



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



OTC Chancellor Hal L. Higdon

his has been a momentous year for Ozarks Technical Community College. On April 4, the community rallied together to support a better economic future for the Ozarks. Your votes for Propositions A and B will help the college expand on its mission of providing affordable, accessible and high-quality educational opportunities to the region. As I reflect on the campaign, it is important to acknowledge the critical work of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. The chamber's citizen-driven efforts, coupled with your vote of confidence, will allow some of our biggest initiatives to take flight.

> In May, we broke ground on the MHC Diesel Technician Training Center at the OTC Springfield Campus. The new facility provides the space for us to nearly double our diesel program's enrollment capacity. With this expansion, we can send more diesel technicians into the workforce than ever before.

Our surrounding OTC locations grew as well. In August, the OTC Lebanon Center debuted its new line worker training program. That same month, we celebrated the grand opening of the OTC Table Rock Campus Technical Education Training Center. We also launched five new programs in high-demand technical and medical fields. These initiatives and capital projects will help us build a stronger workforce and economy.

Going forward, we will continue to enhance our educational programs to create new opportunities for students. This fall, our agriculture program will move to the OTC Richwood Valley Campus giving students the much-needed space to grow and enhance our offerings in agriculture, turf and landscaping. Additionally, the OTC Lebanon Center's first cohort of aviation students will begin their training at the Floyd W. Jones Lebanon Airport. The following year, we will make our educational programs more accessible to students living west of Springfield as we open the OTC Republic Center.

In 2020, we will begin construction on the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at the OTC Springfield Campus. The state-of-the-art facility will allow us to train students in mechatronics, 3-D printing, stainless steel production and precision manufacturing. Moreover, the new center will serve as a research and development lab for local companies as they strive to remain competitive in the global economy.

While we have many promises to fulfill in the months and years to come, the college has a proven track record of not only keeping its promises but exceeding them, too. In fact, our 2018 Annual Report illustrates the promises that have come to fruition in the past year. I invite you to relive some of our best moments in this year's report. I also encourage you to follow our progress as promised online at otc.edu/progress.

As we look back on the college's achievements, we look forward to another year - one where our students and faculty continue to connect with their passions, innovate in their fields, and inspire others. The result is a brighter future for us all. Thank you for the role you play in OTC's continued success. We are proud to share this community with you.

Sincerely.

Chancellor

Hal L. Wigdon

By the Numbers

On April 4, 2018, Ozarks Technical Community College asked the voters in 16 school districts to continue their trust in OTC and extend more support to the college. Voters overwhelmingly said yes to Propositions A and B.

- Prop A renewed a 5-cent property tax scheduled to sunset in 2018. Citizens approved the renewal with a 65 percent vote.
- Prop B was approved at 55 percent for an additional 5-cents of property tax that will sunset in 2038.

With the tax renewal and a modest increase, OTC still has the lowest property tax of all 12 community colleges in the state at just 20-cents per \$100 of assessed value.

How are we going to live up to the confidence taxpayers placed in the college? We've already begun. From new academic programs, to extending the college's geographic footprint and planning for a first-of-its-kind training facility, OTC will deliver on its promises. #ProgressAsPromised







Above: The Siemens-Aspen grant award was used to create a modern reception room for the dental hygiene program.

Right: Half of the grant award was distributed as scholarships to five student scholars.

OTC wins \$50,000 Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award February 7, 2018

OTC's Dental Hygiene program was the winner of the inaugural Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Award

As part of the award, OTC's Dental Hygiene program received a \$50,000 grant. The program was among just eight community college programs recognized for providing outstanding preparation for high-demand jobs in advanced manufacturing, energy, healthcare and information technology. Half of the

The prestigious Siemens Technical Scholars awards recognize exceptional students from across the country who demonstrate the rewarding careers and opportunities that result from completing excellent STEM programs. OTC Sandra Avila were among the 44 individuals recognized.

"We are honored by this recognition, and I believe it is due largely in part students' success by allowing us to invest in curriculum development, program

OTC partners with industry leaders to offer new remanufacturing curriculum February 22, 2018

In the fall of 2019, OTC's technical education students will have the opportunity to pursue their degrees with an emphasis in remanufacturing. The new pathway, developed in partnership with local companies SRC Holdings Corp., CNH Industrial Reman and John Deere Reman, was created specifically to address the field's growing workforce needs. Springfield is home to eight remanufacturing companies supporting 2,500 jobs, which account for nearly \$100 million in annual payroll.

OTC hosts community job fair

March 14, 2018

More than 400 job seekers attended the job fair hosted by OTC's Career Services. The event was designed for both career-minded individuals and those seeking seasonal and parttime employment. Area employers in attendance included CoxHealth, Mercy, Bass Pro Shops, O'Reilly Auto Parts and Silver Dollar City.



OTC Communications and Marketing wins two national awards from NCMPR

March 19, 2018

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations honored OTC's Department of Communications and Marketing with two silver Paragon Awards for the college's Annual Report and Instagram account.



OTC honors Gordon Elliott with Excellence in Business award April 10, 2018

OTC honored Gordon Elliott, CEO of Elliott Lodging and Oak Ridge Properties, with the 2018 Excellence in Business award. OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon presented the award to Mr. Elliott before a large crowd at the White River Conference Center.

As CEO, Elliott owns and operates 22 hotels and 15 apartment communities throughout southwest Missouri and southeast Kansas. Elliott is known for his efforts to revive distressed locations within the local hotel community, particularly his work in restoring the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven.

Elliott is also a founding partner of CPA firm Elliott, Robinson & Co. and has held several leadership positions within the community, including service on Springfield City Council. He is past chair of the Board of Public Utilities, a past chair of the Missouri State University Board of Governors, a former member of the Springfield-Greene County Park Board, and he was the founding member of the Springfield Apartment Association.

A 1965 graduate of then Southwest Missouri State College, Elliott began his career of civic service as president of the Springfield chapter of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, or Jaycees. In 1974, Elliott helped the group become recognized as the top Jaycees chapter in the country.

From there, he went on to found Springfield's first adult daycare facility and serve on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Leadership Springfield and the Rape Crisis Center.

Elliott also served as treasurer for several political campaigns including those of U.S. Senator Roy Blunt and former Missouri Governor Matt Blunt.



Paul Sundy

OTC's new strategic plan emphasizes success, access and employer needs

March 22, 2018

OTC unveiled its new strategic plan "Your Dreams, Our Plan - OTC 2025" in the spring of 2018. The plan features three initiatives: student success, access to education and alignment with community needs. Each initiative has specific goals and measurable outcomes.

Everyone in the OTC service area had an opportunity to provide input. The college sent out thousands of postcards, held more than 10 community events to gather feedback in open forums, and hosted discussions with faculty, staff and students.

OTC develops new Registered Apprenticeship programs through grant

March 29, 2018

OTC received a \$186,780 grant from the Missouri Registered Apprenticeship Grant Program to expand and develop Registered Apprenticeship programs across southwest Missouri. In total, OTC plans to establish 12 new or expanded programs and serve 80 apprentices by June 2019.

OTC Foundation hosts annual Donor Reception

April 4, 2018

The OTC Foundation hosted its ninth annual Donor Reception at the Old Glass Place. The event gave scholarship recipients and donors the opportunity to mingle, pose for photos and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. The OTC Foundation awards nearly \$300,000 in annual scholarships.

Paul Sundy elected to OTC **Board of Trustees**

April 9, 2018

Local entrepreneur Paul Sundy was elected to the OTC Board of Trustees. He had previously served on the OTC Foundation Board of Directors for six years. Sundy, an OTC alumnus, is the co-owner and operator of Big Whiskey's American Restaurant and Bar.





Left: Sen. Roy Blunt and OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon discuss the importance of Pell grants. Below: The college broke ground on the MHC Diesel Technician Training Center in May.

Sen. Roy Blunt promotes yearround Pell Grants during OTC visit May 3, 2018

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt stopped by OTC with an important message for college students: Use year-round Pell Grants to complete your degree in less time and with less debt.

Funding for year-round federal Pell Grants was restored by Congress in May 2017. Many Missouri colleges, including OTC, offered Pell funding for summer courses for the first time in 2018.

Approximately one in three Missouri College students receives Pell funds. At OTC, more than 40 percent of students take advantage of Pell Grants annually.

While visiting the college, Blunt led a roundtable discussion with officials and students from OTC, Missouri State and Evangel University. OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon thanked the senator for his efforts to restore year-round Pell.

"This is a huge benefit to both our students and the economic development of the region," Dr. Higdon said. "By restoring year-round Pell, the college can now increase its technical and allied health course offerings over the summer to more quickly prepare our students."

Approximately 20,000 students in Missouri took advantage of year-round Pell in the summer of 2018.



Industry partners make OTC diesel expansion a reality

May 14, 2018

OTC officials and industry partners broke ground on the MHC Diesel Technician Training Center in May. The new space will open its doors to students in the spring of 2019.

"This expansion of the diesel program is in direct response to our industry partners' need for more diesel technicians. It will greatly improve OTC's ability to meet workforce needs," said OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon.

The college's diesel expansion project was made possible through a \$1 million grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce and \$1 million in matching funds primarily raised from private donations, including the capital project's naming sponsor Murphy-Hoffman

Company (MHC).

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

MHC leadership noted its contribution to OTC's diesel technician training center will not only provide their company with skilled technicians, but also positively impact the region's economy.

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

SRC Holdings Corp., Commerce Bank, The Larson Group – Peterbilt and the Sunderland Foundation also donated to the project.







OTC confers 2,945 degrees and certificates at commencement

May 17, 2018

More than 750 graduates participated in the 2018 Commencement held at JQH Arena on the Missouri State University campus.

OTC conferred 2,945 degrees and certificates to graduates, including students who completed their coursework from the summer 2017 through the spring 2018 semesters.

During the ceremony, OTC honored Bryan Newberry as the 2018 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Newberry, the assistant chief of operations with the Springfield Fire Department, earned his associate degree in Fire Science Technology from OTC. In addition to his role as assistant chief, Newberry serves as an adjunct instructor in OTC's Fire Science Technology program and chair of the OTC Fire Science Advisory Board.

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, the president and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa, gave the evening's commencement address. Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in higher education with 1,285 chapters internationally. The organization celebrated its centennial in 2018.

In her address, Tincher-Ladner advised the graduates to "do the jobs that no one wants to do." She encouraged the graduates to "lead from where they are" and surround themselves with a "tight-knit circle of personal advisors."

Tincher-Ladner also praised OTC's efforts in preparing its students for successful futures. To conclude her speech, she asked the graduates to remember their roots.

"From this point forward, you are alumni of Ozarks Technical Community College," she said. "No matter what your next steps are, remember your first steps were here at OTC."



Below: OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon attends a STEM Summit at the invitation of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.







SRC and OTC partner on registered apprenticeship program May 18, 2018

Springfield Remanufacturing Corp (SRC). The Career Center partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Missouri Department of Elementary

OTC chancellor attends federal science summit

June 25, 2018

OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon attended the State-Federal STEM Summit hosted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The summit, held in Washington D.C., included more than 150 education professionals from across the country. The event focused on federal support for STEM activities.

OTC students earn nine medals at **SkillsUSA Championships**

July 5, 2018

Nine OTC students earned national medals at the SkillsUSA Championships. More than 6,000 career and technical education students competed in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields. Students worked against the clock and each other to prove their expertise in occupations such as computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts.





Missouri governor visits OTC, signs higher education funding bill June 28, 2018

Missouri Governor Mike Parson signed a higher education funding bill for the 2019 fiscal year at the OTC Springfield Campus. The bill emphasized workforce training and \$2 million in tuition assistance for individuals who receive food stamps.

"I'm a firm believer in the American Dream, and many of us have benefited from that dream," he said. "Now it's our calling to make sure the next generation has those opportunities, too. And the only way we are going to do that is by investing in education and workforce training."

At the event, OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon welcomed the governor to campus and thanked him for his long-time support of public higher education.

"Governor Parson understands that public investment in education helps develop a skilled workforce that will enhance existing industries and attract new businesses to the state," Dr. Higdon said. "He knows that education is an economic stimulus for Missouri."

Before signing the bill, Gov. Parson took a tour of OTC's new Workforce Training Center, which features a lab for the college's 20-week welding program. He also viewed demonstrations of the OTC Simulation Lab where students gain hands-on experience working with life-like mannequins and actors in realistic medical scenarios.





From top: Administrators, donors and partners officially open the line worker training lab in Lebanon. Line worker students practice their climbing technique.

OTC debuts line worker program

July 17, 2018

OTC hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new line worker training program. The new degree program debuted the following month at the OTC Lebanon Center.

The program teaches students how to operate, build and repair electrical grids. Its hands-on courses cover essential industry knowledge including utility-pole climbing techniques, introduction to live line procedures, rubber gloving and transformer theory. Upon completion, students earn an Associate of Applied Science in Electrical Distribution Systems. The degree program can be completed in two years.

At the event, OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon spoke to the college's ability to meet the state's workforce needs.

"This new program will fill a critical gap in our state's workforce by training individuals to maintain our power grids and infrastructure," he said.

College officials collaborated with several local companies to develop its line worker program curriculum and training facilities. Laclede Electric Cooperative donated the utility poles that were installed for training.

"Communities thrive when their members have access to relevant training opportunities and lucrative jobs," said Laclede Electric CEO/General Manager Marc Roecker. "We are proud to partner with OTC, and we look forward to hiring its graduates in the near future."



Below: Meet the newest member of the OTC family: Ozzy the Eagle.





CoxHealth and Mercy join forces to support OTC Emergency **Medical Services**

August 2, 2018

OTC hosted a dedication ceremony for its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program in August. The program, cosponsored by CoxHealth and Mercy, trains students for careers as emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

As part of the partnership, Dr. Matthew Brandt of CoxHealth and Dr. Tom Lewis of Mercy serve as the EMS program's associate medical directors. The two provide program oversight, which includes classroom instruction, curriculum development support and clinical-rotation planning.

With the support of CoxHealth and Mercy, the college's EMS program will have the capacity to train 80 emergency medical technicians and 44 paramedics by spring 2020.

OTC Table Rock Campus opens new Technical Education Center August 13, 2018

OTC officials and community members gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the OTC Table Rock Campus Technical Education Center in August. The 10,500-square-foot building, located north of the Table Rock campus, houses classrooms and labs for the college's HVAC and construction programs. The newly renovated center opened its doors to students in the fall of 2018.

At the grand-opening event, OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon spoke to the college's ability to meet local workforce demands.

"This is progress as promised," he said. "By joining the OTC district, the citizens of Branson and Hollister said 'yes' to new educational opportunities and workforce training programs – our new Technical Education Center is open and ready to prepare students for great careers."

OTC unveils Ozzy the Eagle mascot

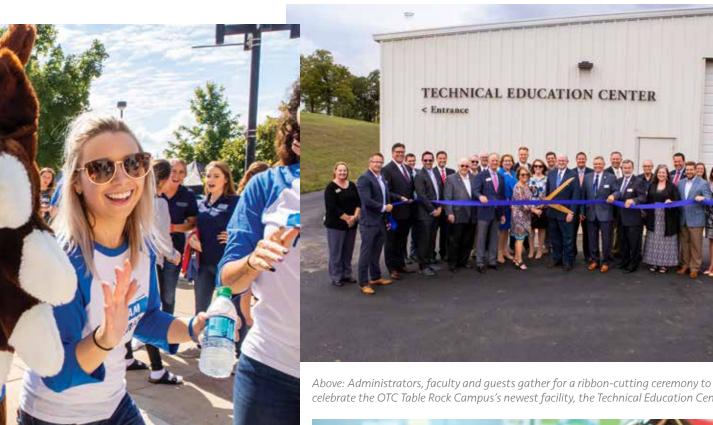
August 16, 2018

As thousands of students headed to OTC for the fall 2018 semester, a friendly new face greeted them on campus. The college introduced Ozzy the Eagle as its official mascot.

While OTC adopted the eagle as its mascot in the early '90s, this was the first time the institution developed a mascot character, costume and logo. Ozzy the Eagle makes special appearances at OTC student functions throughout the year and boosts school spirit by giving students a sense of unity and pride.

The OTC Springfield Campus celebrated the first week of classes with a series of back-to-school events called Eagle Days. The events included food trucks, a donut giveaway, photo contest and a proclamation by Springfield Mayor Ken McClure





celebrate the OTC Table Rock Campus's newest facility, the Technical Education Center.

Paula Adams appointed to OTC Board of Trustees

September 11, 2018

Paula Adams, the president of Penmac Staffing, was appointed to the OTC Board of Trustees. Adams will serve out the remainder of Chip Sheppard's term, who stepped down from his role. Adams' term will conclude in April 2020, at which time she will be eligible to run for the seat.

OTC employees sponsor **Animal Encounters**

September 20, 2018

The preschoolers at OTC's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) met all sorts of creatures this year thanks to a gift from a group of OTC employees. Several faculty and staff members donated funds to bring the Dickerson Park Zoo to the college's ECEC classrooms on a monthly basis. The program, titled Animal Encounters, teaches young children about animals, their habitats and conservation efforts.





Clockwise from top-left. The OTC Car and Motorcycle Show features more than 90 vehicle entries. Students dance at Springfield's fall picnic. The Jared family poses for a group photo at the Welcome Center dedication. Runners hit the trail during a 5k held at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus. Golfers tee off for scholarships at the Foundation's annual tournament.





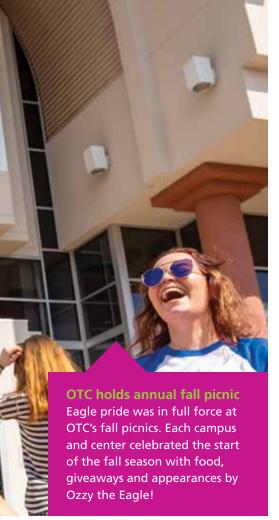


OTC Foundation hosts 12th annual golf tournament

September 17, 2018

The OTC Foundation hosted its 12th annual golf tournament at Hickory Hills Country Club. A record 36 teams and event sponsors raised more than \$26,000 for student scholarships.











OTC announces Excellence in **Education award recipients** October 9, 2018

OTC unveiled its 2018 Excellence in

Education award recipients at the college's annual Development Day. Melissa Wittmer and Ginger Zaagsma received the Excellence in Education Full-Time Instructor award; Pam Spain received the Excellence in Education Adjunct Instructor award; Jill Colony received the Excellence in Education Professional Support Staff award; and Raymond Wade received the Excellence in Education Administration award. Each winner was presented with

possible by the Turner Family Foundation.

OTC hosts annual car and motorcycle show

October 13, 2018

Automotive students judged more than 90 vehicle entries and awarded trophies to the top contenders at the annual car and motorcycle show on the Springfield campus. A 1962 Chevrolet Impala won best in show. All proceeds from the event supported SkillsUSA student activities.

OTC Foundation dedicates Jared Family Welcome Center

October 19, 2018

The OTC Foundation hosted a dedication ceremony to honor the Jared family for their latest gift to the college – the Jared Family Welcome Center. The new facility features a sleek lounge area complete with walnut wood furniture that pops with colorful upholstery. The front reception area, staffed primarily by OTC student ambassadors, serves as an initial connection point for students and visitors. The center also boasts a giant video wall that relays important information to students and guests.

OTC PTA program hosts 5K run October 20, 2018

More than 100 runners participated in OTC's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) 5K held at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus. The inaugural event raised more than \$2,000 for PTA scholarships and student activities.



Below: OTC instructor Cpt. Elaine Kramer salutes the flag during the Veterans Day ceremony.







OTC breaks ground on Agriculture Center

November 19, 2018

With more than 90 acres of fields and forests, the OTC Richwood Valley Campus is a natural place for the college's Agriculture and Turf Management programs. provide more resources and hands-on learning space for students. Classes will

OTC Technical Education hosts Explore OTC

October 31, 2018

More than 1,300 sophomores from 22 local high schools attended the inaugural Explore OTC event at the E*Plex. The college's technical education programs hosted interactive displays to give students a firsthand look at the career opportunities available to them in high-demand industries such as automotive repair, construction and welding.

OTC receives Skaggs grant October 31, 2018

OTC received a \$53,500 grant from the Skaggs Legacy Endowment. The funds supported the purchase of an ambulance simulator for the college's Emergency Medical Services Program at the OTC Table Rock Campus.



Right: Freshmen legislators get a handson welding demonstration by technical education faculty during a visit to the Springfield campus.

OTC staff, alumni and donors honored with MCCA awards

November 8, 2018

The Missouri Community College Association honored OTC employees and community partners at its 54th annual convention in Branson. The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce received the Distinguished Business and Industry Award, and Claudette Riley, a reporter with the Springfield News-Leader, accepted the News Media Award. The Senior Service award went to Karla Gregg, OTC's former Dean of Students who retired in June 2018.

The following OTC instructors received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching: Ronda Buckner, Michelle Hudgens and Sam Woelk.

OTC Fine Arts presents "High School Non Musical"

October 26, 2018

The OTC Fine Arts Department presented "High School Non Musical" to audiences at the Springfield Art Museum in October. The hilarious comedy written by Jonathan Dorf was a parody of Disney's classic "High School Musical."

When choosing the play, director Jon Herbert said he kept OTC students in mind. The original "High School Musical" debuted in 2006 - a time when today's traditionally-aged college students would have been the primary audience for the film.

"Our production was funny, quirky and strange – ultimately, it was a wonderfully nostalgic celebration of High School Musical's fandom or an irreverent jab at the original for those who weren't fans," Herbert said. "Our patrons loved it!"



OTC honors veterans

November 12, 2018

The Sons of the American Revolution presented the colors to commence OTC's annual Veterans Day event. OTC dental programs instructor Cpt. Elaine Kramer gave a moving speech about her experiences in the military, and Sqt. Penny Kimball, a U.S. Army veteran, received the Outstanding Student Veteran Award.

OTC hosts legislative tour

December 6, 2018

Newly elected Missouri legislators spent an evening at the OTC Springfield Campus as part of a statewide legislative tour. While on campus, the group toured the college's technical education programs and discussed plans for the new Center for Advanced Manufacturing.



Above: A high school student experiences the Auto Body Repair Program's virtual simulator at the Explore OTC event.





TC student Bobby O'Keefe says he was inspired by his family to attend college, but not for the reasons you might think. At just 8 months old, Bobby contracted a rare bacterial infection called meningococcemia. The life-threatening condition caused major tissue damage, which ultimately led to the loss of his fingers and toes. As a result, Bobby says his parents often encouraged him to live off disability once he graduated from high school. Fortunately for Bobby, their urging had the opposite effect.

Today, Bobby is a flight paramedic with Mercy Life Line in Joplin. The Stockton High School graduate got his start in the Emergency Medical Services field more than a decade ago, when he earned his Emergency Medical Technician certificate from OTC. Bobby spent the last 10 years advancing in the field. He's now back at OTC taking general education courses with plans to transfer to Southwest Baptist University's paramedic to registered nurse bridge program. His next goal: become a flight nurse.

Bobby, who was the first of his family to attend college, says he enjoys furthering his skills both on the job and in the classroom. As a flight paramedic, he learns something new with every 24-hour shift.

"In the emergency medical field, you don't have the same type of patient over and over again," he said. "For example, every heart attack case presents itself differently. So, you're constantly learning on the job."

"People have too many excuses for why they don't pursue something. Once you see how much better your life can be when you're working toward something great, that's where you'll find happiness."

Bobby added that he had never been an "A student" until he found his niche. "Something about going to school and doing what you like, you put more effort into it," he explained. "I like learning, and if I can keep going to school and bettering myself, I'm going to do it."

Bobby earned his EMT certificate from OTC in 2007. He spent two years working as an EMT, before applying to Mercy's paramedic school in 2009. Bobby knew the practical experience he gained while working as an EMT would give him a competitive edge in Mercy's program.

"Obviously my hands are different," he said. "So before I applied for Mercy's program, I practiced inserting IVs on oranges and intubating manikins, just to make sure I could."

Bobby said that once he got a taste of paramedicine, he knew he wanted to take his skills to new heights. After earning his critical care certification, he began to apply for jobs as a flight paramedic. He got the call from Mercy Life Line on April 19, 2016.

"It was my dream come true," he said. "I'd always wanted to fly for Mercy. They have a top-notch program and dual-engine, IFR-rated aircrafts."

Since then, Bobby has earned his Flight Paramedic Certification. He now works two 24-hour shifts a week at Mercy Life Line in Joplin, and goes to school at the OTC Springfield Campus on his days off.

"People have too many excuses for why they don't pursue something," he said. "Once you see how much better your life can be when you're working toward something great, that's where you'll find happiness."

Just Getting Started

ugust 2, 2018 is a date Keshia Guffey remembers with pride. On that day, she and nine other students in her cohort were among the first in OTC's history to earn an Associate of Applied Science in Behavioral Health Support.

"That ceremony was the culmination of all my hard work and determination," said Keshia. "I'm so thankful to have finally found a career I'm passionate about, and it's one that allows me to support my family as a single mom, too."

OTC's Behavioral Health Support program debuted in the spring of 2017 thanks to a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health. The college created the degree pathway at the request of community partners and the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

The new program prepares students to work in entry and mid-level positions at human services agencies including mental health treatment facilities, schools or correctional facilities. It was designed specifically to meet the growing need of local employers in the field.

"I'm so thankful to have finally found a career I'm passionate about, and it's one that allows me to support my family as a single mom, too."

Mathew Gass, the director of Transitions at Burrell Behavioral Health, says OTC's BHS graduates are filling a critical gap in the community. Burrell, along with several other agencies, partnered with OTC to provide its students with valuable, hands-on practicum experiences as part of the degree program.

"This program is the first associate degree in the state designed to train students in case management," Mathew said. "By hosting these students for a wide variety of field practicums, we've seen firsthand the type of training they have received. These graduates will be able to enter the workforce with specific skill sets that include specialized skills for community support and soft skills like communication and problem solving, all of which will help address needs across the populations we serve."

Several weeks before graduation, Keshia accepted a job as a community support specialist at Burrell. She says the program's emphasis on practicum experience helped prepare her for the field.

"By graduation, I had 360 hours observing and working with behavioral health professionals under my belt," Keshia explained. "And now, I get to take what I learned and apply it every day in my new job."









helsea Murray's determination and grit have earned her one of the nation's most prestigious awards for community college students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. In September 2018, the secondyear OTC dental hygiene student was named a Siemens Technical Scholar by the Aspen Institute and Siemens Foundation.

Chelsea and four other OTC dental hygiene students were among 44 individuals across the country to receive the honor. As part of the award, Chelsea accepted a \$5,000 scholarship to support her education at OTC.

Humbled by the recognition, Chelsea said the award helped validate one of the most difficult decisions she's ever had to make. Just two weeks into her first semester of dental hygiene school, Chelsea gave birth to her son, Colton. Despite being encouraged to take time off to recover from childbirth, Chelsea returned to classes two days later.

"I had to do it," she explained. "I knew if I stayed home any longer I wouldn't be able to talk myself into going back."

"My son means everything to me. And once I earn this degree, I will be able to give him all that he needs and more."

Chelsea discovered she was pregnant nearly two years ago while making plans to apply to OTC's dental hygiene school. But rather than let that stop her, she told herself the program would only help her provide a better future for Colton.

"My son means everything to me," she said, her voice wrought with emotion. "And once I earn this degree, I will be able to give him all that he needs and more."

Prior to her acceptance into OTC's dental hygiene school, Chelsea worked as a dental assistant for the Tooth Truck – a Ronald McDonald House project that provides free dental care to children from low-income households. Chelsea said her work there helped fuel her desire to return to school.

"A lot of the kids I interacted with had never owned a toothbrush – some didn't know what floss was," she said. "I realized that, as a dental hygienist, I could do so much more to help educate these children and give them the gift of a healthy smile."

According to Chelsea, a lack of access to dental care can negatively affect a child's health, speech and self-confidence.

"People often don't realize their oral health can affect the rest of their body, so providing this type of education to individuals – especially children – is critical," she said. "That's why I'm proud to be part of a field that makes such a positive impact in the lives of others."

Chelsea will graduate from OTC's dental hygiene program in May 2019. After that, she plans to find work in a clinic or practice with a mission similar to that of the Tooth Truck. Through her work, she hopes to set a positive example for her son.

"I want him to know there's never really a 'perfect' time to follow his dreams," she said. "But with the right mindset, he can accomplish anything."

ou've probably heard the phrase, "keeping up with the Joneses," but you'd be pressed to find a Jones harder to keep up with than OTC alum Brandon. In the last decade, Brandon Jones has earned his associate and bachelor's degrees while working full-time at SRC Electrical. Today, he's nearly halfway through his master's degree with ambitions to climb the corporate ladder in the remanufacturing industry.

Brandon, a Pleasant Hope native, was the first of his family to attend college. But his initial attempt at earning a degree after high school didn't work out.

"Looking back, I needed a sense of direction, an end-goal in mind," Brandon recalled. "I wasn't passionate about anything career-wise, which made it difficult for me to motivate myself to stay in school."

It wasn't until Brandon landed an entry-level job at SRC Electrical that his future plans began to take shape.

"My job as a production employee involved reclaiming stators," Brandon said. "That job really opened my eyes to the world of remanufacturing – I had no idea there were so many career options and opportunities for growth within the industry."

"I can't believe how far I've come. I have both SRC and OTC to thank for giving me a sense of direction and the tools and training I needed to succeed."

Remanufacturing is the practice of taking worn equipment parts and restoring them to like-new condition. SRC Electrical, a branch of SRC Holdings Corp., specializes in remanufacturing rotating electrical equipment including alternators and generators.

After Brandon saw the lucrative career potential that existed within the industry, he started to investigate opportunities for growth. Around the same time, OTC officials partnered with SRC leadership to offer its employees the opportunity to earn a customized associate degree in manufacturing. SRC would pay for the employees' tuition, books and student fees.

Cindy Stephens, OTC's director for technical innovation, played a major role in facilitating that partnership.

"SRC has always been good at ensuring their employees have access to high-quality training opportunities," Cindy said. "However, they wanted training that would lead to a degree or credential. So I worked directly with SRC leadership to create an academic pathway specifically for their entry-level employees."

When the program began in 2008, Brandon was selected to join the first cohort of employees who would earn their Associate of Applied Science in Manufacturing Technology at OTC.

"Going back to school this time was different," Brandon explained. "I had the desire and drive to do well. Plus, I was with all my coworkers, so there was this friendly competition going on," he added.

Once Brandon earned his associate degree from OTC, he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in Technology Management from Missouri State University. This led to a big promotion at work.

Today, Brandon is a new product engineer at SRC Electrical. He's currently working on his Master of Science in Project Management at Missouri State, and he says his five-year plan is to end up at SRC corporate.

"I can't believe how far I've come. I have both SRC and OTC to thank for giving me a sense of direction and the tools and training I needed to succeed," he said.









TC alumnus Brice Clark's job is to give couples the best day of their lives. No pressure, right? Just plan and execute the party of a lifetime – or in Brice's case, over 250 parties each year.

The 23-year-old entrepreneur is the founder and CEO (Chief Experience Officer) at Spark Events. He and his team provide fun, affordable and easy-to-book DJ, photography and cinematography services to clients in the Springfield area.

"Spark is the place to find wedding and event professionals," he explained. "We help couples save on their most valuable resources – money and time – by providing an outlet where they can book their wedding services in one place."

Brice says his entrepreneurial adventures in the wedding business began back in 2007 when he started providing DJ services for his family and friends. His business has since grown into a full-blown wedding experience with four full-time staff and 25 part-time contractors.

"Being able to sit down with couples and help them plan the biggest day of their lives, there's nothing more rewarding or fulfilling than that," he said.

"Thanks to the A+ scholarship, I graduated from OTC debt-free, which put me years ahead of my peers on a financial level. By choosing OTC, I was able to invest in my business instead of paying off debt."

It's challenging enough to start a business from scratch, but Brice somehow managed to do it all as a college student – first at OTC and then Missouri State. He gives OTC credit for allowing him the financial freedom he needed to grow and expand his business.

"Thanks to the A+ scholarship, I graduated from OTC debt-free, which put me years ahead of my peers on a financial level," he explained. "By choosing OTC, I was able to invest in my business instead of paying off debt."

While at OTC, Brice was an active member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the OTC Honors Program. Brice said some of his fondest memories at OTC were the relationships he formed with faculty.

"So many of my instructors – Steve and Jo Fritts especially come to mind – have had a big influence on my career," he said. "But that's how it was at OTC. I felt like my relationships with so many faculty members extended beyond the classroom. They weren't just teachers to me, they were mentors, too."

Brice graduated from OTC in the spring of 2015. After that, he transferred to Missouri State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing and sales management. But despite the fact that he is done with school for a while, Brice says he doesn't have plans to slow down anytime soon.

"My team and I have hit the ground running with our 5-year vision," he said. "We recently purchased our new location off of Commercial Street, and we are also planning to expand our operations outside of Springfield. Plus we're working on an app and custom online booking software, too."

Fast Mover

aylor Fast can now add "commercial pilot" to his list of credentials. The Bolivar native was OTC's first aviation student to pass his commercial pilot exam – just a year and a half after the program's inception.

"It was a little more than thrilling," Taylor said. "The stakes were definitely high – knowing I could potentially be the first OTC student to pass."

To earn his license, Taylor logged 250 hours of flight time and completed a written and oral exam. After that, he took a practical exam in which he executed several in-air maneuvers at industry standards.

"I had to perform eight or so different maneuvers including lazy eights and eights on pylons," he recalled. "Then, toward the end of the exam, I had to do all sorts of takeoffs and landings."

Of all the maneuvers he had to master, Taylor said the lazy eight was the most challenging. The lazy eight consists of two 180 degree turns, in opposite directions, while making a climb and a descent in a symmetrical pattern.

"There's nothing 'lazy' about it," Taylor said with a grin. "It requires a lot of skill and coordination."

"I can still remember the sea of clouds out my window and the sun rising above them. And that's just this vision I've been chasing ever since."

Once Taylor's practical exam was complete, his instructor said he would pass him – as long as Taylor could make it back to the hangar without crashing.

"That kind of comradery is what made this whole experience so great," Taylor said. "My instructors and classmates, we all just got along so well. We became like family." Taylor said he discovered his passion for aviation at the age of 8. His family took a vacation to Florida, but Taylor was more interested in the flights there and back.

"I saw myself going into the cockpit as a pilot," he said. "I can still remember the sea of clouds out my window and the sun rising above them. And that's just this vision I've been chasing ever since."

Now that Taylor's earned his commercial pilot license, he is already preparing for his next goal. He wants to become a flight instructor someday.

"The flight instructor test, it's the biggest of them all – it takes about 8 hours to complete," he said, excitedly. "I'm told only the cream of the crop pass, but I'm planning on being one of them."







im and Debby Baugh say there is nothing heroic about their support of the OTC Foundation. In fact, Jim says the real heroes are the students who pursue the lifechanging educational opportunities offered by the college.

"It's the men and women who overcome tremendous obstacles to get what was given to me at the start," he said. "I admire greatly their tenacity, their sheer guts. They're the ones who ought to be held up and recognized."

Since 2015, Jim and Debby have provided a scholarship to more than 100 graduates of OTC's Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program. The scholarship pays for the HiSET exam, which allows out-of-school youth and adults to earn a high school equivalency credential.

"There are so many worthy causes, but making a difference in someone's education – that's one of the easiest – and most important – gifts we can give," Debby said. "These students have to overcome all sorts of obstacles in an effort to build a better future for themselves and their families. And if we can help remove some of those barriers for them, that's exactly what we are going to do."

Jim and Debby retired to Springfield in 2011. The couple quickly became involved in several philanthropic efforts around town. They learned about OTC's AEL services through a friend who served as an instructor for the program.

Jim, a retired public administrator, says he was drawn to the mission of the college's AEL program right away. He wanted to help these students because he was fortunate enough to have a strong support system growing up.

"My folks had the means to send me to college, so I ended up with a master's degree, a good profession, and a leg up in the economy," he explained. "And now, Debby and I want to pay it forward to those who didn't have the same opportunities – the same support system – that we had as children and young adults."

Since their involvement, Jim and Debby have helped hundreds of AEL students earn their high school equivalency credentials. These students often continue their education at OTC. Tiffany Hasting, a former AEL student, passed her HiSET exam in 2018. She now hopes to pursue an associate degree in behavioral science at the college.

"Growing up, I had the odds stacked against me – I was in and out of foster care and I battled drug addiction, too," she said. "But OTC's AEL program gave me the tools I needed for a new beginning, and the Baughs helped make that fresh start a reality through their scholarship fund."

Established in 1991, OTC's AEL program has served more than 60,000 students since its inception. The free program provides specialized instruction for students who wish to build the basic academic skills necessary for success.

A Lasting Wish

hen the Musgrave Foundation Grant Committee meets, the group keeps a guiding document close at hand. The text, transcribed on an old-fashioned typewriter and weathered with age, reflects the wishes of the trust's founding member, Jeanette Musgrave.

Ms. Musgrave created the Musgrave Foundation in 1983. From its inception through 2017, the foundation has awarded more than \$17 million in grants to selected nonprofit organizations, primarily in Greene County and its neighboring communities. Over a 16-year relationship with the OTC Foundation, the Musgrave Foundation allocated more than 700 awards to the college, assisting more than 400 students. No group has benefited more than OTC's allied health students who have received around half a million dollars in scholarships due to the Musgrave Foundation's generosity.

Rob Baird, chair of the Musgrave Foundation Grant Committee, says the mission of OTC's Allied Health programs aligns perfectly with the interests of Ms. Musgrave.

"She was passionate about health care and education," he said. "She had a particular affinity for providing scholarships to students."

Ethan Luttrell, an OTC Physical Therapist Assistant student, received \$1,500 in Musgrave Foundation scholarships in the past year. He says the funds helped pay for books and reduced his student loan debt.

"The Musgrave Foundation scholarship allows me to focus on my soon-to-be career with less stress," he explained. "Thanks to the generosity of the Musgrave Foundation, I can put all my energy into becoming the best physical therapist assistant I can be."

Ethan writes and sends thank you notes to the Musgrave Foundation each semester. Jerry Redfern, Musgrave Foundation manager, says one of the most rewarding parts of his job is reading the letters he receives from scholarship recipients like Ethan.

"I get a lot of thank you notes, and I read every single one," he said. "It's affirming to see how Ms. Musgrave's legacy is positively impacting the lives of students - a cause we know she held near and dear to her heart."



Donov 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, 2018 are included in this report.

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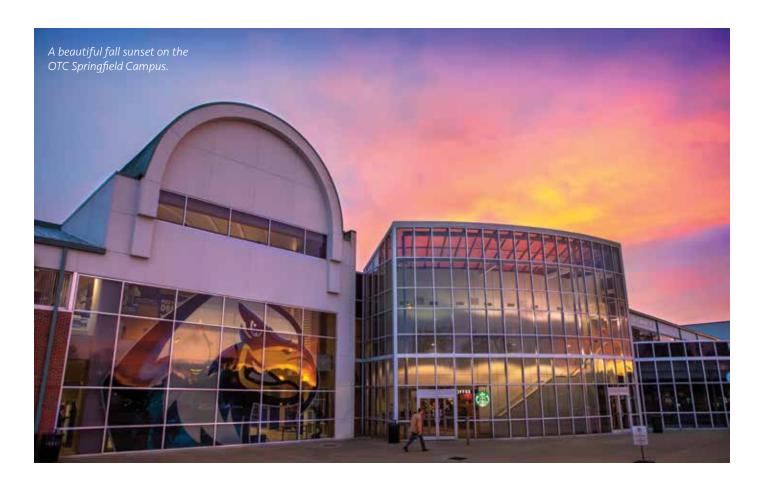
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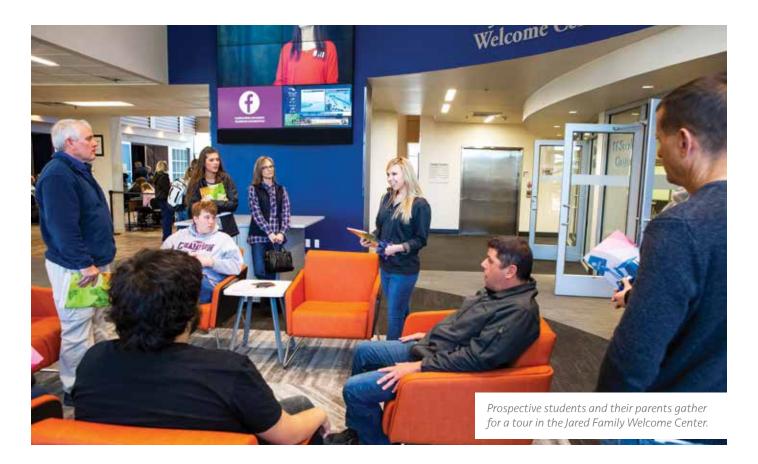
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EMPLOYEE GIVING

Dr. Janet Sell goes above and beyond to help her dental students earn their degrees. Since 2002, the dental assisting program director has helped raise more than \$100,000 in endowed scholarship funds for OTC dental students. But Dr. Sell says she's not done yet.

"The endowment can produce five \$500 scholarships annually, which is an incredible accomplishment considering where we started," she explained. "But I want to get to the point where we can offer twice as many scholarships."

Dr. Sell created the endowment in 2002. Since then, the fund has slowly accumulated thanks to the revenue earned from private donations and continuing education courses for local dental professionals.

In 2015, the endowment hit \$50,000. Motivated by that number, Dr. Sell and the OTC dental community doubled down on their fundraising efforts. Just three years later, the endowment reached \$100,000. Dr. Sell attributes the fundraising success to the department's culture of giving.

"The creativity and enthusiasm to raise the money has been nothing short of inspiring," she said. "From our continuing education courses to social events to dress down days and dental coloring book sales, together, we all made it happen."

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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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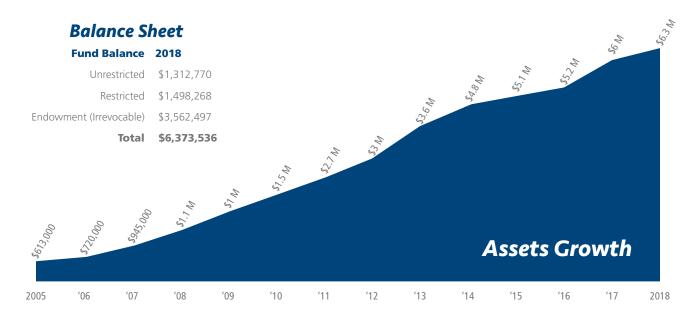
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Foundation Report

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.

The OTC Foundation and our supporters believe every student should have access to higher education and a brighter future. We invest in student success because we know an educated community is a thriving community. With your help, we can continue this essential work. **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.







\$334,456

TO STUDENTS **IN 2018**



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Cray Allred,

Operations Coordinator

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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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