MSU President Smart and OTC Chancellor Higdon sign a memorandum of understanding between the institutions.

OTC hosts dedication of Neal Spencer Student Lounge

Jan. 23, 2015

Ozarks Technical Community College honored Neal Spencer, former national growth partner and CEO of BKD, LLP, with the naming of the Neal Spencer Student Lounge. The event was held in the newly renovated lounge, located on the second floor of Information Commons West on the OTC Springfield Campus.

“We are grateful to Mr. Spencer for his advocacy and long-standing support,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC. “His efforts and generosity have proven vital to the continued success of our college.”

Mr. Spencer has served on the OTC Foundation Board since 2009.

OTC Online receives national recognition from Instructional Technology Council

Feb. 20, 2015

OTC Online’s student affairs team received the 2015 Award for Outstanding Student Services from

the Instructional Technology Council. ITC is an affiliated council of the American Association of Community Colleges.

OTC’s Vanessa Germeroth, director of online student affairs, and Jessica Dickson, online instructional design and development specialist, accepted the certificate at the ITC Awards for Excellence in eLearning during the eLearning 2015 annual conference. OTC English instructor Karen Foresee also received recognition as a 2015 Distinguished Educator.

OTC’s Jennifer Dunkel receives national recognition

Feb. 26, 2015

OTC English instructor Jennifer Dunkel received the Gladys R. Shaw Outstanding Service to Developmental Education Students award from the National Association



▲ Jennifer Dunkel

for Developmental Education (NADE). Dunkel accepted the award during the NADE 2015 national convention.

Dunkel also was selected as the McGraw Hill Scholarship recipient to attend The Kellogg Institute, sponsored by the National Center for Developmental Education.

OTC and MSU partner to offer bachelor’s degrees at the OTC Table Rock Campus

March 19, 2015

OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon and Missouri State President Clif Smart signed a memorandum of understanding, which made it possible for students to complete a bachelor of science in communication or a bachelor of science in English with an emphasis in professional writing at Missouri State through a combination of seated courses at the OTC Table Rock Campus and online courses.

“By offering Missouri State bachelor’s degrees at the OTC Table Rock Campus, we’re providing students with the opportunity to continue their education at an outstanding university while staying close to home,” said Higdon.

OTC, Hollister School District sign agreement to benefit high school students

March 26, 2015

The OTC Table Rock Campus and Hollister School District partnered to offer new educational opportunities to students. The agreement allowed Hollister students who are at least 16 years old to enroll in up to four classes at OTC each semester as well as take summer courses.

According to Hollister School Superintendent Dr. Brian Wilson, “This is a major game changer for our kids. An extremely motivated student could receive his or her high school diploma and an associate degree from OTC on the same day.”

The new program began in the summer of 2015.



▲ Hollister School Superintendent Dr. Brian Wilson and OTC Table Rock Campus President Cliff Davis sign an agreement.



▶ OTC honored Jeff Schrag with the Excellence in Business Award.

OTC honors Jeff Schrag with Excellence in Business Award

April 10, 2015

OTC honored local entrepreneur and publisher Jeff Schrag with the 2015 Excellence in Business Award in a ceremony at the White River Conference Center in Springfield. The event included an exclusive conversation with Jeff about everything from his upbringing to his entrepreneurial spirit to his favorite role model, Abraham Lincoln.

Schrag, 48, was born in McPherson, Kan., and graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in journalism and social science.

Jeff came to Springfield in 1995 after purchasing the Daily Events legal newspaper. In 2007, he purchased the Pioneer Formal Accessories Co. and is now the largest wholesaler of cufflinks in the United States. In 2011, he created Mother’s Brewing Co., a craft beer company that distributes its products throughout the region and in several states. The company brews its products in the old Butternut Bread Co. facility at the corner of Grant Avenue and Walnut Street.

Jeff is also president of Bareham & Saunders, LLC and principal owner of Squires Properties Inc., Foster-Keen Construction, LLC and CollinCo, LLC.

He was the outgoing chairman of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Board and a member of the Missouri Press Association, the Downtown Springfield Community Improvement District, the Springfield Business Development Corporation, the City of Springfield TIF Commission, the Missouri Small Brewer’s Guild, the Brewer’s Association Finance Committee, and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks Mission Related Investments Committee.

Branson citizens join the OTC District

April 7, 2015

Branson voters agreed to join the Ozarks Technical Community College taxing district by a 61 percent to 39 percent vote. Beginning with summer 2015 classes, students in Branson paid the in-district tuition rate of \$98 per credit hour versus the out-of-district rate of \$142.50.

“We’re thankful that Branson voters see the value of joining the district,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC. “The dream of attaining a degree is now more affordable for Branson residents, and it will help the community to continue to develop a strong workforce.”

OTC Table Rock Campus President Cliff Davis welcomed Branson residents to the district by saying, “Every great community has a great community college. With Tuesday’s vote, OTC can strengthen its current programs and look to provide new opportunities for students seeking medical and technical education.”



▲ OTC Table Rock Campus

OTC Foundation hosts annual Donor Reception

April 7, 2015

The OTC Foundation hosted its seventh-annual Donor Reception at the Tower Club in Springfield. The event gave donors the opportunity to meet the students they have assisted and gave students the opportunity to say “thank you” to their donors.

OTC instructors honored in Jefferson City

April 8, 2015

Three instructors from OTC received the Governor’s Award for Excellence

in Teaching from the Missouri Community College Association. Tristin Hooker, Angie McChesney and Trisha White accepted their awards at a ceremony in Holts Summit. The Excellence in Teaching award, presented annually by MCCA, is given to the top community college instructors in the state. The award includes a proclamation from Missouri Governor Jay Nixon.

Tristin Hooker is an adjunct reading and English instructor at the OTC Table Rock Campus. Angie McChesney is a chemistry instructor at the OTC Springfield Campus, and Trisha White is a mathematics instructor at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus.

OTC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter receives international recognition

April 16, 2015

OTC’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter was honored by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society during NerdNation 2015, the society’s annual convention held in San Antonio, Texas.

OTC’s PTK chapter received the following awards: Distinguished Theme, Distinguished Honors in Action Project, Beta Alpha Distinguished Chapter, and Seventh Runner-Up Most Distinguished Chapter.

OTC PTK advisors Donna Graham and Jo Fritts were also recognized by the society.

OTC’s Middle College names CoxHealth its Employer of the Year

May 20, 2015

The OTC Middle College named CoxHealth its Employer of the Year. The health system was selected for its assistance and support in providing Middle College students internships in



▲ Tristin Hooker



▲ Angie McChesney



▲ Trisha White

the fields of health services and early childhood education.

“CoxHealth gives our students the opportunity to study different career options available to them in the fields of healthcare and child development,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC. “We are grateful to CoxHealth for providing real-world experience to our students.”

OTC’s Adult Education and Literacy program receives High Quality Program award

May 21, 2015

OTC’s Adult Education and Literacy program received the High Quality Program award from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The award recognized five out of 38 AEL programs in the state for achieving positive student outcomes while maintaining a high degree of fiscal integrity in program operations.

OTC’s Joan Barrett named Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

June 8, 2015

Joan Barrett, the associate vice chancellor for student affairs at OTC, became the vice chancellor for student affairs on July 1, 2015. Her promotion was approved by the OTC Board of

Trustees at its regular monthly meeting.

“I am humbled and honored by this promotion,” Barrett said.



▲ Joan Barrett



- ▲ JQH Arena was packed for commencement.
- ▶ Chancellor Hal Higdon presents diplomas.
- ▼ Rep. Haahr was named the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

OTC confers 3,153 degrees and certificates at commencement

May 14, 2015

Nearly 700 Ozarks Technical Community College graduates walked in the spring commencement ceremony at JQH Arena on the Missouri State University campus.

OTC conferred 3,153 degrees and certificates to students in the 2014-2015 academic year, which includes students who completed their course work from the fall 2014 semester through the summer 2015 semester.

Neal Spencer, retired CEO of BKD, was the commencement speaker.

“Make it your own journey,” said Spencer. “As you leave here this evening, I hope you never lose the willingness to keep learning, to keep chasing those dreams, and to find that passion.”

OTC also honored Representative Elijah Haahr as the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

Rep. Haahr was first elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in November 2012 and represents District 134 of Springfield. His parents, Roger and Kathy Haahr, accepted the award on his behalf.

“Rep. Haahr’s work ethic and commitment to those he represents in Jefferson City make us proud to call him an OTC alumnus,” said Dr.

Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC.

Dr. Higdon concluded the ceremony by welcoming all graduates into the OTC Alumni Association.





▲ The OTC Foundation announced new leadership. From left: John Gentry, chair; Jim Towery, vice chair; Curtis Jared, secretary; Paul Sundy, treasurer.

OTC Foundation announces new leadership, new members

John Gentry, president of Positronic Industries, was selected as the new chair of the Board of Directors for the OTC Foundation, the fundraising arm of Ozarks Technical Community College. Outgoing chair Mark Haseltine, partner of Springer and Haseltine, served in the position during the 2014-15 fiscal year. The transition was finalized at the May meeting of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors.

The OTC Foundation Board also chose Jim Towery, owner of Steelman Transportation, to serve as its vice chair. Curtis Jared, president and CEO of Jared Enterprises, was appointed as secretary and Paul Sundy, restaurateur and entrepreneur, was appointed as treasurer.

In addition to choosing new leadership, the board also selected three new members: Dr. Keith LaFerriere, Ryan Murray and Randell Wallace.

OTC students excel at SkillsUSA Championships

June 22, 2015

Ten students from Ozarks Technical Community College received medals at the SkillsUSA Championships in Louisville, Ky. More than 6,000 career and technical education students participated in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields. The SkillsUSA Championships took place as part of the SkillsUSA 51st annual National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Twenty-nine OTC students advanced to the national competition by winning the Missouri SkillsUSA competition held in April.

OTC instructor attends Holocaust seminar in Germany and Poland

July 1, 2015

Michelle Hudgens, lead English instructor at the OTC Richwood



▲ Michelle Hudgens

Valley Campus, was selected to attend the 2015 Summer Seminar for the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teacher's

Program. The seminar's itinerary included a two-week trip to Germany and Poland. Participants met with Holocaust survivors, networked with other instructors, and toured the museums, memorials, camps and ghettos of the Holocaust. The event was sponsored by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and their Descendants.

Matthew Hudson named OTC Dean of Technical Education

July 13, 2015

Dr. Matthew Hudson, former Springfield Public Schools administrator, was named the Dean of Technical Education for OTC.



▲ Dr. Matthew Hudson

Dr. Hudson oversees the 20 technical education programs OTC offers.

He also oversees the Middle College, Career Center and Early Childhood Education programs.

"Dr. Hudson's extensive background in administration and educational leadership will help us continue to provide high-quality, accessible programs that meet the needs of our students and area employers," said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC.

OTC and Waynesville R-VI School District form new partnership

July 20, 2015

The Waynesville R-VI Board of Education voted to pursue a new

partnership with the OTC Waynesville Center. In the near future, high school students will have the option to earn an associate degree in criminal justice through OTC while still in high school.

“This program will offer yet another opportunity for our high school students to graduate ready for college or a career,” said Dr. Brian Henry, Waynesville R-VI School District superintendent. “The board’s vote allows us to proceed with planning toward a target implementation date of January or August 2016.”

“By providing this opportunity to high school students, we’re developing the Waynesville-area workforce and building a stronger community,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC.

David Esping named OTC Chief Technology Officer

July 23, 2015

David Esping, former information technology director at Missouri S&T, was named the Chief Technology Officer for Ozarks Technical Community College. In his new role, Esping leads the college’s Information Technology department.

“Mr. Esping’s comprehensive background in both information technology and higher education will help us take our students’ learning experiences to the next level,” said

Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC.



▲ David Esping



▶ Mr. Sam Hamra speaks at the Hamra library dedication.

OTC hosts dedication of Sam and June Hamra Family Library

Sept. 16, 2015

Ozarks Technical Community College honored longtime supporters Sam and June Hamra with the naming of the Sam and June Hamra Family Library. The event was held in the newly renovated library, located in the Information Commons building on the OTC Springfield Campus. Along with the Hamras, Attorney General Chris Koster spoke to the crowd thanking the Hamras for their generosity to OTC.

“We are grateful to the Hamras for their long-standing advocacy and support,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC. “Their efforts and generosity have proven vital to OTC’s continued success.”

Mr. Hamra, chairman and CEO of Hamra Enterprises, has served on the OTC Foundation Board since 2008. In addition to contributing to the library’s renovation efforts, he and his wife established a scholarship fund for students in OTC’s culinary and hospitality programs.



▲ Hamra family, pictured with Attorney General Chris Koster and OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon.

“OTC provides accessible, life-changing educational opportunities to students—it’s a mission that June and I are proud to support,” said Mr. Hamra. “When you give to OTC, you invest in the growth and development of our community.”



Dr. Higdon joins Phi Theta Kappa advisory board

Aug. 1, 2015

Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of Ozarks Technical Community College, was selected to serve on the Phi Theta Kappa board of directors. The board governs all policies of Phi Theta Kappa and ensures that the society’s mission to nurture academic excellence among community college students is reflected in all its programs and endeavors.



OTC Center for Workforce Development hosts ribbon cutting ceremony

Aug. 20, 2015

The Ozarks Technical Community College Center for Workforce Development relocated its Business Solutions Team to the Missouri Career Center – Ozark Region, located at 2900 E. Sunshine St. in Springfield. The move allows OTC’s CWD to further collaborate with the Missouri Career Center.

“Our team consults with area businesses to provide customizable training to their employees,” said Jim Abramovitz, CWD executive director. “Additionally, we also help individuals gain new skills to become more qualified for a promotion or confidently enter today’s competitive job market.”



▲ To celebrate OTC’s 25th anniversary, local band Pearl kick off the fall student picnic with a live show. Students and staff have a little fun with sidewalk chalking and giant bubbles.

OTC holds Fall Picnic and Discover OTC events for students

Sept. 25, 2015

To commemorate OTC’s 25th anniversary, this year’s Fall Picnic on the OTC Springfield Campus featured a live band. Local band Pearl played a selection of rock, pop and country songs. The combination of live music, sunshine and free food set a celebratory tone for the picnic that drew hundreds of students, faculty and staff outside to the student plaza.

In addition to the picnic, it was also Discover OTC day where prospective high school students could visit campus, learn about OTC’s programs and enjoy the picnic activities.

Some highlights from the picnic included, selfies with a cardboard cutout of Pope Benedict, a collaborative art project, a Rubens’ tube demonstration by the physics department (flames danced to the sounds of a guitar), giant-bubble-making and sidewalk chalk art.



▲ CWD team



OTC ranked among nation’s top associate degree producers

Sept. 18, 2015

OTC earned national recognition as one of the nation’s Top 100 Associate Degree Producers by Community College Week. The publication analyzed data from more than 7,000 post-secondary institutions for the 2013-14 academic year.

OTC ranked 40th in the nation among community colleges for associate degrees awarded. The college appeared in eight different lists, more than any other college in the state of Missouri.

“In 1990, citizens of southwest Missouri made the decision to fund a community college district. Twenty-five years later, they continue to see the value of that investment through thousands of successful graduates and a strong, educated workforce,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC.

OTC also appeared in four Top 50 lists for degree production by discipline.

“These rankings affirm not only the quality of education we offer at OTC, but also the breadth of degree offerings available to our students,” said Dr. Steve Bishop, vice chancellor of academic affairs.



OTC Foundation hosts ninth-annual golf tournament

Sept. 21, 2015

The OTC Foundation held its ninth-annual golf tournament at Hickory Hills Country Club. The four-man scramble tournament raised more than \$32,000 for student scholarships.

OTC Lebanon Center named Large Business of the Year

Oct. 1, 2015

The OTC Lebanon Center was honored as the Large Business of the Year by the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC, accepted the award at the chamber’s annual membership dinner, held at the

- ▲ Visitors enjoy the OTC car and motorcycle show. ▲ The annual golf tournament raised \$32,000 for student scholarships.
- ◀ OTC Lebanon Center Director Dusty Childress and Chancellor Hal Higdon accept the Large Business of the Year award.

Cowan Civic Center. “This means a great deal to our staff, faculty and students,” said Higdon. “It has never been more apparent that OTC is a vital and significant part of the Lebanon community, economy and workforce.”

OTC hosts car and motorcycle show

Oct. 3, 2015

OTC hosted a car and motorcycle show at the OTC Springfield Campus. OTC automotive students judged the vehicles and awarded trophies to the top contenders. All proceeds from the event supported SkillsUSA student activities.



▲ Sons of the American Revolution presented the colors at a Veterans Day celebration on the Springfield campus.
 ◀ Excellence in Education winners: (from left) Michael Holik, Jennifer Bump, Autumn Porter, David Fotopulos and Matt Simpson.

OTC announces Excellence in Education award recipients

Oct. 13, 2015

OTC unveiled its 2015 Excellence in Education award recipients at the annual College Development Day. Each winner received a plaque and monetary award, made possible by a donation from the Turner Family Foundation.

David Fotopulos, communications instructor at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus and Michael Holik, an OTC alumnus and a full-time

instructor in OTC’s Culinary and Hospitality department, received the Excellence in Education Full-Time Instructor awards.

History instructor Jennifer Bump received the Excellence in Education Adjunct Instructor award.

Autumn Porter, student services director at the OTC Table Rock Campus, received the Excellence in Education Professional Support Staff award. Matthew Simpson, college director of research and strategic planning, received the Excellence in Education award for administration.

OTC faculty and students receive statewide recognition at MCCA convention

Nov. 4, 2015

The Missouri Community College Association recognized two Ozarks Technical Community College faculty members at its 51st annual convention. Marianne Crocker received the Senior Service award and Rob Flatness accepted the Mel Aytes Faculty Innovation award. Crocker and Flatness were chosen from thousands of peers across the state for their outstanding leadership, innovation and support of OTC.

Three OTC students were also honored at the convention. Scott Murphy, William Brazeal and Katie Blackburn received Student Leadership awards for their exemplary leadership and engagement on campus.

▼ The OTC system collected 3,985 pounds for local food pantries.



OTC conducts food drive

Nov. 9, 2015

Faculty, staff and students from OTC’s five campuses and centers participated in the second-annual food drive in honor of National Hunger Awareness Week. The effort was planned and supported by Enactus and other student organizations.

The food banks and organizations that benefited from the collections included Crosslines, Rare Breed, Least of These, Christian Action Ministries, L-Life Food Bank and Good Samaritan.

New to this year’s drive was the ability to make a cash donation through the OTC Foundation office. All money donated during the drive was designated for the Student Emergency Fund.

OTC hosts Veterans Day events

Nov. 11, 2015

OTC observed Veterans Day at its Springfield, Richwood Valley and Waynesville locations.

“We have more than 1,000 veterans in our student body and several who work for the college,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC. “We want to thank them, and all veterans, for their service to our country.”

At the OTC Springfield Campus, Retired Army Colonel and local attorney David Appleby gave a speech. OTC Trustee J. Howard Fisk, a Navy veteran and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, introduced Col. (Ret.) Appleby. “Taps” was performed and the OTC Concert Choir performed the national anthem and “America the Beautiful.”

At OTC’s Richwood Valley Campus, a horn ensemble performed and OTC Richwood Valley Campus President Dr. Jeff Jochems spoke. At the OTC Waynesville Center, the Tabernacle Christian Academy trio performed.

OTC Fine Arts presents “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play”

Nov. 20, 2015

The OTC Fine Arts department offered three performances of “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play” at the Gillioz Theatre in downtown Springfield.

OTC hosts holiday reception

Dec. 10, 2015

Staff and faculty gathered to celebrate the holiday season and the end of another semester. To commemorate OTC’s 25th anniversary, the college unveiled its 25th anniversary history book and a collaborative origami art project on display in the Information Commons. The giant chandelier, comprised of more than 1,000

origami cranes folded by staff and students, symbolizes good luck and fortune for the college. The items selected for OTC’s 25th anniversary time capsule were also on display at the celebration.



▲ OTC’s Fine Arts department presented “It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play.” The 25th anniversary origami crane chandelier.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



After receiving the prestigious Boren Scholarship to study language in South Africa, OTC graduate Wade Southwell transferred to Yale University to continue his education.

A Yale Man

Question: What do former United States Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton have in common with OTC graduate Wade Southwell?

Answer: They're all Yale men. Southwell, a 2015 OTC graduate, began attending the Ivy League institution in the fall of 2015.

Wade did not take the usual route to Yale. The 25-year-old has lived in Las Vegas and California, where he battled addiction issues, before he made his way to Springfield three years ago. After coming to OTC, he studied language for a year in South Africa, and now he lives in New Haven, Conn., where he is the latest in a line of OTC students to attend some of the nation's most prestigious universities.

While at OTC, Wade applied for and received the prestigious Boren Scholarship, which is sponsored by the United States State Department. The scholarship provided Wade with the means to go to South Africa to study the Zulu language. Boren scholars study languages that are of strategic interest to the U.S. government. He was the only person from southwest Missouri to ever earn one of the esteemed grants.

"While working with Wade in his pursuit to qualify for the prestigious Boren Scholarship, his tenacity and unrelenting attitude were demonstrated throughout the process," said Loren Lundstrom, OTC's dean of student development. "It was obvious he had lots of experience in life overcoming roadblocks. He is an astonishing young man."

"Going to Yale seemed like a lofty goal, but I wanted to do it," Wade said.

Wade admits that it was OTC that inspired him to go an Ivy League school.

"The OTC slogan of 'Start Here, Go Anywhere' really inspired me, along with faculty and the OTC Honors Program," he said.

Wade applied to Yale, Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania and New York University. All but Brown accepted him for admission.

Now, after his first semester at Yale, Wade said the university is great and offers a student "a thousand things to do every day."

"Classes are stimulating, thought provoking and challenging — everything I hoped they would be."

"It's Disneyland for nerds," he said. "Classes are stimulating, thought provoking and challenging — everything I hoped they would be."

Wade said he misses OTC but knows he's headed in the right direction.

"I saw myself as a successful student," he said. "I might have been naive at first to think I could do this but I know now that I can really do this."

And who knows where his next destination will be? For a Yale man, it could be "anywhere."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

OTC welding program graduate Brie Jenkins works as a part-time instructor at OTC and engineering design technician at Paul Mueller Co.



Breaking Traditions

Brie Jenkins has the heart of a welder. Her passion for the profession and her technical talents have brought the OTC graduate both state and national honors. Her skills have also earned her top job opportunities, including a job at the local stainless steel manufacturer, Paul Mueller Co., where she now works as an engineering design technician.

Her love for welding has brought Brie back to OTC, where she teaches other students those same welding skills. She has done all of this in a profession where only 3 percent of all welders are women. Brie wears that distinction with honor.

“I would recommend welding for women or anyone who likes to work with their hands,” said Brie, who grew up in Pittsburg, Mo., watching her father and grandfather weld at the custom structural steel company they operated.

“Brie is such an inspiration in the welding program, not only to the female students but to everyone involved.”

Brie finished her first semester as an instructor this fall and is a strong advocate and example for women entering the welding field.

“Brie is such an inspiration in the welding program, not only to the female students but to everyone involved. She is a talented welder. We are lucky to have her as an adjunct instructor and a symbol of what women can aspire to in this industry,” said Carl Bridwell, a welding technology instructor.

She earned her first job with Mueller working in their machine shop while still a student at OTC. She impressed many experienced welders by finishing second in the American Welding Society’s Oktoberfest held several years ago in Springfield. Brie also took her welding skills to the state and national stage when she competed as a student in the SkillsUSA competitions.

It was Brie’s former welding instructors who convinced her to return to OTC as a teacher after graduation.

“It’s been a very rewarding job. I enjoy teaching. I’m more of a student now than the students are. I’m learning so much,” the 24-year-old said.

Brie may be breaking traditions and setting examples, but for this welding pro, her fondness for welding boils down to something simple, “I like welding because it lets me work with my hands. It’s a skill I know that I will always have.”





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



OTC graduate Adam Arnold made it to the national finals this season on NBC Television's "American Ninja Warrior" competition.

A Degree in Ninja?

OTC does not offer any classes in Salmon Ladder, Warped Wall or Spinning Bridge, but one OTC graduate credits the college for giving him the opportunity to best all of those Ninja Warrior obstacles and many more.

Adam Arnold is an American Ninja Warrior and OTC alumnus who competed to be crowned the country's No. 1 warrior in NBC Television's "American Ninja Warrior" competition.

Adam, who holds degrees in manufacturing, construction and industrial maintenance technology from OTC, appeared this summer in the national finals in Las Vegas after qualifying at the Orlando, Fla., regional.

"I was relaxed and confident with the course. Maybe I was a little too comfortable," Adam said after he failed to make it past the first run in the opening round of the finals. "I took the obstacle for granted."

The finals pitted the top 100 athletes who qualified at six regional sites against a grueling obstacle course. It's a race to the finish through the obstacles and the winner is the one who finishes with the fastest time.

The road to Las Vegas was a long, two-year struggle for the 6-foot-1, 165-pound competitor. Adam was not picked for the show when he tried out in the Kansas City competition in 2014. However, this year he was picked to compete in Orlando after standing in line for days.

"I've watched the show for a long time and thought that I could do it," said Adam, who played baseball and football at Hillcrest High School and, later, baseball at Lincoln (Ill.) Community College.

He built some of his own obstacles at home and then started training six days a week at the indoor Warrior Sports training complex in south Springfield. While Adam is very physically fit, having lost 30 pounds since his college baseball days, he said it takes more than strength to compete as a warrior.

"Every bit of it requires mental strength over physical strength. You need the perfect mentality to get through it," he said.

He said he was grateful to everyone at OTC who helped him juggle his class schedule so he could stand in line for days in Orlando in hopes of being selected for the show.

Dwight Chism, his Industrial Maintenance Technology instructor at OTC, "was a big fan," Adam said.

"We talked about the competition," Adam said. "He was more than happy to help me. It's because of him I was able to go."

Adam continues to train for another shot at the show, but, despite his success this year, there are no guarantees he will be selected again.

Adam is still waiting for that "Ninja Warrior" degree path so he can earn a fourth OTC diploma.





A Family Tradition

When Curtis Jared first joined the OTC Foundation Board of Directors in 2011, he was amazed by the influence the college had on southwest Missouri.

“I never understood exactly how much of an impact OTC had on the workforce, economy and overall well-being of our region,” Curtis said. “Anyone who familiarizes themselves with the college quickly realizes that we all benefit from the students who are being educated and trained at OTC.”

Curtis, president and CEO of Jared Enterprises, was first introduced to the OTC mission by his father, Jerry Jared. Jerry preceded Curtis as a member of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors and has been a long-time supporter of the college.

“OTC is one the greatest things to come about in Springfield,” Jerry said.

Jerry recalls when OTC was formed 25 years ago. He knew there was a need for the institution but didn’t realize exactly how great that need was.

“Once I saw the success of the college, I knew it was doing so much more than I originally anticipated.”

Both Curtis and Jerry continue to be impressed with the college and its technical education programs.

“OTC offers opportunities and careers to students through a certificate or two-year degree. Think about the dental hygiene program, the welding program, the automotive programs – they are giving students lucrative, meaningful careers that allow them to positively impact our local economy,” Curtis said.

The Jared family’s dedication to OTC continues to be an integral part of the college’s support system. The family felt so passionately about the work of the college that they presented the OTC Foundation with a generous gift to support the college’s workforce development programs.

This gift, and the long-standing support from the Jared family, led to the naming of the Jared Family Atrium located on the OTC Springfield Campus.

“We really are lucky to have what we have in OTC. I’m proud to be a part of it,” Curtis said.



Barbara and Jim Towery say it is easy to brag about OTC in the community.

OTC's on Fire

When people ask Jim Towery why he is so involved with OTC, he doesn't have to think twice about how to answer. He's proud to serve on the OTC Foundation Board of Directors, and he's quick to share his passion for the college.

"The school slogan says it all. 'Start Here, Go Anywhere.' It really is a great mantra for what we do in the community," said the majority owner, president and general manager of Steelman Transportation. "The growth and success the college has had in developing programs and attracting talented students has been phenomenal. I say OTC's on fire."

Jim first witnessed that momentum when he met with Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC, about starting a truck driver training program in 2006. "He said, 'If the transportation industry can supply the trucks and trailers, the college will start a truck driving school,'" Jim recalled. "Within six weeks, we had it. It's amazing to have a government entity react with that kind of speed."

Even though the truck driver training program is no

longer a part of OTC, the college's ability and willingness to meet the needs of businesses and students still impresses Jim. He said OTC's diesel technology program provides his business and the trucking industry with capable, well-prepared mechanics and technicians.

Jim also has a personal appreciation for the OTC mission. He attended Ventura Community College in California. "I'm the product of a community college," he said. "I experienced the benefits of having a community college and the affordable education it provides."

Barbara Towery agrees with her husband and understands that higher education provides more than just a specific set of skills. "I think one of the aspects of going to college is learning how to learn. The love of learning and always continuing with that is important," she said.

But OTC offers more than just career opportunities, Jim said. "It's a way out of poverty, generational poverty, a chance to escape low income status and get a good job. That's what OTC does. That's why it's easy to support and brag about OTC."



DONOR HONOR ROLL

We would like to extend a special thanks to those who support students and programs at OTC by contributing to the OTC Foundation. Your generosity helps provide education, job training and lifelong learning to countless students.



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- Lisa Beebe
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- Stephen Biermann*
- Whitney Bingle
- Audrey Bishop

**Deceased*

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Friends of OTC who remember the OTC Foundation through a bequest, life income plan or other type of planned gift become members of the Legacy Society. To inquire about making a planned gift, contact the OTC Foundation at (417) 447-2651.

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Gifts to honor or remember outstanding individuals are a special way to pay tribute to a friend or loved one. The following donors made contributions to the OTC Foundation in honor or in memory of someone special.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

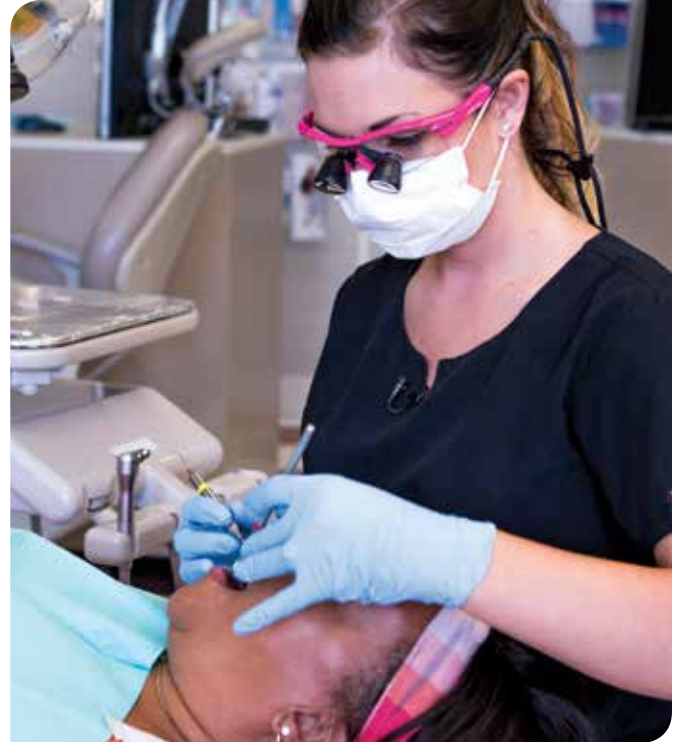


Many special scholarships have been established through the OTC Foundation. Some are in memory of individuals; others are funded by generous businesses, organizations and individuals in our communities.

ASA (Automotive Service Association) Scholarship
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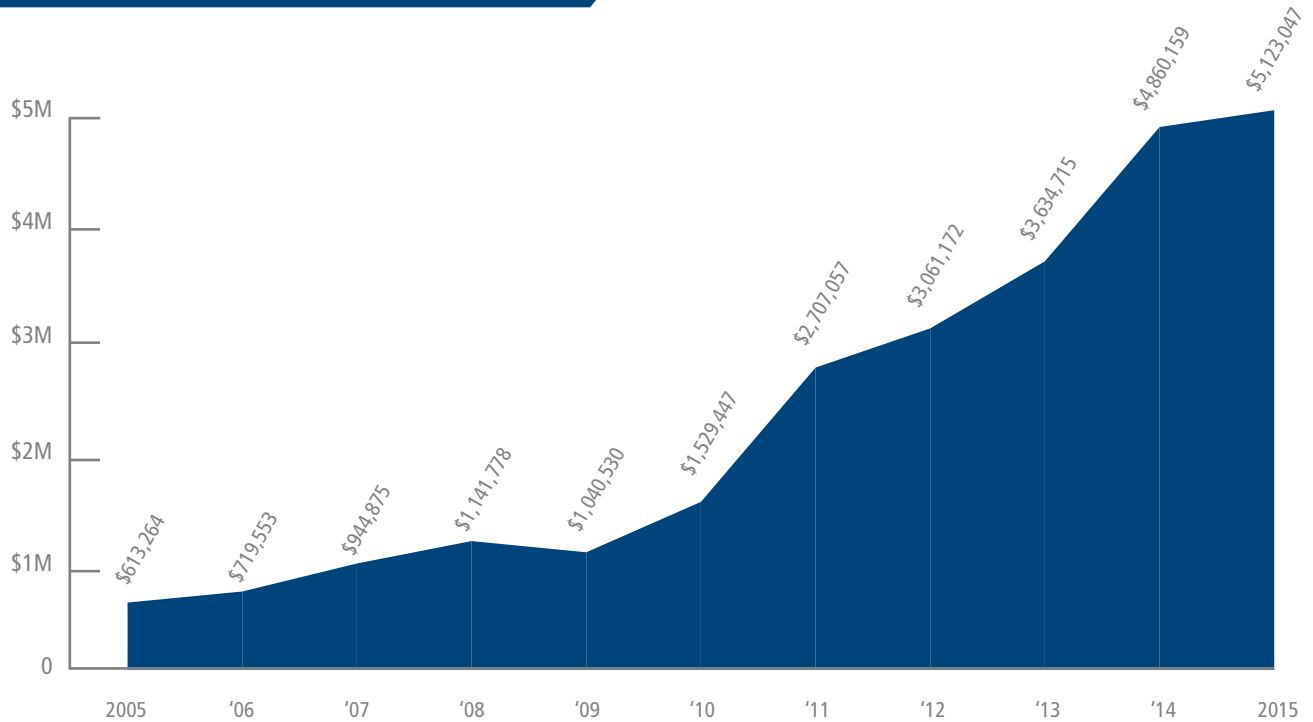
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Scholarship



FOUNDATION REPORT

OTC Foundation Assets Growth



OTC Foundation Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2015, with comparative totals for June 30, 2014. Based on pre-audit 2015 financial statements.

Assets	2014	2015
Great Southern Bank – Foundation	\$545,849	\$49,075
Community Foundation of the Ozarks	\$4,314,310	\$5,073,972
Total Assets	\$4,860,159	\$5,123,047

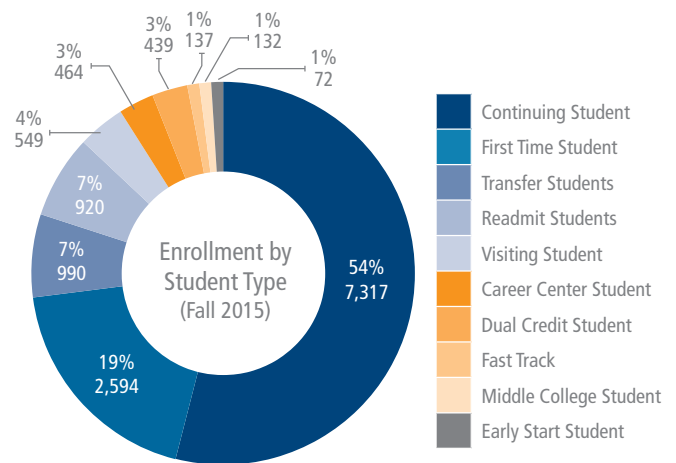
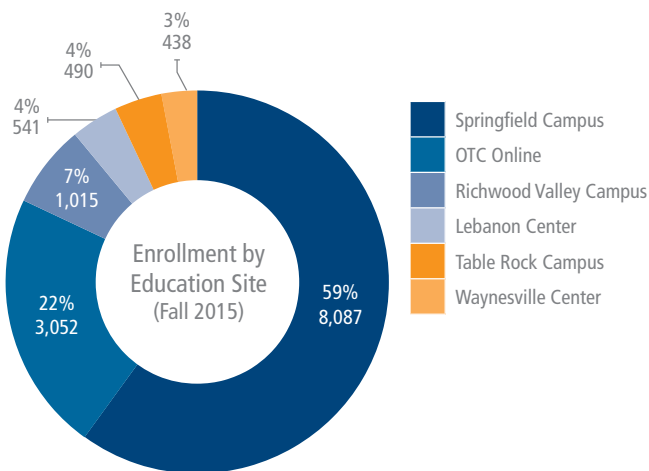
Fund Balance	2014	2015
Unrestricted	\$882,353	\$879,987
Restricted	\$1,351,378	\$1,464,944
Endowment (Revocable)	\$0	\$0
Endowment (Irrevocable)	\$2,626,428	\$2,778,116
Total Fund Balance	\$4,860,159	\$5,123,047



Enrollment (Fall Semester)

13,614 Credit students	5,950 Full-time enrollment
129,313 Credit hours	7,664 Part-time enrollment
2,565 A+ students	7,927 Female students
5,208 Enrolled in at least one online class	5,687 Male students
882 First Generation College Students	22 Average age of full-time
1,033 GED student enrollment**	25 Average age of part-time
2,615 Students enrolled in at least one developmental course	24 Average age of all students
66% Receive financial aid	1,093 Number of veterans

**Summer 2014-Spring 2015



ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM OF STUDY (Fall 2015)	
4,058	Associate of Art
2,290	Technical Education
2,039	Biological Clinical Science
1,959	Non-Degree Seeking
889	Associate of Art in Business
752	Associate of Art in Teaching
542	Associate of Science
533	Allied Health
493	Business Marketing Accounting
59	Associate of Interdepartmental Studies

TOP 10 A.A.S. PROGRAMS (Fall 2015)	
298	Business
271	Computer Information
223	Culinary
214	Early Childhood
174	Health Information Technology
164	Accounting
151	Graphic Design
137	Networking
132	Electronic Media Production
129	Automotive



SUPPORT OTC



Since its founding 25 years ago, OTC has offered life-changing opportunities to thousands of students. We invite you to invest in the students at OTC by considering a charitable gift to the OTC Foundation. This year, the OTC Foundation launched its second comprehensive campaign titled “Passion. Purpose. Promise. – The Campaign for OTC.” The five initiatives for this \$15 million dollar campaign are detailed below.

Scholarships – Need: \$3 Million

Approximately two out of three OTC students qualify for some form of financial aid. This number demonstrates the profound need that exists for the OTC Foundation to provide additional scholarship opportunities.

Student Emergency Fund – Need: \$1 Million

OTC students should be able to focus on their courses, not on whether they can afford transportation to class or provide food for their children. This fund provides emergency assistance for students in crisis.

Technical Education – Need: \$5 Million

Students want valuable skills that lead to high paying and rewarding jobs, and area businesses want a talented workforce. Through this campaign focus, OTC will expand popular programs and develop new offerings.

Allied Health – Need: \$3 Million

The need for skilled healthcare workers continues to grow. The Allied Health component of the campaign will increase student capacity in some of the most in-demand programs, helping fill the looming workforce gap.

Building and Land – Need: \$3 Million

Despite continued expansion, space remains a scarce resource across the entire OTC system. The college has 40 percent less square footage per student than the Missouri average. This campaign initiative will assist the college in expanding building opportunities at multiple locations.

CONTACT US

Charitable gifts are an essential part of the continued success of OTC. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in our students’ lives.

To learn more about giving opportunities, contact the OTC Foundation at (417) 447-2651 or foundation@otc.edu.

The OTC Foundation is incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation independent from the college. All gifts made payable to the OTC Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal and state laws.

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Chief of Staff & Executive Director of the OTC Foundation

Ms. Amy Bacon
College Director of Development

Mr. Jared Lightle
Coordinator of Scholarships and Alumni

Ms. Kristin Bowers
Secretary for the OTC Foundation

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