



INNOVATIVE SPIRIT

At Ozarks Technical Community College, bright ideas fuel our mission to provide life-changing educational opportunities to the region. And it's this innovative spirit — a vivid and lasting light — that transforms the futures of our students, college and community.

Throughout the pages of our 2016 annual report, you will find artwork that reflects these themes of innovation. Light bulbs — comprised of triangles — represent the bright ideas that build our success. While triangles, considered the strongest geometric shape, represent the strength behind these ideas. ▼ Chancellor Hal Higdon received a standing ovation at his 10th anniversary celebration in August.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CONNECT WITH OTC



t Ozarks Technical Community College, innovation is the key to our success. That is why – in our 25th year of offering life-changing educational opportunities – we have been named one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation by the prestigious Aspen Institute.

This accomplishment is the direct result of our dedicated faculty, staff and board. Their tireless work ensures that every student who passes through our doors has the opportunity to experience limitless achievement. And when our students achieve their potential, incredible stories begin to take shape.

Throughout the pages of our 2016 annual report, you will read these stories firsthand. You will discover how one of our students turned her love for animals into her dream job as a zookeeper. You will learn about a student veteran who used his military knowledge and skills to earn a fire science degree. You will marvel at the success of another student who turned a class project into his own, thriving business. And you will cheer for a single mother who broke barriers and defied odds to earn her dental hygiene degree.

The year 2016 marked my 10th at the helm of OTC. And, as I reflect on the past decade, it is truly remarkable to think about the college's significant accomplishments. Not only have we expanded our programs, courses, and workforce training opportunities, but we have also strengthened our resources and funding. None of this was done alone. The college's success stems from a shared vision between our founding members, community leaders and you.

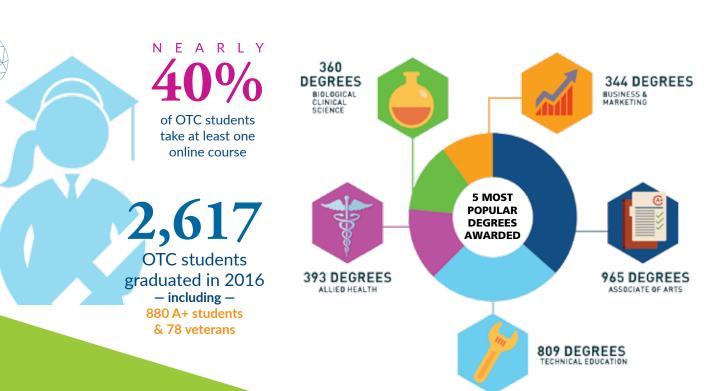
In November, I lost my wife, Nancy, to ovarian cancer. Nancy was an accounting instructor with a passion for education. She believed that any person who had the desire to learn should be given the opportunity. To honor Nancy's memory and continue her legacy of helping others on their educational journey, my family established a memorial scholarship. The overwhelming support Nancy's scholarship has received has touched our hearts. On behalf of my family, I want to thank each of you. The kindness this community has shown our family will never be forgotten.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for sharing your time, knowledge and resources with OTC. The college's successes and accolades would not be possible without your unwavering support. I like to think of OTC as the economic engine of southwest Missouri, and your support serves as the fuel that keeps our engine running. Because of you, we've made it this far. And because of you, we look forward to a bright and promising future.

Sincerely,

Hal L. Digdon

Chancellor



BY THE NUMBERS

95% of OTC graduates stay in **MISSOURI**

more than 13,000 students enrolled in the fall semester

640 students awarded scholarships



MORE THAN IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



AVERAGE STUDENT AGE



94%

of our graduates find employment or continue their education at a four-year institution

Bass Pro Shops CEO Johnny Morris shared his story at OTC's Excellence in Business Award event.





OTC named Aspen Institute Finalist

January 28, 2016

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named OTC one of 150 finalists to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million in prize funds. OTC was one of just two Missouri community colleges recognized by the Aspen Institute. This is the second time in three rounds OTC has been selected in the top 150.

The Aspen Prize, awarded every two years, recognizes institutions for outstanding student outcomes in four areas: student learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and access and success for minority and low-income students.

"At OTC, we believe that if our students succeed then the community succeeds," said Chancellor Hal Higdon. "This recognition from the highly respected Aspen Institute is a great honor."

OTC honors Johnny Morris with Excellence in Business Award

March 24, 2016

Johnny Morris, founder/CEO of Bass Pro Shops, was the 2016 recipient of OTC's Excellence in Business Award. Chancellor Hal Higdon presented the award to Morris before an overflowing crowd at the White River Conference Center.

During the ceremony, Mark Miller, college director of communications and marketing, led a conversation with Morris. The two discussed the Bass Pro Shops founder's love of fishing, conservation and family. Morris looked back on the humble beginnings of Bass Pro Shops, and publicly thanked his team of employees. Morris credited his success to a "pioneering spirit" that exists within the company.

Morris founded Bass Pro Shops in 1971 when he began to sell premium fishing tackle in his father's liquor store. By 1974, Morris was printing and mailing the first Bass Pro Shops catalog. In 1978, he introduced Bass Tracker, the first boat, motor and trailer package designed exclusively for anglers. Tracker has remained America's No. 1 selling fishing boat for more than 35 years. Today, Bass Pro Shops is America's leading outdoor retailer with stores across the United States and Canada. Morris recently purchased rival outdoor retailer Cabela's.

Morris, a conservation advocate, has supported numerous initiatives including fish and wildlife habitat improvements, conservation and outdoor skills education, and lake and spring water quality improvements. In addition to Bass Pro Shops and Tracker Marine Group, Morris owns Big Cedar Lodge, Integrity Hills, Dogwood Canyon Nature Park and Top of the Rock.





▲ Donors and students smiled for the camera together at the annual Donor Reception.

OTC Foundation hosts annual Donor Reception

April 5, 2016

The OTC Foundation hosted its annual Donor Reception at the Old Glass Place in Springfield. The event gave scholarship recipients the opportunity to meet and thank the donors who made their education possible.

Every year, the OTC Foundation awards approximately \$200,000 in scholarships thanks to the generous support of donors.

OTC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter brings home seven international awards

April 13, 2016

Representatives from OTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students, won seven awards at the organization's 98th annual international convention. The convention was held in Washington, D.C. and drew delegates from approximately





OTC instructors receive Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching April 18, 2016

The Missouri Community College Association recognized three OTC instructors for excellence in the classroom. Michael Holik, David Fotopulos and Ginger Zaagsma each received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The awards, presented by MCCA at a ceremony in Jefferson City, were given to the top community college instructors in the state. The awards included a proclamation from Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon.

OTC and UMKC sign agreement to benefit honors students April 21, 2016

Graduates of the OTC Honors Program who transfer to the University of Missouri-Kansas City will automatically be eligible for scholarships and admission to the UMKC Honors College thanks to an articulation agreement signed in April.







▲ OTC instructors Michael Holik (above), David Fotopulos (far-left) and Ginger Zaagsma (left) received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Early Childhood Education Center receives Farm to Preschool grant April 18, 2016

OTC's Early Childhood Education Center was awarded a \$2,000 grant to participate in the Missouri Farm to Preschool Pilot Project through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

"This grant allows our preschoolers to grow fruits and vegetables in their own classroom gardens and take field trips to local farms," said Jennifer Crouch, Early Childhood Education Center manager. "Exposing young children to healthy foods early in life has the potential to reduce childhood obesity and positively impact long-term health."



▲ OTC Honors Program Director Todd Yerby (right) signed an agreement with UMKC's Honors Program Director Dr. James McKusic.

OTC hosts community job fair April 26, 2016

A steady crowd of students, alumni and community members attended a job fair hosted by OTC's Career Employment Services. The free and open-to-the-public event was designed for both careerminded individuals and those seeking seasonal or part-time employment. Nearly 400 jobseekers brought their skills and qualifications to make personal connections with dozens of area employers including Bass Pro Shops, the City of Springfield, Great Southern Bank and O'Reilly Auto Parts.

OTC presents "Lucky Stiff" May 1, 2016

The OTC Fine Arts department presented the musical comedy "Lucky Stiff" at the Springfield Art Museum. Performances were free and open to the general public.

The story of "Lucky Stiff" follows poor English shoe salesman Harry Witherspoon as he is forced to take the corpse of his recently murdered uncle on a vacation to Monte Carlo in order to collect a multimillion-dollar inheritance.

OTC's production featured 10 actors, many playing several roles throughout the show.



OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Clockwise from top-left. Female graduates gathered outside JQH Arena to celebrate. Students enjoyed the commencement ceremony. A graduate celebrated her accomplishment with her young son. Dr. Higdon presented Jennifer Smith of the Traveling Chef the 2016 Distinguished Alumna of the Year award. Commencement speaker and local comedian Jeff Houghton encouraged graduates to "keep not quitting."





OTC confers 3,428 degrees and certificates at commencement May 12, 2016

More than 700 OTC graduates walked in the 2016 commencement ceremony held at JQH Arena.

OTC conferred 3,428 degrees and certificates to graduates, which included students who completed their course work from the summer 2015 semester through the spring 2016 semester.

Jeff Houghton, Emmy Awardwinning host of the local, late-night talk show "The Mystery Hour," was the featured commencement speaker. The comedian's message for the graduates was "keep not quitting."

"The dream you have in your heart doesn't come with a road map, it comes with a machete," said Houghton. "Those surprises that life throws at you may feel like dead ends, but they aren't. Just get out of your car, grab your machete, step into the forest, and hack yourself a new path."

OTC also honored local entrepreneur Jennifer Smith owner of the Traveling Chef as the 2016 Distinguished Alumna of the Year. Smith, a former OTC Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management student, started her own catering business in 2004. The Traveling Chef was named one of the top caterers in southwest Missouri by 417 Magazine.

"Jennifer's entrepreneurial spirit, as well as her incredible talent and work ethic, make us proud to call her an OTC alumna," said Chancellor Hal Higdon.

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







OTC Foundation announces new leadership, new members *May 13, 2016*

Jim Towery was selected as the new chair of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors. The board also selected Paul Sundy to serve as its vice chair. David Taylor was appointed as secretary and Curtis Jared was appointed as treasurer. In addition to choosing new leadership, the board selected seven new members: Paula Adams, Rosa Davis, Harwood Ferguson, Jay Guffey, Andrew Herr, Ryan Murray and Doug Neff.

OTC to offer behavioral health support degree program

June 13, 2016

OTC began offering a new Associate of Applied Science in Behavioral Health Support through OTC's Allied Health



Clockwise from top-left. Jim Towery was selected as the new chair of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors. OTC student Chantal Cheevers won a gold medal at the national SkillsUSA Championships. OTC honored Bob and Susan Beine with the naming of the Bob & Susan Beine Lobby in the Norman K. Myers building.

department thanks to a \$95,703 grant from The Missouri Foundation for Health. The program was developed through discussions with the Missouri Department of Health, the Missouri Coalition of Community Health Centers and OTC representatives.

OTC students excel at SkillsUSA Championships June 27, 2016

Four OTC students earned medals at the SkillsUSA Championships held in Louisville, Ky. Approximately 6,000 career and technical education students competed in 100 different fields.

OTC's Chantal Cheevers won gold in commercial baking; Chris Leisure won silver in computer programming; Skyler Massey accepted bronze in graphics imaging-sublimation; and Ashley Smith accepted bronze in telecommunications cabling.

OTC recognizes Bob and Susan Beine with naming ceremony August 25, 2016

OTC honored Bob and Susan Beine with the naming of the Bob & Susan Beine Lobby located in the Norman K. Myers building at the OTC Springfield Campus.

Bob Beine, owner of the Republic Ford Lincoln dealership, proudly supports the college's automotive programs and has served on the OTC Foundation Board since 2009. Beine and his wife offer an academic scholarship to students through the OTC Foundation each year.

"It's important for us to invest in our community, our youth, and the students who are striving to better themselves," said Beine.







OTC commemorates Chancellor Higdon's 10th anniversary at the college August 23, 2016

College officials, students, employees and community leaders celebrated Dr. Hal Higdon's 10th anniversary as president and chancellor of Ozarks Technical Community College. A brief ceremony featured reflections from the college's President Emeritus Dr. Norman K. Myers, as well as remarks from Board of Trustees Chairman Chip Sheppard and Trustee Larry Snyder.

Dr. Higdon began his career at Ozarks Technical Community College on July 5, 2006. College officials and administrators credit many of the college's significant milestones to his visionary leadership and guidance.

"OTC has thrived under the innovative and steady leadership of Dr. Higdon," said Sheppard. "As a life-long resident of Springfield, it has been rewarding to watch the college's growth and positive impact in our local community."

In the past decade, Dr. Higdon helped boost OTC's significance with area employers by expanding the college's workforce training opportunities and Allied Health programs. Enrollment enjoyed a steady increase under his tenure with a peak of 15,179 students in 2011 — an increase of 9.1 percent from the previous year. In total, the college's enrollment has grown more than 44 percent under his tenure.

"Dr. Higdon believes the college should run based on

what the community needs," Snyder said. "When we hired him 10 years ago, his only promise was that he would come in, listen to the community, listen to the board, and lead change where change was needed."

The past 10 years have also brought about new campuses, centers and capital improvements. The OTC Richwood Valley Campus opened in 2007 and the OTC Lebanon Center followed in 2011. The OTC Table Rock Campus and OTC Waynesville Center opened in 2013. That same year, the college's Allied Health department unveiled a simulation lab at the Springfield campus to serve more than 600 students across 13 programs.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Higdon worked to strengthen the college's resources and funding. When he arrived at the college, the OTC Foundation had \$500,000 in assets; today, it has more than \$5 million. Dr. Higdon built relationships between Missouri's community colleges and lawmakers in Jefferson City to help make state appropriations for two-year colleges a priority. He also brought the many challenges faced by community colleges into focus for state and national leaders.

"I consider myself fortunate to have worked at this fine institution for the last decade," Dr. Higdon said. "I'm especially proud of our dedicated faculty and staff who work so hard to help our students achieve their goals."



Clockwise from top left. Students enjoyed food, music, games and more at the annual fall student picnic. More than 100 golfers attended the 10th Annual OTC Foundation Golf Tournament that raised \$17,000 for student scholarships. A Back to School Bash commemorated the first week of fall classes and included a visit from the area's favorite food trucks.







OTC hosts inaugural Fall Trail Run

September 24, 2016

The OTC Lebanon Center hosted its inaugural Fall Trail Run on a beautiful autumn day. More than 70 runners hit the 5-mile course. Sean Sieloff, Noah Long and Nicole Stowe earned first, second and third place respectively. All proceeds from the event went to support the OTC Lebanon Center.





OTC hosts Back to School Bash events

August 22, 2016 OTC welcomed students back to campus with a series of fun events during the first week of classes. The college hosted a Plaza Party, OTC's first-ever Food Truck Frolic and a Snow Cone Social.

OTC Foundation hosts 10th annual golf tournament September 19, 2016

The 10th annual OTC Foundation Golf Tournament at Hickory Hills Country Club brought a record number of players together for one common goal: supporting OTC students. The 28 teams of four, along with event sponsors, raised more than \$17,000 for student scholarships.

"More than 60 percent of our students qualify for some form of financial aid, and providing scholarships through the OTC Foundation is critical to meeting that need," said Stephanie Sumners, chief of staff/executive director of the OTC Foundation. "Financial aid is often the deciding factor in whether or not a student can attend college. The money raised by the annual golf tournament helps us provide these students with the financial support they need to earn a degree."

Since the tournament's inception 10 years ago, players and sponsors have helped raise more than \$100,000 for student scholarships.

PINEAPPLE

OTC holds Fall Picnic and Discover OTC events for students. September 23, 2016

Music, free food and plenty of sunshine set a celebratory tone for OTC's annual Fall Picnic events held at each of OTC's campuses and centers. Discover OTC day coincided with the Fall Picnics, which gave prospective high school students the opportunity to visit OTC's campuses and centers, learn more about the college's programs and enjoy student activities.

OTC receives \$1 million grant to expand diesel program

October 3, 2016

OTC made plans to pursue an expansion of its Diesel Technology Program thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. OTC will seek an additional \$1 million in private funds to secure the capital for the expansion.

The money will be used to expand the Industry and Transportation Technology Center on the OTC Springfield Campus. OTC will add four new truck bays and four learning labs. Currently, the Diesel Technology Program is at capacity. The expansion will allow for an additional 50 students each year.

"We are excited and grateful to receive this grant, and I want to thank Sen. Roy Blunt for shepherding the grant through the Department of Commerce for OTC," said Chancellor Hal Higdon. "The expansion will allow us to train more diesel mechanics to walk out of graduation into high-paying jobs."

OTC to pursue flight-training program

October 3, 2016

In October, the OTC Board of Trustees approved for the college to enter into an agreement with Premier Flight Center LLC – the first step toward the college offering an aviation-focused associate degree. Graduates of OTC's program will be prepared to immediately work as commercial pilots. The program must earn approvals from the Missouri Dept. of Higher Education, the U.S. Dept. of Education, and earn accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. The college plans to have its first cohort of students in place to begin classes in the fall of 2017.



COISTERED NURSING PROGRAM

OTC hosts car and motorcycle show October 15, 2016

OTC hosted its annual car and motorcycle automotive students judged more than 100 top contenders. All proceeds from the event

▲ CoxHealth President and CEO Steve Edwards and OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon celebrated the establishment of the nursing program at the OTC Table Rock Campus.

Supported By

COXHEALTH



OTC and CoxHealth partner to establish Associate of Science in Nursing program

October 13, 2016 OTC and CoxHealth partnered to establish an Associate of Science in Nursing program at the OTC Table Rock Campus. College and hospital administrators say

the new program will help alleviate the critical shortage of qualified nurses in the healthcare industry.

The new ASN program will begin in the fall of 2017, and it will have the capacity to produce 24 nursing graduates each year. These graduates will be eligible to take the exam to become registered nurses.

"This partnership with CoxHealth gives us the opportunity to actively respond to the healthcare needs of our community," said Chancellor Hal Higdon. "The new ASN program will particularly benefit Stone and Taney counties as we work to train qualified nurses for the region."

The OTC Table Rock Campus also received a new nursing lab, conference room and tutoring center as part of the \$2 million commitment.

OTC announces Excellence in **Education Award Recipients** October 17, 2016

OTC unveiled its 2016 Excellence in Education award recipients at the college's annual Development Day: Roseanne Killion and Kirsten Markley received the Excellence in Education Full Time Instructor award; Susan Lindenberg received the Excellence in Education Adjunct Instructor award: Ann White received the Excellence in Education Professional Support Staff award; and Dr. Vivian Elder received the Excellence in Education Administration award. Each winner was presented with a plaque and monetary award made possible by the Turner Family Foundation.

OTC students, faculty and administration receive statewide recognition at MCCA convention November 5, 2016

The Missouri Community College Association recognized OTC students, faculty, administrators and staff at its 52nd annual convention. Dr. Steven Bishop, the college's retiring provost and vice chancellor, received the Senior Service award, and Jacque Harris, instructional technologist, received the Technology Innovation award. Bishop and Harris were chosen from thousands of peers across the state for their outstanding leadership and support of OTC.

Three OTC students were also honored at the convention. Nora Browne, Rodney Bullock and Anthony Hendrickson received Student Leadership awards for their leadership and engagement on campus. CoxHealth received the Distinguished Business and Industry Award for its relationship with OTC.



show at the OTC Springfield Campus. OTC vehicle entries and awarded trophies to the supported SkillsUSA student activities.





▲ 2016 Excellence in Education recipients: Kirsten Markley, Dr. Vivian Elder, Ann White, Susan Lindenberg and Roseanne Killion.

OTC hosts Chat with the Chancellor

November 7, 2016

Chancellor Hal Higdon visited each of OTC's campuses and centers to meet with students and listen to their stories. Hot topics of discussion included financial aid, scholarships, transfer opportunities and Dr. Higdon's favorite subject, football.

"I enjoyed conversing one-on-one with our students at the events, and I was particularly impressed with their focus and drive in achieving their goals," said Dr. Higdon. "I met with one student who will pursue an internship at Microsoft and another who plans to transfer to Baylor University to pursue his doctorate in physical therapy."

Dr. Higdon expressed his admiration for the student veterans he met.

"Their stories of perseverance and grit were truly inspiring," he recalled. "It was fulfilling to see how the college has supported our veterans."



▲ Dr. Higdon visited with an OTC Table Rock Campus student about her experiences and educational goals at one of this fall's "Chat with the Chancellor" events.





OTC Fine Arts presents "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" November 11, 2016

The OTC Fine Arts Department presented its annual holiday production of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" at the Gillioz Theatre. The play was set in a 1940s radio studio theatre called WGLZ Playhouse of the Air where seven actors delivered all the lines from the classic film and created their own live sound effects. Guests were encouraged to dress in '40s attire for an immersive theatrical experience.

"I really enjoyed the challenge of performing in a radio play," said Eli Davidson, an OTC student actor who played the lead role of Jake Lawrence as George Bailey. "This production is something beyond film. It focused highly on the voice, so we had to use dynamics and inflection to help the audience members follow the story as if they lived back in 1947 and listened to the show on the radio."



▲ OTC students enjoyed stepping back in time in this year's holiday production of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play."





OTC hosts Veterans Day events November 11, 2016

OTC observed Veterans Day with ceremonies at its Springfield and Waynesville locations. The Springfield campus ceremony featured a speech by U.S. Army veteran Ron Timmins. Timmins is the Safety and Security Supervisor at OTC's centers in Lebanon and Waynesville.

"Today is a day of national pride," Timmins said. "A day to show the strength of our country. A day to honor our veterans. A day to show your support for our military."

The ceremony also featured the presentation of the colors by the Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and performances by the OTC Concert Choir and the Central Middle Years Choir. Additionally, Jonathon Letner received the Outstanding OTC Student Veteran award from the Sons of the America Revolution.

The OTC Waynesville Center ceremony featured remarks from the center's dean, Rosalind Pride. Pride also presented checks to representatives from the Disabled American Veterans and Wounded Warrior Project.

OTC's Tracy McGrady named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs November 14, 2016

Dr. Tracy McGrady was named OTC's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. She filled the position vacated by retiring Provost and Vice Chancellor Steven Bishop on Jan. 3, 2017. Dr. Bishop served the college since its beginning in 1991.

As provost, Dr. McGrady leads the instructional areas of the college including general education, technical education, allied health, business, online instruction and high school programs. The college's ancillary academic services – the tutoring and learning center, adult education and literacy, and disability support – also fall under her leadership.

"Today's higher education institutions rely on innovative and forward-thinking administrators," said Chancellor Hal Higdon. "Dr. McGrady's breadth of experience as both a higher education administrator and faculty member – in addition to her passion for student success – will prove invaluable to the college as she steps into this new role." ▲ Veteran students and staff gathered on the OTC Springfield Campus to celebrate their service on Veterans Day. ▼ Dr. Tracy McGrady was named provost.



Department of Labor awards \$3 million to Springfield November 28, 2016

The City of Springfield's Department of Workforce Development and OTC were awarded a \$3 million America's Promise grant by the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant will provide tuition-free training and certifications in health-related occupations for 372 individuals over the next four years. The U.S. Department of Labor awarded a total of 23 grants nationwide. Springfield was the only community in Missouri to receive one.

The grant will provide unemployed, underemployed and disadvantaged populations with access to highquality, tuition-free education and training opportunities, specifically in the healthcare fields of nursing and behavioral health support.

"The America's Promise grant will remove financial barriers for hundreds of students so they can graduate as nurses, behavioral health specialists or nursing assistants," said Dr. Steven Bishop, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at OTC. "The education they receive will prove invaluable to their futures, our communities, and ultimately, the people they serve."

Lauren Sweet starts each day with a smile. Why? Because she has her dream job.



A GIANT **DREAM** COME TRUE

any young children dream of working with animals when they grow up. OTC graduate Lauren Sweet is living that dream. She doesn't work with dogs, cats or even horses. Her animal of choice can grow to be 20 feet tall and weigh as much as a ton. Lauren's an assistant zookeeper and giraffe trainer at the Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield.

"I dreamed about working at a zoo but I never dreamed of working with giraffes," said Lauren, who graduated from OTC last May with her Associate of Arts.

While she was homeschooled for 12 years, Lauren would take trips to the zoo and the Springfield Nature Center with her mother. When she was 12, she volunteered at Wonders of Wildlife in Springfield.

"I worked in the education center when it offered public programs. I loved working with the kids," she said.

Lauren attended OTC to take her general education courses. She knew right away that OTC was the place for her.

"It was very important for me to stay out of debt and get a really good education. And that's why OTC was the perfect choice," she said.

Lauren's duties at the zoo include working with different animals depending on which zookeepers need assistance that day in either the South American, Australian or African areas of the zoo.

She feeds animals in the morning and evening, cleans stalls and yards, does basic landscaping work, builds animal exhibits, and moves and weighs the animals. In addition to those duties, in her role as giraffe trainer, she teaches the animals to respond to stimuli like a ball on a stick that they must touch with their noses. When they complete the task successfully, Lauren gives the giraffes food to reward their behavior.

"You can't not be happy around giraffes. Anytime I work with them, they are happy to see me. So majestic," she said. Ken Harmon, senior zookeeper at the Dickerson Park Zoo said Lauren always "greets everyone with a smile and a positive, enthusiastic attitude, which is refreshing. She is always willing to help."

> No matter what is asked of her in her job at the zoo, Lauren is quick to oblige and does so with a smile.

> > "I'm getting paid to do what I've always dreamed of doing. I love my job," Lauren said.

And Lauren, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree at Missouri State, was able to make her dream come true by attending OTC.

"It's a no brainer," Lauren said. "If you're looking to save money and get your dream job, OTC is the place to go." After some detours and tours, Kevin Newton finished his degree at OTC and became a Battlefield firefighter.

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attlefield firefighter Kevin Newton loves to talk about his job and the education he received at OTC. He often tells people that two days a week he lives in a multimillion-dollar house, drives a \$500,000 vehicle and wears a \$6,000 suit.

"Then I tell them, I'm a firefighter and you can become one too at OTC," Kevin said.

After growing up in central California, Kevin's parents moved to southwest Missouri where Kevin enrolled at OTC in 1998 to become a paramedic. Kevin's educational path had several interruptions and detours over the years. But after watching the New York firefighters run towards danger on 9-11, Kevin knew he wanted to become a firefighter.

"I found my calling then. I wanted to be a fireman," he said. First though, Kevin decided to serve his country and joined the U.S. Navy in 2003. He completed four tours of duty overseas as a Navy medic, serving with a U.S. Marine infantry unit in Iraq and then serving in Afghanistan.

"After my military service, I knew I had found my calling in fire service and enrolled again at OTC. I wanted to finish my associate degree in fire science," he said.

Kevin said he felt a little out of place coming back to school from a combat environment.

"I didn't know what I was getting into. I knew what firefighting entailed but not what a degree would look like," he said. "I heard Chief (OTC instructor Danny Whisler) made you work. He expected the best out of us. I was used to that in the military."

Whisler, the former Springfield fire chief and director of OTC's fire science technology program, said Kevin was looking for ways to put his military experience to work.

"Kevin worked hard, applied himself and became—not just a good student—but a real asset to the program. Kevin is a prime example of how OTC can assist our military personnel and help them put their experiences to work to benefit our community and become a qualified and respected professional."

While taking classes at OTC, Kevin was able to earn a position with the Battlefield Fire Department.

"I got to work for Battlefield while going through OTC's fire science program. Whisler told me they had a live-in residence program. Battlefield has a station that is empty and if you have the right credentials, you can live in it rent free, but you are required to be there 60 hours a week as a volunteer," he said.

In 2015, the department was hiring and selected Kevin, from the top of the candidate list, as its new full-time fireman. Now, Kevin and Whisler work together to give other OTC fire science graduates a shot at full-time firefighter work.

mothers' inspiration

tudents often show perseverance and grit as they overcome countless obstacles to reach graduation and the lucrative and fulfilling jobs that come with OTC degrees. Kristi Christian is a perfect example.

Kristi learned many lessons in her time at OTC. There were, of course, the lessons learned while working toward her dental hygiene degree. But, maybe more importantly, there were the lessons Kristi learned about life.

Before she began attending OTC, Kristi's support system was mainly her mother, Lucille.

"My mom was my biggest advocate. She was living across the street. She stayed with the kids when I worked overnight. I couldn't have done it without her," Kristi said, who was divorced with three young children.

To support her family, Kristi worked full-time stocking shelves on the overnight shift at Walmart. She also cleaned houses and businesses on weekends and her nights off. Her mother stayed with the kids at night while Kristi worked.

"I don't know how I did it," she said looking back on those days.

Kristi realized her schedule was not sustainable and she wanted to do something else with her life. The answer came to her one night while watching television.

"A commercial came on for OTC and it was scrolling all these programs offered at the college. Suddenly, dental hygiene came up and I sat up and said, 'Is that right? That's something I could go back to school for and not keep working at Walmart overnights.' I was ecstatic," she said.

After seeing the commercial, she came to OTC to get some more information. She walked out registered for classes.

Kristi, with the help of her mom, juggled all of the responsibilities she had as a student-parent:

attending classes, studying, working and taking care of the kids.

"Mom was there for everything. She would help me clean homes and business offices. She was watching my kids," Kristi said.

Kristi would take her kids to school in the morning, then head to OTC to take her classes. She only slept three hours a day, usually from 6-9 at night, and sometimes, during a break in her classes.

But everything changed in 2011 when Lucille was diagnosed with lung cancer.

"I was numb. How was I going to continue going to school? She was my strongest supporter. It was tough," Kristi said.

In 2011, just before Thanksgiving, Lucille died.

"I was thankful her struggle had ended, but I knew a different journey was ahead for my kids and me," Kristi said.

Enter Kristi's other support group – her dental hygiene family.

"I had to keep going. I had to finish. I was so close. The instructors, classmates, everyone was so encouraging. I couldn't have done it without them," she said.

"Every single one of them was like family to me. I lost my mom, but I gained a whole bunch of other people."

And when Kristi received her degree in May 2012, she knew who would be watching her.

"I walked across that stage and I just looked up and I said, 'We did it mom. We did it.' I got through it," she said.

Since graduation, Kristi has gone to work for Dr. Marshall Snodgrass at Our Dental Home in Marshfield. She's also recently re-married.

"Everybody goes through struggles. It's how you deal with those struggles that's going to make a difference and make you a stronger person in the end."

"Everybody goes through struggles. It's how you deal with those struggles that's going to make a difference and make you a stronger person in the end."

Kristi Christian honored her mother's memory by finishing her OTC degree and making a better life for herself and her children. zarks Technical Community College prides itself on offering degrees that directly lead to employment. OTC students head straight into jobs as welders, nurses and mechanics, and now, you can add concert promoter to that list as well.

OTC business student Victor Mitchell never thought the plan he developed for a class would lead to a career, but Victor is now the owner of Futuristic Entertainment, which promotes and stages music events in Springfield. It was a simple assignment in Victor's business principles class two years ago that sparked the idea.

"We were told to develop plans for three different-sized businesses. I picked entertainment management as my large business." Victor said. "Once I started pitching the idea to people, I said to myself, 'I kind of like this.'"

From then on, Victor began booking shows at the downtown Regency and the Outland Ballroom. With his musical background playing drums for his church – James River Assembly of God – and at home, he worked to build the local hip-hop and rap music scene. "If I was going to build the hip-hop scene, and do it right, I knew I was going to have to do it myself," he said. "I choose who goes on my stage and try to keep the message positive."

So far, his company has been a big success. His last show in late August at the Regency drew an audience of 500. "It did very, very well," Victor said. "I like the diversity of music styles I bring together by booking a rock band with hip-hop sometimes."

A graduate of Kickapoo High School, the 24-year-old is scheduled to graduate from OTC this spring with an associate degree in Business Management and plans to transfer to Missouri State University to work on his four-year degree in business.

"OTC has been beneficial to me in getting where I am today," he said. "It helped spark ideas in me and one idea sparks another to the point where I said, 'Hey, I want success.'"

Victor said people in the community appreciate his business's mission.

"They want to see positivity when they come into the arena. I want to change rap and hip-hop into a positive vibe. Right now, that music has a negative connotation," he said. "There's a lot of diversity in music in the area. That's something to celebrate."

What started as a class project at OTC has become an exciting business venture for a motivated Victor Mitchell.

D



udy Breeding may be small in stature but she has played a big role in serving as one of OTC's most passionate supporters.

A native of Houston, Mo., Judy worked as an accountant for more than 30 years. She began her

BIG IMPACT

career at BKD as the firm's first female certified public accountant (CPA) and later became its first female partner. Over the years, being a female in a male-dominated environment

provided challenges. However, as Judy's husband of 42 years, Mike, will tell you, her never-quit attitude is what makes Judy who she is today.

"No challenge is too big or small for Judy. She'll take it on," he said.

In 2001, Judy brought her bold and resourceful leadership to OTC when she became a member of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors. As the

longest tenured member of the board, Judy's role in developing financial support for the institution has become invaluable. When the foundation kickedoff its first capital campaign in 2008, Judy played an integral role as one of the campaign's co-chairs.

"I saw the economic need in southwest Missouri for something in addition to a traditional four-year college education. So many people we came in contact with wanted skills training or an affordable option for their first two years of college," she said.

Judy's support of OTC's students has extended beyond her service on the Foundation board. She and Mike established a named scholarship for women seeking an accounting degree at OTC.

"I believe in women breaking through that glass ceiling. I was a recipient of a scholarship, and it changed my life," she said.

It is this passion for investing in their community that has led the Breedings to include the OTC Foundation in their estate planning.

"Education is the best thing we can do for our community, and OTC is the best opportunity southwest Missouri has to improve the economic situation for so many people," she said.

First-Hand Experience

f you ask John Gentry for the key to success at his manufacturing company, Positronic, he will tell you it's a skilled workforce. Positronic, founded 50 years ago by John's father, Jack, has grown into a multi-national corporation that manufactures hightech electronic connectors and assemblies, which provide innovative solutions for military, aerospace and medical applications. When OTC came into the picture in 1990, Positronic was given the ability to strengthen its skilled workforce with a local solution.

"When OTC was founded 26 years ago, the college filled a need for skills and technical training for our Springfield region employees," John said.

Though the college was still in its infancy in 1993, OTC partnered with Positronic and the U.S. Department of Labor to create an apprenticeship program for both existing employees and high school students who wanted to be career-ready upon graduation.

"I was very pleased with the results. The workers felt pride in completing their training, and the skills

they gained made our employees more valuable to the company," John said.

Upon experiencing first-hand the value OTC provides to local businesses, John strengthened his relationship with OTC two-fold. First, he gave financially to the OTC Foundation in order to increase the college's ability to serve students, the community and industry. Second, he joined the OTC Foundation Board of Directors. A few years later, John was elected to the OTC Board of Trustees.

At home, John receives plenty of encouragement to continue his support of the college's mission. His wife, Susan, is a strong advocate for education and understands the value OTC provides to the local community.

"Anything to do with education excites me," Susan said. "I believe strongly in the value of education. OTC fills a gap in this community. Continued learning only benefits the economic future of our region. It's exciting and energizing for John and I to be a part of the OTC mission."



▶ John and Susan Gentry are strong advocates for the college and generous donors. John serves on the OTC Board of Trustees.

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.

Gifts and pledges received between July 1, 2015, and December 31, 2016, are included in this report.

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GIVING BACK

Eric and Kathy Shade were married 27 years when Eric passed away from colon cancer in 2015. Kathy, a geology instructor at OTC, and her late husband, Eric, who taught computer science at Missouri State University, spent their careers educating students. Through their profession, they both saw first-hand the financial difficulties many students face.

Following Eric's passing, Kathy searched for the best way to honor his life, and continuing to help students reach their goals was the answer.

"Eric was passionate about helping students. I wanted to continue his legacy of making a difference by helping OTC students who need it the most," said Kathy.

Kathy was able to achieve that goal by making a memorial contribution to the OTC Foundation Student Emergency Fund, which offers assistance to OTC students who find themselves in a financial crisis. Many times, assistance from the Student Emergency Fund is the difference between a student staying in school or being forced to drop out.

"I know my contribution is going to directly affect students. I'm proud of that. And I know Eric would be too," said Kathy.

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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.

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IN MEMORY

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. (*Deceased)

IN HONOR OF SAM & JUNE HAMRA Shelby Willcox

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LEGACY SOCIETY

Friends of OTC who remember the OTC Foundation through a bequest or other type of planned gift become members of the Legacy Society. For more information, contact the OTC Foundation. (* *Deceased*)

MEMBERS:

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FOUNDATION REPORT

The OTC Foundation is incorporated as a notfor-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.

Campaign Update

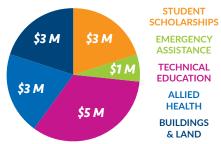
The OTC Foundation is in the midst of its second comprehensive campaign titled: Passion. Purpose. Promise. — The Campaign for OTC. This campaign is designed to fulfill our mission of transforming lives and strengthening our communities. The campaign includes initiatives to support our students through scholarships, emergency assistance, and access to excellent programs and facilities.

The community response to this \$15 million campaign has been overwhelmingly positive; individuals and organizations have invested more than \$13 million in support of the campaign to date. At 88 percent in funds raised toward our goal, we are eager to complete the promise of changing lives and strengthening the community.





How will the \$15 million be utilized?



242 OTC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Balance Sheet

Fund Balance	2016
Unrestricted	\$825,248
Restricted	\$1,640,557
Endowment (Irrevocable)	\$2,738,077
Total Fund Balance	\$5,203,882

To learn more about how we can align your passion with OTC's mission, contact the OTC Foundation at (417) 447-2651 or foundation@otc.edu.

OTC Foundation Staff

Stephanie Sumners, Chief of Staff & Executive Director of the OTC Foundation Amy Bacon, College Director of Development Cray Allred, Operations Coordinator Kristin Bowers, Secretary for the OTC Foundation

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

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