



2017

ANNUAL REPORT

**OZARKS TECHNICAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

At Ozarks Technical Community College, we believe in the power of dreams. Year after year, we put thousands of dreamers on the path to success through our life-changing educational programs — and this past year brought forth some of our brightest dreamers yet.

Throughout the pages of our 2017 Annual Report, you will meet these dreamers firsthand. You will soar with an aspiring pilot as she takes flight in our new aviation program. You will witness the spark of a welding student as he plans for his future in manufacturing. You will cheer for a retired U.S. Army veteran as he embarks on a career in early childhood development, and you will marvel at the success of another student who has completed multiple healthcare degrees.

Furthermore, you will discover how our students’ dreams are made possible by the generosity of community members like you.

In 2017, we celebrated the culmination of *Passion. Purpose. Promise — The Campaign for OTC*. The multi-year fundraising campaign successfully raised more than \$18 million for the college. These funds allow us to expand our program offerings, increase scholarship opportunities and build new, cutting-edge facilities for students — all of which fulfill our mission of providing accessible, affordable educational opportunities that transform lives and strengthen communities.

This past fall, we also unveiled the college’s 2017 economic impact study. Emsi, an independent economic modeling consultant, determined OTC has a \$234 million impact on the local economy by measuring the increased spending power of our students and graduates in addition to the jobs we support and the investments we make in our community.

In conclusion, your investment in OTC is an investment in our community. I want to thank you for sharing your time, knowledge and resources with us. The college’s accomplishments and accolades would not be possible without your unwavering support. Because of you, our students can fulfill their wildest dreams, we can invest in our community’s success, and we can look forward to a bright and promising future.

Sincerely,

Chancellor

#DreamOn

Dreams are as unique as a single brush stroke. They paint our subconscious with creativity and possibility. At Ozarks Technical Community College, we are committed to helping people take those dreams from the abstract to reality by offering plans for an education, a better career and a better life.

We hope you enjoy the artistic imagery and vivid colors that represent the dreams of our students and their plans for the future within the pages of our 2017 Annual Report.



BY THE NUMBERS

OTC contributed \$234 million dollars to the southwest Missouri economy during the 2015-16 academic year according to an economic impact study commissioned by the college.

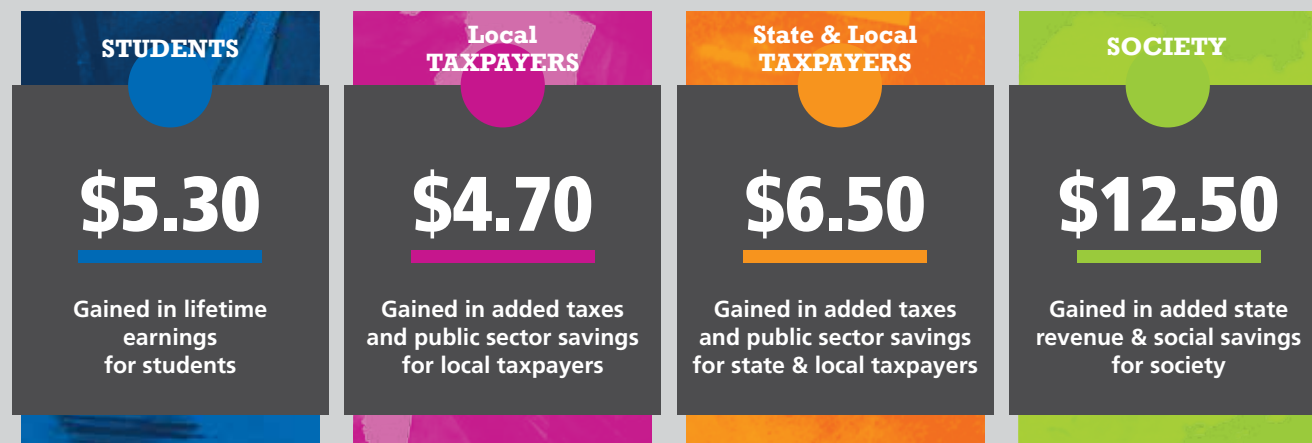
Emsi, a provider of economic impact studies and labor market data for educational institutions, measured return on investment for students, local taxpayers, state taxpayers and society. According to Emsi's study, OTC students earn an 18.5 percent rate of return on their investment. That's nearly triple the stock market's ten-year average annual return.

Data based on fiscal year 2015-2016. Source: Emsi

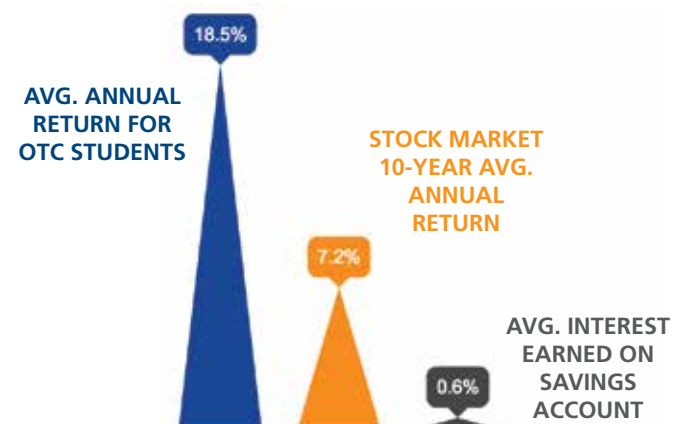
ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$234
MILLION IMPACT
5,579
JOBS

FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT



RETURN ON INVESTMENT



IMPACTS CREATED BY OTC

ADDED INCOME	JOBS
\$1.9 MILLION Construction Spending Impact	46
\$17.1 MILLION Student Spending Impact	367
\$152 MILLION Alumni Spending Impact	2,782
\$63 MILLION Operations Spending Impact	2,383
\$234 MILLION Total Impact	5,578 Total Jobs

YEAR IN REVIEW

OTC receives \$120,000 grant from 3M Gives Foundation

January 6, 2017

OTC received a \$120,000 grant from the 3M Gives Foundation to enhance its Industrial Systems Technology curriculum. The grant, written in partnership with Springfield Public Schools and the local 3M-Springfield plant, allowed OTC to purchase a new training system and the affiliated software. Additionally, the grant helped OTC provide continuing education workshops for college instructors and regional manufacturing career-mentor partnerships for students.

The grant also supported a new program developed by OTC and Springfield Public Schools that allowed middle school students to explore local manufacturing career options before they enter high school.

OTC awarded \$75,000 to develop new apprenticeship programs

January 18, 2017

OTC received a \$75,000 grant through the U.S. Department of Labor ApprenticeshipUSA State Expansion Grant program. The grant, established

in partnership with the Missouri Division of Workforce Development, gave OTC the resources to develop and implement strategies that support the expansion of registered apprenticeship programs across the region.

Nancy Higdon Memorial Scholarship raises \$30,000 for students

January 25, 2017

The Nancy Higdon Memorial Scholarship, established by Chancellor Hal Higdon, reached \$30,000 this fall. The fund is in memory of Higdon's late wife, Nancy, who passed away in 2016. The endowment will provide an annual scholarship to students pursuing an accounting degree at OTC.

OTC partners with MCCA and Department of Social Services to help low-income Missourians

February 13, 2017

OTC partnered with the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) and the Missouri Department of Social Services to help people who receive food stamps gain access to free job training

and employment opportunities.

Food stamp recipients who qualify for the new SkillUP Missouri program can enroll in free college training and certificate courses at OTC. Once enrolled, college advisors guide participants through the process of choosing an educational program of study, and Missouri Job Center staff help participants secure transportation or childcare assistance. Once participants complete the SkillUP program, the Missouri Job Center helps those individuals find gainful employment.

OTC Communications and Marketing wins two national awards from NCMPR

March 28, 2017

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) honored OTC's Communications and Marketing department with two gold Paragon Awards at its national conference. The department won in the categories of poster series and radio ad.

OTC family rallies to support an overlooked cause

February 17, 2017

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, more than 50,000 women live unsheltered on the streets every year. And these women face unthinkable decisions when their periods arrive each month.

A group of OTC folks did their part to help local homeless women who face these difficult circumstances every month.

A viral video titled "How do homeless women cope with their periods?" caught the attention of OTC instructor Jennifer Dunkel. Jennifer shared the video on her Facebook account. A week later, the Donate. Period. drive was born.

In total, the week-long Donate. Period. drive collected more than 5,000 tampons, 4,652 pads and liners, 429 hygiene cloths and wipes, 223 pairs of underwear and 23 boxes of pain-relief pills.

A majority of the feminine hygiene products were donated to Safe to Sleep, a temporary women's homeless shelter, and Rare Breed, a service of The Kitchen, Inc. that provides assistance to homeless, runaway and at-risk youth.



Sarah Buxton was the first OTC student to be named a Newman Civic Fellow.



OTC dives into April Fool's Day fun

April 1, 2017

OTC debuted an aviation program in 2017. That's true. On April 1, the college announced that it had paired that new degree with OTC's first ever intercollegiate sport – skydiving. That was false.

The playful news release was part of an April Fool's prank posted to the college's Facebook page that said, "OTC will dive into collegiate sports with the launch of a Division II skydiving team in the fall of 2017."

The college used the opportunity to promote the aviation program, which began classes in fall 2017 with maximum enrollment.



OTC hosts community job fair

March 29, 2017

A steady crowd attended a job fair hosted by OTC's Career Employment Services. The free and open-to-the-public event was designed for both career-minded individuals and those seeking seasonal or part-time employment. More than 500 jobseekers brought their skills and qualifications to make personal connections with dozens of area employers including CoxHealth, Bass Pro Shops, O'Reilly Auto Parts and Silver Dollar City.

OTC's Sarah Buxton named 2017 Newman Civic Fellow

April 4, 2017

OTC student Sarah Buxton was chosen as a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. Buxton was the first OTC student to achieve recognition through the fellowship program.

OTC Foundation hosts annual donor reception

April 4, 2017

The OTC Foundation hosted its eighth-annual Donor Reception at the Old Glass Place in Springfield. Scholarship recipients and donors mingled, posed for photos and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres together. The OTC Foundation awards nearly \$300,000 in scholarships annually thanks to the generous support of donors.

"As an alumnus of OTC, and as a donor and board member, I see the

difference OTC is making in students' lives," said Paul Sundy, chair of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors. "Providing scholarships to OTC students helps make that possible."

"I wouldn't be in the nursing program if it weren't for this scholarship," said scholarship recipient Lindsey Coleman. "I can't thank my donor enough for making a real difference in my life."

OTC faculty, students honored by MCCA

April 12, 2017

Every year, the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) presents Excellence in Teaching awards and Student Leadership awards to outstanding instructors and students from across the state. OTC instructors Roseanne Killion, Kirsten Markley and Russ Wydeen each received an Excellence in Teaching award at the association's annual Phi Theta Kappa and Excellence in Teaching Awards Luncheon. OTC students Elizabeth Aley, Jessie Peterson and Anna Strait-Schmitz also received Student Leadership awards.



OTC instructors Roseanne Killion (above and middle), Kirsten Markley (left) and Russ Wydeen (right) received the MCCA Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Rick's
AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
ENTRANCE

Rick's Automotive owner Rick Hughlett shared his story at OTC's Excellence in Business event.

OTC honors Rick Hughlett with Excellence in Business Award

April 20, 2017

Rick Hughlett, founder and president of Rick's Automotive, was the recipient of OTC's 2017 Excellence in Business award. Chancellor Higdon presented the award to Rick before a large crowd at the White River Conference Center.

Rick and his wife, Karen, opened Rick's Automotive in 1980 with one goal in mind: to bridge the gap between dealerships and chain stores through an honest and competent auto repair facility.

"To be successful in any business you have to have a passion for it, and I like cars. My business grew from my passion," Rick told an audience of more than 150 at the event.

Today, Rick's Automotive has become one of the most recognized and trusted automotive service providers in southwest Missouri.

"It's the people who make Rick's Automotive great," Rick said. "My automotive technicians are some of the most hardworking, intelligent people I've ever met in my life."

Rick, a graduate of OTC's precursor, Graff Vocational Technical School, has supported OTC since its inception in 1990. He helped form an advisory committee of area automotive service providers to work with the college's transportation department in an effort to provide OTC automotive instructors with the latest tools and training needed to become successful automotive technicians.

Rick also started a mentoring program at OTC to provide real-world experience to students in the college's Automotive Technology program. Additionally, Rick and Karen established a scholarship fund for these students through the OTC Foundation, the college's fundraising arm.

OTC Fine Arts presents "Julie Bunny Must Die"

April 21, 2017

The OTC Fine Arts department presented the musical comedy "Julie Bunny Must Die!" at the OTC Springfield Campus.

"Julie Bunny Must Die!" was written by longtime Springfield resident Ned Wilkinson and originally performed by Springfield Contemporary Theatre. The musical dives into the world of graphic artist Adam Chase as he seeks to balance his real life with his cult-hit comic book "Julie Bunny: International Spy."



This year's spring play was the locally-written musical "Julie Bunny Must Die!"

OTC Foundation announces new leadership and new members

May 12, 2017

Paul Sundy was selected as the new chair of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors. The OTC Foundation Board also chose Curtis Jared to serve as its vice chair, Paula Adams was appointed to secretary and David Taylor was named treasurer. In addition to choosing new leadership, the OTC Foundation welcomed new members Raylene Appleby and Steve Warlick in 2017.



Clockwise from top-left: Chancellor Hal Higdon, Assistant College Director of Admissions Vicki MacDonald, Provost Tracy McGrady, Communications Instructor James Ackerman, Academic Advisor Seth King.



Barista for the day...or an hour

May 3, 2017

"Can you please make me a Venti latte, skinny, froth with a red eye?" For most Starbucks baristas that's an easy order to fill. However, for a few OTC faculty, staff and administrators, it may as well have been a foreign language. A handful of OTC employees each spent an hour in a green apron as guest baristas at the Starbucks at the OTC Springfield Campus. Thankfully, the Starbucks employees supervised the guest workers, and none of the guest baristas quit their day jobs.



OTC confers more than 3,000 degrees and certificates at commencement
May 18, 2017

More than 700 graduates walked in the commencement ceremony held at Missouri State University's JQH Arena.

OTC conferred 3,097 degrees and certificates to graduates, which included students who completed, or were pending completion, from the summer 2016 semester through the spring 2017 semester.

Actress, writer and producer Dana Powell gave the evening's commencement address. The Springfield native attended Hillcrest High School and OTC before graduating with a degree in theater from Missouri State University. Powell is best known for her role as Cameron Tucker's sister, Pam, on the ABC sitcom "Modern Family."

During her speech, Powell encouraged the graduates to celebrate their accomplishments and embrace their mistakes.

"Failure is just another step toward your success," she said. "The reality of life is that you are going to fail, but how you choose to define that word will determine your future success and happiness."

OTC also honored Andrew Hedgpeth as the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Hedgpeth, the vice president of human resources at CoxHealth, earned his Associate of Arts from OTC before graduating from Missouri State University.

Hedgpeth, an inaugural recipient of the state's A+ Scholarship, credited much of his success to the education he received at OTC.

"It was a way out of poverty for me," he said. "I am living proof that when individuals and institutions invest in someone, doors can open for that individual in ways never before imagined."

Clockwise from top-left. Honors program graduates gathered outside JQH Arena to celebrate together. Students enjoyed the commencement ceremony. Distinguished Alumnus Andrew Hedgpeth receives his award. A graduate celebrated her accomplishment with her children. A graduate acknowledged family in the crowd after receiving her diploma. Commencement speaker Dana Powell, a Springfield native and actress, encouraged graduates to celebrate their success and embrace their mistakes.



OTC hosts Eclipse Watch Party
August 21, 2017

Everyone's future was so bright they had to wear shades on the first day of classes for fall 2017. The college welcomed students back to campus with a once-in-a-lifetime Eclipse Watch Party, followed by a series of fun events during the first week of school.



Above: OTC's new aviation program launched at capacity with 24 students.

Right: The Center for Workforce Development opened a new Allied Health classroom and lab to house four certificate programs.



OTC Board of Trustees approves Workforce Training Center
June 5, 2017

The OTC Board of Trustees approved the construction of a Workforce Training Center for the Springfield campus. The pre-engineered metal building will house 18 welding labs and will also be used for institutional storage. The building is set to open in spring 2018.

OTC's Matthew Simpson appointed to Governor's Innovation Task Force
June 22, 2017

Matthew Simpson, OTC's director of research, strategic planning and grant development, was appointed by Missouri Governor Eric Greitens to the Governor's Innovation Task Force as a member of its steering committee. Simpson worked with leaders from across the state to assess the current state of innovation in Missouri and develop specific recommendations for what the state can do to promote innovation and new technology start-ups.

OTC students excel at SkillsUSA championships
June 28, 2017

Three OTC students earned national championship medals at the SkillsUSA 53rd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Louisville, Ky.

Miranda McCoy, a 2017 OTC graduate, won a silver medal in computer programming, and OTC students Ashley Townsend and Jacob Burnett won bronze medals in video production.

OTC unveils new CWD Allied Health classroom and lab
July 14, 2017

OTC's Center for Workforce Development (CWD) hosted an open house for its new Allied Health classroom and laboratory. The new Allied Health classroom and laboratory is utilized by four CWD certificate programs: Medical Assistant, Hemodialysis Technician, Phlebotomy Technician and Pharmacy Technician.

The new facility features a mock patient examination room, pharmacy lab, phlebotomy lab and hemodialysis machine.

OTC hosts community listening sessions
July 2017

OTC hosted a series of public listening sessions in July and August to seek the community's input as it developed and revised the college's strategic plan to reflect the education and training needs of southwest Missouri. Community members were encouraged to attend the sessions to learn more about OTC and provide feedback on key issues and new opportunities for growth.

Pilot training takes off at OTC
August 15, 2017

OTC celebrated its first class of pilots with a celebration and kickoff event for the aviation program at the Premier Flight Center. The inaugural class was full with 24 students registered. Graduates will be qualified to work as commercial pilots.

OTC is the top community college destination for Missouri ACT test takers
September 14, 2017

More than 2,200 students in the Missouri graduating class of 2017 sent their ACT test scores to OTC according to a report released by the American College Testing Program (ACT). In total, 2,288 students who graduated from Missouri high schools in 2017 sent their scores to OTC, which made OTC the top-ranked community college for the 2017 Missouri graduating class.

"These results are extremely encouraging because it means our story is resonating with young people," said Chancellor Hal Higdon. "Students and parents understand that attending a community college can lead to great career outcomes without the debt burden of attending expensive universities."



OTC Foundation celebrates \$18 million
August 16, 2017

The OTC Foundation's *Passion. Purpose. Promise.* — *The Campaign for OTC* raised \$18 million. Foundation officials and the college community celebrated the culmination of the campaign with a reception on the OTC Springfield Campus.

"Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we can continue fulfilling our mission of providing life-changing educational opportunities to students," said Stephanie Sumners, OTC chief of staff and executive director of the OTC Foundation.

Passion. Purpose. Promise. — *The Campaign for OTC* will fund several capital projects including the renovation of the Hamra Library and expansion of the Diesel Technology training facility at the OTC Springfield Campus. The expansion triples the size of training space on campus and increases program enrollment capacity by 45 percent.

Additional projects for the OTC Springfield Campus include a new Jared Family Welcome Center, as well as, an outdoor classroom at the Lewis Family Early Childhood Education Center. The campaign also established a Registered Nursing program supported by CoxHealth at the OTC Table Rock Campus, which included the construction of a 4,000-square-foot state-of-the-art nursing lab.

"The workforce initiatives fulfilled by this campaign are excellent examples of how OTC is helping educate and train students for high-demand careers like diesel technology and nursing," said Jim Towery, president of Steelman Transportation and past chair of the OTC Foundation Board of Directors.

In addition to capital projects and improvements, nearly \$3 million was raised for student scholarships. The scholarship endowments established by the campaign will provide need-based financial assistance to hundreds of OTC students annually.

"A community's level of commitment is shown by its willingness to invest in initiatives like *Passion. Purpose. Promise.*," said Chancellor Hal Higdon. "I am proud of our community's support of OTC students, which, in turn, supports the critical role our college plays in southwest Missouri."

Clockwise from top-left. The OTC Car and Motorcycle Show had more than 90 vehicle entries this year. Provost Tracy McGrady speaks at the BuildMO news conference held at OTC. The Bates Architects team was one of 26 teams that played in the 11th annual OTC Foundation Golf Tournament.



OTC holds student fall picnic
September 29, 2017
Music, beautiful weather, and grilled hot dogs made for a party atmosphere at OTC's annual fall picnic events held at each campus and center.



OTC Lebanon Center hosts second annual trail run
September 30, 2017

The second annual OTC Lebanon Fall Trail Run was a huge success. More than 60 runners of all ages participated in either a 5 or 10 kilometer race on the Lebanon property. All proceeds benefited OTC Lebanon students.



OTC Foundation hosts 11th annual golf tournament
September 18, 2017

The OTC Foundation hosted its 11th annual golf tournament at Hickory Hills Country Club. Twenty-six teams and event sponsors together raised more than \$20,000 for scholarships.

Aspen Institute recognizes OTC for community college excellence
October 2017

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named OTC one of 150 finalists to compete for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million in prize funds. This is the third consecutive time OTC has been named a finalist to compete for this prestigious award.

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.

Ten finalists will be named in May of 2018. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner, rising stars and finalists with distinction in spring 2019.

BuildMO Week kicks off at OTC
October 2, 2017

The Associated General Contractors of Missouri (AGCMO) kicked off BuildMO week with a news conference at OTC to discuss the labor shortage in the construction industry and to announce the formation of an AGCMO student chapter at the college.

AGC of Missouri President Leonard Toenjes and OTC Provost Tracy McGrady were joined at the news conference by Missouri State Rep. Crystal Quade, President of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Matt Morrow and Springfield Mayor Ken McClure.

OTC hosts annual car and motorcycle show
October 14, 2017

OTC hosted its annual car and motorcycle show at the Springfield campus. OTC automotive students judged more than 90 vehicle entries and awarded trophies to the top contenders, including a 1958 Chevrolet Impala that won Best in Show. All proceeds from the event supported SkillsUSA student activities.



Chancellor Hal Higdon addressed a packed room at a news conference announcing new technical programs coming to the OTC Table Rock Campus.

OTC announces Excellence in Education Award recipients
October 17, 2017

OTC unveiled its 2017 Excellence in Education award recipients at the college's annual Development Day. Ronda Buckner received the Excellence in Education Full-Time Instructor award; Beverly Anderson received the Excellence in Education Adjunct Instructor award; Virginia Schnabel received the Excellence in Education Professional Support Staff award; and Matt Scott 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 Table Rock Campus earns two grants to support nursing
October 20, 2017

Nursing students at OTC's Table Rock Campus will have the opportunity to work with several real-life nursing simulation manikins thanks to two generous grants from the Skaggs Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grants totaled more than \$83,000.

Technical programs coming to Table Rock in 2018
November 1, 2017

Beginning in the fall of 2018, students at the OTC Table Rock Campus will have the opportunity to enroll in three new technical degree programs: Construction Technology, Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and Computer Information Science.

"When the Branson School District voted to join the OTC Taxing District in the spring of 2015, the college promised

OTC honors veterans
November 10, 2017

At OTC's Veterans Day commemoration, the colors, college Aviation Instructor and Doug Carrell, an Army veteran, received the

Sons of the American Revolution presented Army Veteran Brian Morgan spoke and Outstanding OTC Student Veteran Award.



that we would bring career and technical training to the Table Rock campus," said OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon. "These new programs for the Table Rock campus are the college keeping its promise."

OTC staff, alumni and donors honored with MCCA awards
November 3, 2017

Four members of the OTC family were honored by the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) at the association's 53rd convention held in Branson. Donor and OTC Foundation Board Member Jim Towery earned the Award of Distinction. OTC alumnus Andrew Hedgpeth received the Distinguished Alumni Award. The MCCA Senior Service Award went to Ramona George, the college's director of Adult Education and Literacy. OTC's Director of Research, Strategic Planning and Grant Development, Matthew Simpson, received the MCCA Technology Innovation Award.

OTC receives seven-figure grant for veterans
November 10, 2017

OTC received a \$1.3 million Federal TRIO Grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a Veterans Upward Bound program that will assist veterans with their pursuit of postsecondary education. OTC plans to serve a minimum of 125 veterans each year over the life of the five-year grant.

OTC Fine Arts presents "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play"
December 10, 2017

The OTC Fine Arts Department presented its annual production of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" at the Gillioz Theatre. The play was set in a 1940s radio studio called the WGLZ Playhouse of the Air where actors delivered all of the lines from the classic film and created their own live sound effects. This production has become a holiday tradition for the college.



2017 Excellence in Education recipients: Beverly Anderson, Ronda Buckner, Matt Scott and Virginia Schnabel.



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

Sarah Tindell is thrilled to be a part of OTC's inaugural class of aviation students.

Ready for Takeoff

Sarah Tindell looks to the sky for her future career path, and she is already taking off in that direction with the help of OTC's new Aviation Flight Technology program.

Sarah, 17, was one of the first students to enroll in OTC's aviation-focused associate degree program, which began in the fall of 2017. The degree, offered in association with Premier Flight Center, LLC, prepares students to enter the workforce as commercial pilots.

Becoming a pilot has been Sarah's goal since she took her first introductory flight at Premier in the fall of 2016.

"After my first flight, I fell in love with flying," she said.

Since then, she has been taking lessons at Premier and has logged more than 100 hours of flight time.

"With flying, I get to leave everything here behind. I focus on the moment. Being in control is quite the experience. The first time I took off, I realized that I'm actually flying this plane myself," she said.

Sarah said she got the flying bug when she was growing up.

"I had a neighbor who was a corporate pilot for John Q. Hammons. He would tell us stories about flying. It sounded fun," she said. "So, when I heard about the OTC aviation program, I thought that it was cool, and I knew I should check it out."

The aviation program consists of ground school classes taught by OTC instructors at the OTC Springfield Campus while Premier Flight Center, LLC teaches flight training at the former Springfield-Branson National Airport terminal.

"Our new aviation program is an exciting opportunity for the Springfield region and OTC," said Dr. Matthew Hudson, dean of technical education. "We have a fantastic partnership with the Springfield-Branson National airport, strong support from industry experts and a market of willing students ready to train and enter into aviation as a career choice."

Corina Everhart-Bond, director of business operations for Premier, said the program fills a need in the region.

"Our community has needed a flight school like this for quite some time, and we're proud to be a part of something that has never been in this region before. Our industry desperately needs pilots. This is a great avenue for any student to follow a dream," she said.

Sarah said her dream is to fly commercial airlines for a living.

"It will become a career for me – flying just clicked so I'm going for it," she said. "My friends are excited for me. Being in the first group of aviation students at OTC is pretty cool."

Rally the Troops

One might think a career in early childhood education would be a complete departure from a career in the U.S. military, but OTC student William Nelson insists that both of his careers share important themes.

"The Army is all about building confidence, strength and leadership — so is early childhood education," he said.

William, 45, is a practicum student in OTC's Early Childhood Development program. He recently retired from the military after serving for 21 years as a member of the U.S. Army Air Defense. He hopes to one day become a paraprofessional in an elementary classroom to assist children with disabilities.

William says that his early childhood career wasn't always part of the plan.

"Back when I was applying for jobs, I kept hearing, 'We love your military experience, but you need a degree,'" he explained. "So then, I was caught up in what kind of degree I ought to pursue."

William, a devoted husband and father of two, credits his daughter, Shelby, for opening his eyes to what some might call his surprising new career choice.

"She told me, 'Dad, you're so good with kids, you should get a degree in it,'" he recalled. "And when I'm working with these kids at OTC — I see my own children when they were this age. So, for me, that's incredibly rewarding because I was often away from my family during my military career."

At OTC, students who pursue a degree in Early Childhood Development receive hands-on practicum training through the Lewis Family Early Childhood Education Center. William just completed his third semester of training, and the instructors who worked closely with him were quick to praise his abilities.

"He's a natural," said Susan Forte, OTC early childhood education teacher. "When he walks into the room, all of the kids go running to him."

Susan also shared that both teachers and students alike appreciate his strong male presence in the classroom.

"It's especially important for students who might not have a positive male role model at home," she added. "He's incredibly patient. He works so well with the kids to resolve their conflicts."

Once William graduates with his degree, he plans to stay in southwest Missouri to begin his career. And, if he gets a question about why he would want to work with preschoolers in a female-dominated profession, he's ready with an answer.

"I get to be that person who helps these children grow and develop and learn at a crucial age," he said. "It's a huge responsibility, and I'm up for the challenge."



William Nelson traded military service for early childhood adventures when he became an OTC student.

Josh Pennekamp plans to use both his business and welding degrees in his future manufacturing company.

MELDING business & welding

Josh Pennekamp was a business student who knew nothing about welding before he came to OTC. However, after completing the college's 20-week Industrial Welding Technology program, Josh is a business major with a twist. He says welding will be incorporated into his dreams of becoming a manufacturer.

"I love welding. It's a great skill to learn and it helped me see the world differently. I've seen all sorts of things welded that I never noticed before. It has opened the doors of creativity for me," he said.

Josh, 22, immigrated to the United States from the Netherlands a decade ago. He said he plans to put his new skills to work to help pay for his education.

"There's a lot of opportunity to make good money in welding. It's a great skill for me to have," he said, adding that when he looked for welding programs to enroll in, he found OTC's "cost half of any other welding program in the area."

The 20-week welding program allows a student to complete 32 credit hours of direct welding instruction in just 20 weeks. Designed for all levels of experience, the program features hands-on instruction five days a week for five months, giving students the training needed to find work as a welder in manufacturing, structural or architectural professions.

"This practical program provides the skills-based instruction needed to secure jobs in the welding industry," said Brian Towry, OTC's instructor in the 20-week program.

Josh graduated from OTC in the spring with his welding certificate and a business transfer degree. Now, he intends to pursue an accounting degree with plans to become a Certified Public Accountant. While he graduated from OTC debt-free, Josh knows that he may need loans to earn his bachelor's, but he has a plan to pay them off either by crunching numbers or making sparks fly.

"The sooner I can pay off debt, the sooner I can focus on building my dream business," Josh said.

Triple THREAT

The term “triple threat” is typically associated with a football player who can run, pass and kick, or a performer who can sing, act and dance. But those who know OTC graduate Sami Johnson would say she’s a triple threat in her own right. The 23-year-old has earned not one, not two, but three healthcare degrees, and she’s done it all in just five years.

Sami’s initial college plan did not involve earning three degrees. The Columbia, Mo. native originally came to Springfield to earn a bachelor’s degree from Missouri State University. However, Sami quickly found herself drawn to a career in the dental field.

“I remember looking up Missouri dental programs, and I was shocked to find two programs just a mile away from me at OTC,” she recalled.

Sami decided to apply for both, and she was first accepted into the college’s Dental Assisting program. However, as Sami prepared to graduate from the program two years later, she realized her academic journey wasn’t quite finished. She applied for the college’s Dental Hygiene program and could barely contain her excitement when she received her acceptance letter.

“It’s always been my dream to work as a dental hygienist in a private office,” Sami explained.

While attending OTC, Sami discovered a bachelor’s degree at Missouri State that complemented her dental studies. The university’s health services degree program was designed to prepare students with associate degrees in allied health fields for future leadership and administrative roles in health care.

“I knew I had to go for it,” Sami explained. “With all three of my degrees, I could easily take on an administrative role in a dental office as well.”

Despite the stress of juggling multiple degree programs, extracurricular duties and a part-time job, Sami said she feels nothing but pride when she reflects on her college career culminating with her graduation from the Dental Hygiene program in May of 2017.

“The best part of my journey has been looking back on all I’ve accomplished. I still can’t believe it,” she said. “These programs are so challenging, and it’s such a reward to reach my final goal.”

Busy OTC graduate Sami Johnson completed an impressive three healthcare degrees in just five years.





Chris Booker has his latest designs on display at the Ozarks' newest attraction – the Wonders of Wildlife museum.

Wonder in Disguise

Chris Booker is passionate about two things: the sea and steel. He once worked as a welder for a Navy contractor, and recently, he used his skills to design some of the stainless-steel architectural pieces featured in the Ozarks' newest attraction – the Wonders of Wildlife museum.

After Polar Tank Trailer, Inc.'s permanent closure in 2016, Booker was out of a job and in need of a change. Utilizing a government subsidy after the layoff, he enrolled at OTC to earn an associate degree in Drafting and Design Technology. His decision paid off. In April, he was hired as a field operations designer at Paul Mueller Company, and he was immediately tasked with designing stainless steel installations for the new Wonders of Wildlife museum.

Of the four structures Paul Mueller Company designed inside the museum, Booker explained that he was asked to compile the engineers' ideas and sketches into detailed, technical drawings to be used in the manufacture of three of the stainless steel frameworks.

"The designs for the steel structures were relatively simple," said Booker. "But sometimes those can be the most complicated."

Booker's designs are in key locations throughout the Wonders of Wildlife museum. One installation encompasses the marlin diorama; another features tiger shark replicas. His last creation is a steel curved wall below a staircase descending upon a section of the aquarium.

Chris is proud that he played a role in the attraction's construction.

"Wonders of Wildlife is already such a well-known attraction in Springfield. It's neat to think that I played an active role in its design process," said Booker.

Booker, a Reeds Spring High School graduate, enrolled in Gibson Technical Center to obtain certificates in automotive technology and welding. After Gibson, he moved to Gulf Shores, Ala. and earned another certificate for fabrication and quality while working with a United States Navy contractor to fabricate prototype attack vessels. A part of his job was to coordinate with both the fabrication and drafting departments and this is what first interested him in the drafting trade.

Although working in the trade has been beneficial, Chris believes that without OTC's extensive classwork and hands-on experience, he wouldn't have the foundation on which to build his career.

He plans to graduate from OTC in August of 2018 with associate degrees in Drafting and Design and Manufacturing Technology.

"OTC gave me the knowledge I needed to go get a degree in my career field," he said. "No one wants to lose their job, but it ended up being a wonder in disguise."

Dr. Keith LaFerriere and wife Randy have been long-time supporters of OTC.



Advocates from the Start

Nearly 30 years ago, Dr. Keith LaFerriere and his wife, Randy, cast their ballots in favor of establishing Ozarks Technical Community College – the region's first open-admission, two-year community college.

Dr. LaFerriere, a long-time Springfield resident and retired plastic surgeon, served on the Springfield Chamber of Commerce board in the late 80s and early 90s. He could easily recall the heated chamber debates that sparked the creation of OTC all those years ago.

"As the second-largest medical community in the state, we were seeing an increase in the demand for trained healthcare workers," he said. "There was also a need for more technical workers – all you had to do was drive down Highway 65 to view all the trucking businesses in need of skilled technicians," he added.

The LaFerrieres have remained strong advocates and donors for OTC as it has grown to become the third largest community college in the state.

"This college is an incredible asset to southwest Missouri," said Dr. LaFerriere. "And the more people we can get to see that, the better."

A few years after the vote, Dr. LaFerriere joined the OTC Foundation Board of Directors. He says he was intrigued by OTC's initial growth and success. He also found himself increasingly drawn to the community college mission.

"Everyone saw how quickly OTC grew from nothing to something," Dr. LaFerriere explained. "And I felt it was critically important to help make southwest Missourians aware of the affordable, high-quality educational opportunities."

Dr. LaFerriere is currently serving a second term on the OTC Foundation Board in his retirement, and he and Randy believe in practicing what they preach. The LaFerrieres are generous donors to the Foundation.

"When you invest in OTC, you're investing in your community," Dr. LaFerriere remarked. "If you want to make a positive impact in your community and in the lives of others, then you should be contributing to OTC."

The LaFerrieres agree that OTC is unique in the fact that it provides students with hands-on training and personalized instruction – all at a fraction of the cost of other educational institutions. The couple also goes so far as to say that they wish their own children, all of whom earned degrees in healthcare or technical fields, would have had the opportunity to attend OTC.

"The college not only supports students who want to head straight into the workforce, but it also serves as a stepping stone for students who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree and beyond," said Randy. "Its mission is all-encompassing and one we proudly support."

A Lasting Legacy

When Murphy-Hoffman Company started as Ozark Kenworth, Inc. in Springfield, their vision was to provide a superior working environment and to build lasting relationships with customers by providing premium services at competitive prices. Now they want to give back to the community where the company began by investing in OTC's Diesel Technology program.

MHC, now a network of truck dealerships and leasing locations, was founded in 1975 by Reed Murphy and Ken Hoffman. In 42 years, the company has grown to encompass more than 3,000 employees and more than 100 locations across 16 states.

"Partnering with an organization that complements our history and mission to train and employ the industry's best technicians made perfect sense," said President Tim Spurgeon.

MHC's investment will help support an expansion of the college's Diesel Technology program by nearly tripling the size of the current training space. Increasing the physical size of the program will nearly double the number of students OTC is able to train,

leading to an increase in working diesel technicians.

"It is great to see students passionate about technical education," said CEO Mike Murphy. "We are fortunate to help equip students with the resources to further their careers in the diesel technology field."

OTC plans to break ground in May 2018, and open the lab for classes in spring 2019.

It is their dedication to the trucking industry and technical education that not only makes MHC a great business, but a great asset to the Springfield area.

"Quality and service are ingrained in MHC's business strategy. Our partnership with OTC allows us to invest in future technicians while being able to offer great places to work," said Tim.

MHC leadership also agrees that this contribution will positively affect Springfield's economy.

"The trucking industry has grown immensely since the company was founded and is a large component of the local economy. Offering state-of-the-art technical education at OTC will keep well-trained employees in the area and the economy healthy," said Mike.

Pictured in the photo from left to right: Jeff Murphy, Tim Murphy, Tim Spurgeon, Ken Hoffman and Mike Murphy



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 January 1 and December 31, 2017 are included in this report.

(*Deceased)

\$250,000 & ABOVE

The Sunderland Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,999

3M Foundation
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OTC students celebrate the arrival of fall on the OTC Springfield Campus.

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Mary Jane White

\$500 - \$999

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Mitchell Ahrens
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 691
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Steven Bishop
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Adi Bosch
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Dr. Michelle Crum places the traditional pin on a practical nursing student.

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Sandy Scroggins

GIVING BACK

Being an employee at OTC is much more than a paycheck for Allied Health Secretary Sandy Scroggins. In fact, even though she spends her days helping students, she decided to make a difference beyond her workday by making a sizable donation to the college to fund scholarships for allied health students.

Sandy's donation was a significant portion of her income, but the decision to help students afford a life-changing education was a no-brainer.

"I have great respect for all the students who work very hard to get into an allied health program and graduate," she said.

Sandy began working for OTC six years ago and has been in the Allied Health department for the last three years.

"I look forward to coming to work every morning," Sandy said. "I feel connected to OTC and enjoy having positive relationships with my co-workers. I respect the college and the atmosphere it provides for both students and staff."

While a job may only encompass a few hours of each day, a passion as deep as Sandy's knows no schedule.

"OTC is changing lives. I see it every day in my line of work," she said. "I'm hopeful, with my donation, the college can change even more lives."

DONOR HONOR ROLL



It isn't hard to find dreamers around campus. OTC Photographer Kristina Bridges-Templeton caught up with OTC students who have big plans.

UP TO \$499 (CONTINUED)

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Barbara Kuhn
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Eric Kyle
Danielle Lacio
Tara Lacio
Michael LaFerla
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Ginger Luke
Loren Lundstrom
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Janelle Mallow
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Jennifer Marshall-Hoggatt
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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)

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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. (*Deceased)*

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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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Nursing Scholarship
O'Reilly Auto Parts Scholarship
OTC Alumni Scholarship
OTC English Department Scholarship
OTC General Scholarship
OTC Golf Tournament Scholarship
Ozarks Antique Auto Club Scholarship
Parkcrest Dental Scholarship
Pepsi Performance Scholarship
Rabbit Trap Scholarship
Ralph and Helen Ramsey Memorial Scholarship
Reliable BMW/Audi Springfield Automotive Scholarship
Reliable Toyota Lexus Automotive Scholarship
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Southwest Missouri Code Officials Scholarship
Ted Andrews Memorial Scholarship
Transland Scholarship
Trustee Scholarship
Turner Family Foundation Scholarship
William N. Bunselmeyer Memorial Scholarship

FOUNDATION REPORT

Campaign Update

The OTC Foundation successfully completed its second comprehensive campaign titled Passion. Purpose. Promise. — The Campaign for OTC in June 2017. The OTC Foundation designed the Passion. Purpose. Promise. campaign to fulfill our mission of transforming lives and strengthening our communities. The campaign included initiatives to support our students through scholarships, emergency assistance, and access to excellent educational programs and facilities. 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.

EXCEEDED GOAL



Assets Growth



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

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.

Donations



Employee Participation



Scholarships



Balance Sheet

Fund Balance	2017
Unrestricted	\$ 1,139,843
Restricted	\$1,718,390
Endowment (Irrevocable)	\$3,124,385
Total Fund Balance	\$5,982,618

MISSION STATEMENT

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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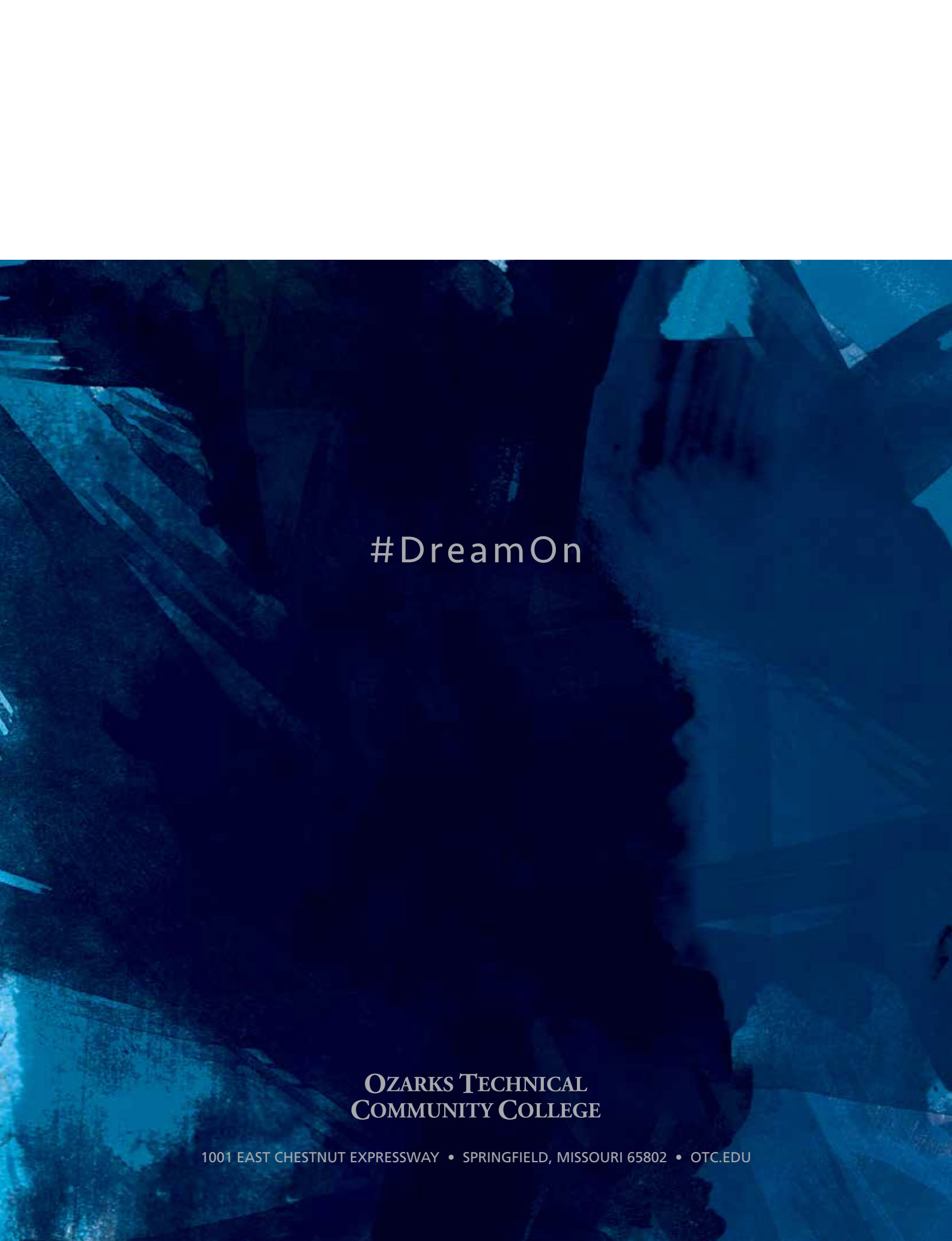
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