



# ANNUAL REPORT

**OZARKS TECHNICAL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

GROWING FUTURES SINCE 1990

## **GROWTH**

*For an individual, growth can mean an increase in skills and confidence. For an institution, growth represents an evolution of its influence and objectives. Ozarks Technical Community College will continue to expand geographically and grow our programs to best meet the needs of our community and our students.*

*This year, OTC unveiled the new Agriculture Training Center at Richwood Valley and the MHC Diesel Technician Training Center in Springfield. Next year, the new Republic Center will open, and planning will continue for the Center for Advanced Manufacturing.*

*We hope you enjoy the imagery in the pages of our Annual Report illustrating the growth of our students and college.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



OTC Chancellor Hal L. Higdon

The year 2019 has been one marked by growth and progress at Ozarks Technical Community College. Our faculty, staff and administrators have been hard at work fulfilling the college's many promises to the region. As you will see in the pages of this report, OTC had an exciting year, with new partnerships, improvements and celebrations at every turn. This year's report also features many students whose lives have been transformed by OTC's work. I'm sure you will find their stories of determination and grit as inspiring as I do.

Construction is now underway for the OTC Republic Center, projected to open in August. This capital project was made possible by the Bussey, Cox and Lipscomb families with support from the Sunderland Foundation and the Southwest Missouri legislative delegation. Together, these entities helped us secure more than \$3.5 million in external funding and resources. The new center will make our programs even more accessible to students living to the west of Springfield.

In August, we opened our new Agriculture Training Center at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus. The Agriculture Program's original location in Springfield hampered our ability to best serve students due to the urban landscape of the campus. The lush, pastoral nature of the Richwood Valley campus makes it the perfect place for our program and students to grow.

We also made significant progress on our Center for Advanced Manufacturing. The state-of-the-art facility will be the first of its kind in Missouri. OTC administrators and staff spent the past year touring manufacturing centers across the country to discover best practices. Construction will begin later this fall.

All of these projects allow us to continue doing what we do best – providing affordable, accessible and high-quality educational opportunities to students. Our ability to serve our students and communities would be impossible to achieve without your support. We thank you for the role you play in OTC's continued success. We are proud to share this community with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal L. Higdon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and "L".

Chancellor

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### 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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# THE NUMBERS



THE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS PROGRAM BOASTED A 100% ENROLLMENT INCREASE FROM 2018 TO 2019 MAKING IT OTC'S FASTEST GROWING PROGRAM.

*OTC never stops growing. The college began 30 years ago with a single campus, but it will soon have six locations across southwest Missouri and the state's first Center for Advanced Manufacturing. 2019 was another year of growth for the college with enrollment gains in popular programs, more buildings and an increase in parking spaces. Here are some areas of the college that experienced the most growth between 2018 and 2019.*



MHC DIESEL TECHNICIAN TRAINING CENTER AT THE SPRINGFIELD CAMPUS - 12,410 SQ. FT.

AGRICULTURE TRAINING CENTER AND GREENHOUSE AT THE RICHWOOD VALLEY CAMPUS - 2,400 SQ. FT.



LEBANON AVIATION CENTER - 800 SQ. FT.

# 3

## NEW FACILITIES

*Adding 15,610 Square Feet*

# 8%

## INCREASE

*In Number of Graduates*



ADDED  
**106**  
PARKING SPOTS

## OTC offers classes at Fort Leonard Wood military base

**January 24, 2019**

Fort Leonard Wood military personnel and their families now have access to more educational opportunities thanks to a new agreement with the college. OTC and Fort Leonard Wood officials signed a memorandum of understanding, which gave the college approval to teach courses at the Fort Leonard Wood military base.

In March, OTC offered emergency medical technician training on base and added courses in early childhood development, English, political science and psychology over the summer. In the fall, the college expanded its offerings to include courses in communications, education, history, math and sociology.



*Above: Chancellor Hal Higdon and Garrison Commander Col. Eric Towns announce OTC offerings at Fort Leonard Wood.*

## OTC Chancellor receives Chief Executive Leadership Award

**February 6, 2019**

OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon received the Chief Executive Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VI. The award is presented annually to an outstanding president, chancellor, head master or system head of a District VI CASE member institution.



*Above: OTC officials and industry partners cut the ribbon at the MHC Diesel Technician Training Center's grand opening. Right: Diesel technology students demonstrate skills in the new space.*



## OTC hosts grand opening ceremony for MHC Diesel Technician Training Center

**January 28, 2019**

OTC officials and industry partners celebrated the grand opening of the MHC Diesel Technician Training Center at the OTC Springfield Campus. The capital project was made possible through a \$1 million matching grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The \$1 million in matching funds was raised primarily through private donors, including the center's naming sponsor Murphy-Hoffman Company (MHC).

The MHC Diesel Technician Training Center is an addition to the college's original diesel training facility located in the Industry and Transportation Technology Center.

Students in the diesel technology program can earn either a one-year certificate or a two-year associate degree. Currently, 35 students graduate from the program each year. With the additional learning space complete, OTC officials expect to double that number.

"The trucking industry has grown immensely since the company was founded, and it 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 Kyle Hoffman, MHC vice president and general manager.

In addition to MHC, SRC Holdings Corp., Commerce Bank, The Larson Group – Peterbilt and the Sunderland Foundation all donated to the project.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

*Below: OTC student Samantha Adams wins a national essay contest with an inspirational story about OTC Adjunct Instructor and Safety and Security Officer John Landon.*



## **Missouri State hosts OTC Night at MSU**

**February 20, 2019**

Students, faculty and staff rocked their OTC blue at an MSU Bears basketball game in February. To kick off the event, Ozzy the Eagle met Boomer Bear at half-court for an epic dance battle. OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon and Missouri State President Clif Smart spoke to the crowd at halftime, touting OTC's strong, long-held partnership with Missouri State.

## **OTC hosts community job fair**

**March 27, 2019**

More than 400 job seekers attended a community-wide job fair hosted by OTC's Career Services. The event was designed for both career-minded individuals and those seeking part-time employment. Area employers in attendance included CoxHealth, Bass Pro Shops, Great Southern Bank and Prime, Inc.

## **OTC Fine Arts presents "Schoolhouse Rock Live!"**

**March 28, 2019**

The OTC Fine Arts Department presented "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" the musical at the Springfield Art Museum. The production was a staged musical adaptation of the 1970s cartoon, "Schoolhouse Rock!"

"Our performances were full of nostalgia and fun," said Phil Forrester, director. "It was a celebration of all of the classic 'Schoolhouse Rock!' songs including 'Conjunction Junction' and 'I'm just a Bill.'"





## OTC breaks ground on new location in Republic

**March 11, 2019**

Construction is underway for OTC's newest education center in Republic. Projected to open in August 2020, the 30,000-square-foot facility is being built by Rich Kramer Construction on a 7.69-acre property near the west side of the city. The land was donated to OTC in 2015 by the Bussey, Cox and Lipscomb families.

"We look forward to making our programs more accessible to students living to the west of Springfield," said OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon. "The construction of the OTC Republic Center is another example of OTC's progress as promised."

The OTC Republic Center will feature eight classrooms, two computer labs/classrooms, three science labs, a student common area, testing center and writing area. Students will have the opportunity to pursue a range of general education courses at the center including English, math and science.

*Below left: Students act out "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" on stage. Below right: The OTC Foundation's Donor Reception brings scholarship recipients and donors together.*



## OTC criminal justice student wins national essay contest

**March 28, 2019**

OTC student Samantha Adams won the 2019 Scott Wright Essay Contest organized by The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD). Adams was one of three winners selected from more than 160 contest entries nationwide.

To participate in the contest, students wrote an essay describing how a faculty member, staff member or administrator encouraged them.

Adams, a Glendale High School graduate, wrote her essay about John Landon, an adjunct criminal justice

instructor who also serves OTC as a safety and security officer. Adams enrolled at OTC in the fall of 2018 where she took Landon's Introduction to Criminal Justice course. She hopes to become a Missouri Highway Patrol officer someday.

"If it wasn't for Mr. Landon, I would still be wandering through life not sure what path to take; too busy doubting my abilities and seeing my gender as a roadblock to opportunity," Adams penned in her essay. "I can now say with confidence that my gender makes no difference in my career choice. I am going to be a police officer. A female police officer at that. Thanks to one teacher who thought it was fantastic."

## OTC Foundation hosts Donor Reception

**April 3, 2019**

The OTC Foundation hosted its 10th annual Donor Reception at the Old Glass Place. The event gave scholarship recipients the opportunity to meet, pose for photos and enjoy hors d'oeuvres together with donors.

The OTC Foundation awards approximately \$330,000 in scholarships annually thanks to the generous support of donors.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Ozzy the Eagle debuts his own video game

**April 1, 2019**

Ozzy's Quest video game played on repeat in the Jared Family Welcome Center. Students and staff alike joined in the April Fools' Day fun! Play the game yourself at [ozzysquest.com](http://ozzysquest.com).



*Right: Governor Mike Parson visits the OTC Springfield Campus to announce a workforce initiative and tour program labs with OTC faculty.*



## OTC's Joan Barrett receives Distinguished College Administrator Award from Phi Theta Kappa

**April 4, 2019**

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) recognized Dr. Joan Barrett, OTC's vice chancellor for student affairs, with the Distinguished College Administrator Award at the society's annual convention.

The Distinguished College Administrator Awards are presented to college vice presidents, deans, or directors serving at post-secondary institutions who have shown strong support of student success on campus by recognizing academic achievement, leadership and service among high-achieving students.

"It is a privilege to support our PTK students, who demonstrate through their research and actions the heart they have for making change," said Dr. Barrett. "Their efforts benefit our entire campus community – I am in awe of their work."

## Missouri Governor Mike Parson visits OTC

**April 17, 2019**

Missouri Governor Mike Parson held a news conference at OTC to announce a new workforce initiative that will train 500 manufacturing technicians across the state. His visit was held in conjunction with the Advanced Manufacturing Job Fair, where dozens of local employers met with candidates seeking jobs in the industry. While on campus, the governor toured the college's Drafting and Design, Precision Machining and Industrial Systems labs.

## OTC students win Breaking Traditions Awards

**April 29, 2019**

OTC students Jorgie Teaster and Kelley Stone were honored as winners of the 2019 Missouri Breaking Traditions Awards. Both Teaster and Stone will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, renewable

for up to four semesters at OTC. Teaster earned her agriculture degree from OTC in May 2019. Stone studied early childhood development through the OTC Middle College.

Presented by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Breaking Traditions Awards honor students, educators and employers for their achievements related to nontraditional careers. DESE considers nontraditional careers to be occupations in fields of work in which one gender comprises less than 25 percent of the individuals employed therein.

## OTC names executive director of new manufacturing center

**May 13, 2019**

Robert Randolph was named the inaugural Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at OTC. Randolph will guide the implementation of the state-of-the-art technical education





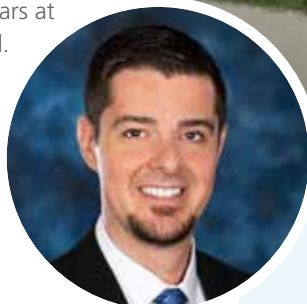
*Above: OTC Middle College and early childhood development student Kelley Stone wins a 2019 Missouri Breaking Traditions Award.*

facility and manage operations once it opens.

"We were looking for someone who could speak the language of manufacturing and understand the needs of employers," said OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon. "In Robert, we've found the perfect fit of someone who not only knows the industry, but is also familiar with the local manufacturing environment."

Randolph began his duties at OTC in June after spending nearly seven years at CNH Industrial Reman in Springfield.

"Southwest Missouri has never had a facility like the Center for Advanced Manufacturing," Randolph said. "I look forward to serving as a bridge between employers and the institution that educates the next generation of workers."



*Above: Rendering of the future Center for Advanced Manufacturing. Left: Robert Randolph joins OTC as the Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing.*



## YEAR IN REVIEW



*Clockwise from top-left: OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon shakes hands with a graduate. Student speaker Igbo Ekakitie enjoys the ceremony. Graduates gather outside JQH Arena to celebrate their accomplishments with Ozzy. Family and friends of graduates pack JQH arena. Dr. Higdon and keynote speaker Jennifer Moore lead graduates into JQH. Students pose together for photos.*





## YEAR IN REVIEW

### **OTC confers 3,244 degrees and certificates at commencement**

**May 17, 2019**

More than 750 graduates walked in OTC's 2019 Commencement, held at JQH Arena on the Missouri State University Campus.

OTC conferred 3,244 degrees and certificates to graduates, which included students who completed their coursework from the summer 2018 semester through the spring 2019 semester.

The ceremony featured Igbo Ekakitie, OTC international graduate, as its student speaker. Originally from Nigeria, Ekakitie graduated from high school in 2008 and worked for nearly six years to raise enough funds to pursue his educational goals in the United States. He enrolled at OTC in 2017, where he studied Biological Clinical Sciences.

"Transformation is not a destination. It is an adventure accessible to all who dare to believe in it," Ekakitie assured his graduating class. "This is just the beginning; now go and be the very best."

Jennifer Moore, the news director and content coordinator for KSMU Radio, gave the commencement address. Moore previously worked in the Persian Gulf region as a freelance journalist contributing to CNN-International, NPR and the largest English daily newspaper in the area.

"From one citizen – who will no doubt benefit from the services you will soon provide to this amazing community – I thank you, and I look forward to seeing all you will do," Moore said.

Once the degrees and certificates were conferred, OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon concluded the ceremony by congratulating the graduates and welcoming them into the OTC Alumni Association.



# YEAR IN REVIEW

*Right: OTC officials cut the ribbon at the Agriculture Training Center grand opening.  
Below: Agriculture student Jared Parrigon poses inside the new greenhouse at the Richwood Valley campus.*



## **Sen. Roy Blunt visits OTC Lebanon Aviation Center** **August 22, 2019**

Missouri Senator Roy Blunt stopped by the new OTC Lebanon Aviation Center during his tour of southwest Missouri. The senator offered comments standing in front of one of the OTC instructional planes where he emphasized the importance of community college degrees to support the workforce required for the 21st century economy.

## **OTC Lebanon Center hosts Aviation Program grand opening** **June 12, 2019**

OTC celebrated the grand opening of its Lebanon Aviation Center at the Floyd W. Jones Airport. The opening of the Lebanon aviation program marks an expansion of OTC's Aviation Flight Technology Program, which debuted at the Springfield campus in the fall of 2017.

"We were extremely pleased but not surprised that there was a huge demand for a college pilot training program in southwest Missouri," said OTC Chancellor Hal Higdon. "Our Springfield program has far more applicants than seats. This expansion to Lebanon gives students more opportunities to pursue high-demand careers in aviation."

Students in the program will attend ground school and take general education courses at the OTC Lebanon Center. The flight training labs will be conducted out of the Floyd W. Jones Airport.



## **OTC Richwood Valley Campus hosts grand opening for new Agriculture Training Center**

**August 12, 2019**

OTC officials and community leaders gathered at the OTC Richwood Valley Campus for the grand opening of the college's Agriculture Training Center. Prior to the 2019-2020 school year, OTC's Agriculture and Turf and Landscape Programs were based at the OTC Springfield Campus.

The OTC Richwood Valley Campus is located off of Highway 14 between Ozark and Nixa in Christian County. The 84-acre campus includes meadows, woods and a natural spring.

Students interested in a career in agriculture or turf and landscape have several degree and certificate program choices. In addition to three agriculture associate degree options (general agriculture, plant science and animal science), OTC also offers an associate degree in turf and landscape management. With the move to the Richwood Valley campus, the college began offering a certificate in outdoor power and power sports.

Besides the 8,000-square-foot center, the new facility also includes a 2,400-square-foot greenhouse. The total cost of the project was \$2.1 million.



## **OTC students win gold at SkillsUSA championships**

**July 1, 2019**

Five OTC students earned gold medals at the SkillsUSA Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. The championships took place as part of the SkillsUSA 55th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference.

OTC's Computer Information Science Department took home three of the college's five gold medals. OTC student Dylan Buehler won first place in Computer Programming, while Carissa Hurt and Ryan Mackey won gold in Web Design. The college's Electronic Media Production Department won two gold medals; Chase Elliott and Robert "Bo" Shore took first place in Digital Cinema Production.



*From top: Four SkillsUSA champions pose with their medals. OTC officials host the grand opening of the Lebanon Aviation Center.*

## **OTC unveils Springfield campus master plan**

**August 14, 2019**

With a focus on students, safety and accessibility, OTC unveiled its new 20-year Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan for the Springfield campus. The plan projects robust enrollment growth for the Springfield location and includes additional instructional space, student life amenities and parking improvements.

OTC worked with Dake I Wells and Perkins + Will to develop the master plan. To view the master plan, visit [about.otc.edu/masterplan](http://about.otc.edu/masterplan).



# YEAR IN REVIEW

*Clockwise from top-left: The 2019 Excellence in Education Award winners Melissa Trader, Hope Brooks-Lovan, Kevin Kloppenburg, Danelle Maxwell and Pan Porter receive their plaques. The OTC Car and Motorcycle Show features nearly 90 vehicle entries. Students form a conga line at Springfield's fall picnic. Students enjoy hands-on activities at Explore OTC. Golfers prepare to tee off for scholarships at the Foundation's annual tournament.*



## OTC Foundation hosts 13th annual golf tournament

**September 16, 2019**

The OTC Foundation hosted its 13th annual golf tournament at Hickory Hills Country Club, where 30 teams and event sponsors raised more than \$34,000 for student scholarships.







## **Missouri governor promotes new financial aid program at OTC**

**August 23, 2019**

Gov. Mike Parson stopped by the OTC Springfield Campus to discuss a new financial aid program offered by the state.

The Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant pays college tuition and fees for any Missourian who is 25 years of age or older. Students younger than 25 are also eligible for Fast Track as long as they have not been enrolled in any education program in the previous two years.

## **OTC hosts annual fall picnics**

**September 20, 2019**

Eagle Pride was in full force at OTC's fall picnics. Each campus and center celebrated the start of the fall semester with food, giveaways and appearances by Ozzy the Eagle.

## **OTC Technical Education Division hosts Explore OTC**

**September 27, 2019**

Nearly 1,300 sophomores from 20 local high schools attended the 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.

## **OTC hosts annual Car and Motorcycle Show**

**October 12, 2019**

Automotive students judged nearly 90 vehicle entries and awarded trophies to the top contenders at the annual Car and Motorcycle Show on the Springfield campus. All proceeds from the event supported SkillsUSA student activities.

## **OTC Richwood Valley Campus hosts annual PTA 5K**

**October 12, 2019**

More than 90 runners participated in OTC's Physical Therapist Assistant 5K held at the Richwood Valley campus. The annual event raised more than \$5,000 for PTA scholarships and student activities.

## **OTC announces Excellence in Education award recipients**

**October 15, 2019**

OTC unveiled its 2019 Excellence in Education award recipients. Danelle Maxwell received the Full-Time Instructor Award; Kevin Kloppenburg received the Adjunct Instructor Award; Melissa Trader received the Professional Support Staff Award; and Hope Brooks-Lovan and Pan Porter received the Administration Awards. Winners received monetary awards made possible by the Turner Family Foundation.



# YEAR IN REVIEW



*Above: Students work on engines in the newly-dedicated SRC Diesel Remanufacturing Lab. Right: Students bring the northern lights to Springfield in the fall production of "Almost, Maine."*



## **OTC cuts ribbon on SRC Diesel Remanufacturing Lab**

**October 22, 2019**

OTC honored Springfield-based remanufacturing company SRC with a dedication of the college's new SRC Diesel Remanufacturing Lab. SRC donated \$100,000 to the college to help create the laboratory facility.

In the fall of 2019, OTC began offering an Associate of Applied Science in Remanufacturing Technology. This new degree pathway is derived from a variety of disciplines, including diesel engine repair, industrial system safety and precision machining.

## **OTC Fine Arts presents fall play**

**November 20, 2019**

The OTC Fine Arts Department presented the romantic comedy "Almost, Maine" at the Springfield Art Museum. Written by John Cariani, the production featured a series of short plays about relationships

and the human heart.

"Our performances were the perfect blend of humor and drama," said Jon Herbert, director. "Every scene had that element of sentimental magic for the audience to appreciate and enjoy."

## **OTC staff, alumni and donors honored with MCCA awards**

**November 7, 2019**

Several OTC employees were honored at the Missouri Community College Association Convention in Kansas City.

Three OTC instructors earned the Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award:

- Pamela Spain, adjunct instructor – business
- Melissa Wittmer, mathematics instructor
- Ginger Zaagsma, science instructor and lab coordinator

Don Kleier, OTC's director of application programming, was honored with a Senior Service Award.

## **OTC celebrates first-generation college students**

**November 8, 2019**

The college commemorated First-Generation College Student Day on Nov. 8. That date marked the 54th Anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act, which helped make a college degree more accessible for all Americans.

Colleagues from Drury University, Evangel University and Missouri State University joined OTC faculty and administrators for the celebration.

And Springfield Mayor Ken McClure proclaimed the day First-Generation College Student Day in the city.

More than 7,000 OTC students are first-generation college students.

## **OTC honors veterans**

**November 11, 2019**

Student veterans, family and friends, and OTC employees packed into the Jared Family Atrium on the Springfield





*Above: Trustee J. Howard Fisk presents the 2019 Outstanding Student Veteran Award to Reza Gillman.*

campus for the college's annual Veterans Day commemoration. The moving ceremony featured songs from the OTC choir, presentation of the colors, a bugler performance and the founder of K-9s for Camo, John Lopez, as the guest speaker.

OTC Trustee J. Howard Fisk presented Reza Gillman, a drafting and design student, with the 2019 Outstanding Student Veteran Award. A graduate of the welding program, Gillman established a scholarship fund to help students afford the cost of welding hoods.

## **Fine Arts Department showcases student art**

**December 6, 2019**

Fine arts students had their work on display at the Springfield campus for December's First Friday Art Walk. The Fall Student Showcase + Exhibition featured work from the college's top drawing, painting and multi-dimensional design students.



*Above: Talented fine arts students display their original artwork at the Fall Student Showcase + Exhibition.*





JORGIE'S

GROWING PASSION





Jorgie Teaster was destined to become a farmer. After all, her name means “tiller of the soil.” Farming runs deep in Jorgie’s family, too. She spent much of her childhood helping out on her grandparents’ farm and exploring the greenhouses where her mother worked.

“There’s something about being in that environment and mass producing all these flowers and plants,” she said thoughtfully. “It’s such a peaceful atmosphere – it’s my happy place.”

In May, Jorgie graduated from Ozarks Technical Community College with her Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture. Now, Jorgie works at a horticulture supply house in Springfield where she sells hydroponics and greenhouse equipment and consults with growers. Eventually, she’d like to open an interactive greenhouse and farm where she can teach people how to grow their own sustainable food and medicine.

“I’m so excited to join an industry and community full of such hardworking, generous people,” she said. “The spirit of agriculture is based on serving others – providing food, clothing or housing is what farming is all about.”

While a student at OTC, Jorgie won the prestigious Breaking Traditions Award in 2019. The award and scholarship, presented by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), honors students for their achievements related to nontraditional careers. DESE considers nontraditional careers to be occupations in which one gender makes up less than 25 percent of the workforce.

“I know being a farmer isn’t a glamorous occupation. It’s dirty and physically demanding – you get cuts and sunburns, and you sweat a lot,” she said earnestly. “But the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with being a farmer is worth it all.”

Looking ahead, Jorgie is excited to see where her newfound career takes her in life. She hopes that by opening her greenhouse and farm, she can share her passion for agriculture with others. She says she is thankful to have found a career that gives her a sense of purpose and allows her to give back to her community.


**“People are fortunate in life if their career is something they love to do. If they are really lucky, their career helps others – and I’ve found one that does both.”**





# A BORN STORYTELLER





OTC alumnus Nanchang Lamde's fascination with motion pictures began at an early age. As a child, he remembers peering into the window of his neighbor's house, trying to catch a glimpse of their television set.

Today, Nanchang is studying film at Missouri State University – a reality he only dared dream of as a boy. Unlike most children growing up in Nigeria, Nanchang's formal education ended at the age of 12. As an adult, he immigrated to the U.S. to earn both his high school equivalency certificate and associate degree from OTC.

As a young adult, Nanchang became involved in an organization called Youth With A Mission. He says the group of missionaries helped open his eyes to the educational opportunities that existed beyond Nigeria. He also happened to fall in love with an American missionary named Elizabeth. In 2015, the couple moved to Springfield, Missouri where they were married. After the wedding, Nanchang began to pursue his dreams of higher education and a career in media production.

"Upon my arrival to the U.S., I was surprised to learn I could earn my high school equivalency certificate for free at OTC," he said. "I took classes and studied for six months, and I was able to pass the HiSET exam on my first attempt. All of a sudden, what seemed impossible became possible."

With support and encouragement, Nanchang persevered. He graduated from OTC in 2018 and transferred to Missouri State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in digital film and television production. Nanchang said he was drawn to Missouri State's program due to the emphasis it placed on storytelling.

"I was raised in a storytelling culture – every evening after dinner, we would sit around a fire and my grandparents would tell stories about their childhood or the history of Nigeria. Their stories always had a moral purpose, with an emphasis on change and redemption," he said.

Nanchang will earn his bachelor's degree from Missouri State in 2020. But he's not stopping there. He plans to pursue his Master of Fine Arts in Film and Media Production from the University of Texas at Austin. Once he graduates, Nanchang hopes to create movies that become catalysts for change.

"When a story enters your heart, you are more likely to be impacted in a lasting way and contribute to positive change," he said. "I believe that this kind of storytelling can have a big impact on society, just as my grandparents' stories helped to shape my character and outlook on life."

**"I took classes and studied for six months, and I was able to pass the HiSET exam on my first attempt. All of a sudden, what seemed impossible became possible."**









# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Every semester, Courtney Dameron gives her students a broken flower pot at the beginning of their child abuse prevention unit. As Courtney begins to teach the difficult subject, the students write out the different forms of abuse on the shattered terracotta pieces.

In her next lesson, Courtney hands out rolls of masking tape. She prompts her students to research child abuse prevention methods and label the tape with different intervention techniques. The students then use the tape to rebuild their pots. At the end of the unit, they symbolically plant flowers inside.

Powerful teaching experiences like this one helped Courtney receive widespread recognition for her work. The 35-year-old OTC alumna was recently named both district and regional teacher of the 2019-2020 school year by Springfield Public Schools and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Courtney always knew she wanted to teach, but she was unsure of the subject area until her senior year at Hillcrest High School. That's when Courtney fell in love with her Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classes, taught by Jane Rasmussen. Jane became Courtney's mentor that year, and she kept encouraging Courtney throughout her college career. The mentor-protégé relationship continued during Courtney's student teaching assignment and throughout her first years as a teacher in Springfield Public Schools.

Upon Jane's retirement in 2015, Courtney returned to Hillcrest High School to work for her alma mater. Now, Courtney teaches in the same classroom where she originally found her passion for FACS.

"I've always been a very family-oriented person," said Courtney, a wife and mother of two. "And that's what Family and Consumer Science classes teach – the family is your foundation, and from there, you go out into the world."

Courtney credits the start she received at OTC for allowing her to earn her associate, bachelor's and master's degrees with zero debt. She attended OTC on scholarship and transferred to Missouri State where she earned her bachelor's degree, also on scholarship. She later earned her master's degree in curriculum at Drury University.

From hands-on learning experiences to college and career guidance, Courtney works hard to build meaningful relationships with her students.

"Once that relationship is established, I can teach them anything," she said.

Anthony Sandoval has always been passionate about the environment – so much so, that he plans to make it his life’s work. The OTC alumnus dreams of landing a job at the Environmental Protection Agency someday, where he can enforce environmental law, enact conservation programs and educate the public on environmental issues.

“We have one planet, and I believe that we can – and should – take much better care of her,” Anthony said. “That is why I want to work for the EPA, so I can join other scientists and policy makers to enact change.”

This past year, Anthony earned an associate degree in biology with honors – a significant feat considering the challenges he overcame. In 2013, Anthony experienced a devastating brain injury. It took years of speech and physical therapy before he felt ready to enroll in college and pursue his dream.

While a student, Anthony maintained a 3.9 GPA and joined Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. But perhaps his most notable accomplishment at OTC involved his creation of the college’s first environmental club, the OTC Green Council.

“OTC needed an organization where students and faculty could come together to learn about conservation and environmental issues,” he said. “I wanted to create an outlet so we could go out and actually make a difference.”


In its first year, the OTC Green Council adopted a local stream, volunteered for several environmental agencies and hosted two public forums.

“When I think back on my experiences at OTC, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I am thankful for my phenomenal instructors who inspired me to be the best student and person I could be,” he said.

Anthony’s hard work at OTC paid off. In his last year at the college, he was recruited by some of the nation’s top universities including Stanford, Rice, Pitzer, Texas A&M and the University of Texas. Anthony decided to continue at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was one of 50 students selected for the university’s prestigious environmentalism program. He’s now one step closer to landing his dream job at the EPA.



# THINKING GREEN



**“When I think back on my experiences at OTC, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. I am thankful for my phenomenal instructors who inspired me to be the best person I could be.”**





# A LIFELONG CALLING

When an unexpected divorce left Amberly Vernatti a single mother to three children, she knew a career change was in order. Her retail job wasn't going to cut it anymore. She needed a new career, and fast.

Amberly is now a surgical technologist at CoxHealth in Springfield. She spends her days bringing babies into the world alongside OB-GYNs in the Labor and Delivery operating room. She says her new career allows her to provide for her family. More importantly, it fulfills a lifelong calling.

"When I was 9 years old, my mom let me take part in my sister's birth, so that got the bug going," Amberly explained. "And then, I became a mother myself, and it was the greatest experience of my life. I knew I wanted to be a part of that for others."

Amberly briefly attended college after high school, which meant she had earned most of her prerequisites by the time she decided to apply for OTC's Surgical Technology Program. Nine months later, she graduated with an associate degree. She also had a job waiting for her in Cox's Labor and Delivery Department.

"Surgical technologists are in high demand both locally and nationally, and that's another big reason I picked this field," Amberly said. "Pretty much all of my classmates had a job lined up several months prior to graduation."

OTC graduates approximately 20 surgical technology students each year. Nearly all of these students find employment in the field upon graduation, primarily at CoxHealth and Mercy hospitals. Amberly says the program prepared her for life on the job.

"I loved that it had extensive clinical requirements," she said. "I had to complete over 120 cases in the OR before I graduated. So that's where I really got to hone my skills."

In a typical work week, Amberly clocks three 12-hour days with three to six surgeries during each shift. She says Labor and Delivery surgeries are quite different from the other specialty surgeries at the hospital.

"Our patients are often awake throughout the entire process," she explained. "So in addition to assisting the surgeons with C-sections, I also comfort the patients and help relieve their anxiety during surgery."

When looking back on her journey through OTC's Surgical Technology Program, Amberly says it was everything she needed to get where she is today.

"I was looking for a degree that was accelerated, high-paying and in-demand. This program easily met all of those requirements," she said. "It helped me build a new life for my family. For that, I'm thankful."










RUNS

IN THE FAMILY



A blue diesel truck is parked in a workshop. In the foreground, a large red toolbox with multiple drawers is visible. The truck's side door is open, revealing the interior. The scene is brightly lit, likely by overhead workshop lights.

**“The blood, sweat and tears I put in now will make for a lifetime of enjoyment later. As a diesel technician, I’ll earn decent money and be able to give my family a comfortable life.”**

**M**ike Mize’s love of cars and trucks runs in the family. His father worked as a trucker and his grandfather was a fleet technician. A self-professed “shade-tree mechanic,” Mike spent much of his childhood fixing vehicles with his grandfather on the front lawn.

Today, Mike is a student in OTC’s Diesel Technology Program. The aspiring technician said he’s felt confident in his first semester, often taking on a leadership role in the lab.

“I’ve always been a take-charge-real-quick kind of person,” Mike explained. “And, since I’m pretty familiar with the concepts we’re learning, I enjoy helping my classmates hone their skills.”

Mike said the best part of being a diesel student is the college’s new MHC Diesel Technician Training Center. The 12,500-square-foot building opened in January 2019. The facility, now equipped with new truck bays and laboratories, nearly tripled the program’s learning space.

“The new lab is really cool,” Mike said excitedly. “Plus, it’s been great working with all the latest Snap-On tools – I’ve worked in shops with cheaper equipment, and it’s not nearly as fun.”

As a child, Mike was fascinated with mechanics. He took his toys apart so frequently, his dad hid all the screwdrivers and tools in the house. But Mike still credits his father with solidifying his future in the diesel industry. When Mike was just 13 years old, his dad brought home a ‘92 Chevrolet Silverado with a diesel engine. It was love at first sight.

“That truck is where it all began for me,” Mike said. “Right away, my dad had me replace the brake line on it. Ever since then, I knew diesel repair is what I wanted to do for a living.”

While Mike has always been mechanically inclined, his journey through school hasn’t always been easy. As a child, Mike was diagnosed with a range of learning disabilities including dyslexia. But Mike says his disabilities never limited him, they simply taught him the value of hard work.

“The blood, sweat and tears I put in now will make for a lifetime of enjoyment later,” he said earnestly. “As a diesel technician, I’ll earn decent money and be able to give my family a comfortable life.”

Mike’s dream is well within reach. According to the Missouri Department of Higher Education, diesel industry jobs are in demand and on the rise. The future looks bright for this former shade-tree mechanic.

*OTC and SRC leadership dedicate the SRC Diesel Remanufacturing Lab on the Springfield campus.*



## GROWING TALENT

For more than a decade, there has been a strong relationship between Springfield Remanufacturing Corporation (SRC) and Ozarks Technical Community College. SRC sends groups of their associates to OTC to pursue degrees in manufacturing technology. The company also invests in the college by supporting the foundation golf tournament and through various donations to OTC.

This mutually beneficial relationship flourished in 2019, when SRC put its name on the new SRC Diesel Remanufacturing Lab with a \$100,000 gift. SRC is forward-thinking in helping their current employees advance by investing in their education, but this latest donation is an effort to grow the size and quality of the current talent pool of potential employees.

"The competition for labor out there...the war for talent...is full blown," said Jack Stack, president and CEO of SRC. "We are excited to have these students graduate armed with the skills and education they need to go right to work."

Along with the new lab, OTC is also offering a new degree in remanufacturing. The program emphasizes instruction in diesel technology, preventative maintenance, industrial systems, blueprint reading and safety.

There should be no shortage of job opportunities for OTC's remanufacturing graduates – Springfield is the unofficial remanufacturing capital of the U.S. The metro area is home to eight remanufacturing companies, which account for around 2,500 jobs and nearly \$100 million in payroll annually.

"This is a labor intensive business. You're not going to see us have the most sophisticated robotics," Stack said. "We have come to the conclusion that after 41 years, our biggest challenge right now is people. We have job openings and no people to fill them."

Stack and his associates are counting the days until the first class of remanufacturing degree students graduate. They won't have to wait too long. Students are expected to be ready to work in 2021.



# FAMILY GIVING

In 2015, the Bussey, Cox and Lipscomb families donated a nearly eight-acre plot of land in Republic, Mo. to Ozarks Technical Community College. Thanks to their generous seven-figure gift, the college will open the OTC Republic Center in August.

"It was an easy decision for the family to donate that land to OTC," said Larry Lipscomb, family spokesperson. "Springfield wouldn't be growing if it weren't for the college."

The land had been pasture for more than 100 dairy cows that grazed at the Republic Holstein Dairy Farm beginning in the 1950s. Lester E. Cox, the businessman and philanthropist of CoxHealth renown, owned the land and partnered with

another family to operate the farm.

When asked what Lester E. Cox would think of his family's donation to OTC, Larry Lipscomb, his grandson, replied with a laugh, "First off, he would be concerned about the topsoil because he was a big topsoil guy. It takes years to make topsoil."

While the late Mr. Cox's beloved topsoil no longer grows grass to feed dairy cows, he can rest assured that his family's land donation will feed knowledge, creativity and critical thinking for years to come.

"I think he would be very proud that the land went to a college, especially a college like OTC that teaches trades," said Barry Cox, another of Lester E. Cox's grandchildren. "My grandfather owned

a Ford tractor training center, where Chesterfield Village now sits, and his facility taught dealers and their mechanics how to operate and maintain Ford tractors and all of the implements."

Set to open in August, the 30,000 square foot facility, named Bussey-Cox-Lipscomb Hall, will offer classes in mathematics, science, English and the social sciences – making a college education more accessible to students in southwest Springfield and in communities west of the city.

"I'll be proud of it forever," Lipscomb said. "I think the donation teaches our young people, the next generation, to give back and be philanthropic. I'm proud of that, too."



*The family's land donation will be the home for the all-new OTC Republic Center. Inset: Bussey, Cox and Lipscomb families.*

# DONOR HONOR ROLL

## 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.*

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*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, 2019 are included in this report. (\*Deceased)*

### **\$250,000 AND ABOVE**

The Sunderland Foundation

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# DONOR HONOR ROLL



*Ozzy the Eagle completes his first year at OTC and meets countless students along the way.*

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*Michael Pulley, Retired English Instructor*

## EMPLOYEE GIVING

*Michael Pulley found a way to impact OTC students long after his retirement. Thanks to earnings from his latest writing project, the former OTC English instructor endowed the Michael Pulley Scholarship Fund through the OTC Foundation. The scholarship will support current OTC students who plan to transfer to a four-year university to earn a bachelor's degree in English.*

*"I'm very happy to establish this fund through the OTC Foundation," he said. "It's something I didn't think I'd ever be able to do."*

*Michael was one of the first instructors hired by the college in the early '90s, and he taught for the next 26 years until his retirement in 2016. Besides his work at OTC, Michael wrote several novels, short stories and a memoir. He also contributed to a bi-monthly opinion column in the Springfield News-Leader.*

*During his first years teaching at the college, a local plant closed down, displacing hundreds of workers. Many of these individuals made the decision to continue their education at OTC. As a result, Michael quickly grew fond of the nontraditional students in his classes.*

*"I liked older students who needed to get their lives on track and knew that coming to college was a way to do that," he recalled. "They were very serious about their education, and that dedication had a lasting effect on me."*

*Michael credits his students' perseverance and grit for inspiring him to establish the scholarship fund. He hopes it will empower students to continue their education in English – the same subject that brought him a meaningful, rewarding career.*

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*Students celebrate Valentine's Day with a visit from Stella, the Ozark Mtn Flower Truck.*

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

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*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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J. Howard Fisk and the Sons of the  
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**IN MEMORY OF LARS ABERLE**

Autumn Porter

**IN MEMORY OF THEODORE J. "TED"  
ANDREWS**

Raylene Appleby

**IN MEMORY OF ROSEMARY ANNO**

Hal Higdon  
Rob Rector  
Matthew Simpson

**IN MEMORY OF EDWARD "ED" AUGER**

Kathryn Shade  
Cindy Vaillancourt

**IN MEMORY OF JIM AND JUANITA  
BARBER**

Rose Barber

**IN MEMORY OF JUDY KAY BERRY**

Sharon Day

**IN MEMORY OF KARRI BLANSIT**

David Appleby

**IN MEMORY OF JERRY LEE BROCKMAN**

Hal Higdon  
Stephanie Petersen  
Matthew Simpson

**IN MEMORY OF MATT BROWN**

Rob Rector

**IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM N.  
BUNSELMEYER**

John and Barbara Bunselmeyer  
Benjamin and Kim Garwitz  
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Johnstone Supply

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*Spring arrives on the OTC Springfield Campus.*

**IN MEMORY OF GALE HODGES PAPER**

Cindy Cummins  
Rima Freeman  
Olivia Kerwin  
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**IN MEMORY OF JAMES VANCE**

Sharon Day

**IN MEMORY OF JARRED WELCH**

Tim and Keena Burnet

# FOUNDATION REPORT

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](mailto:foundation@otc.edu).**

## 2019 SNAPSHOT

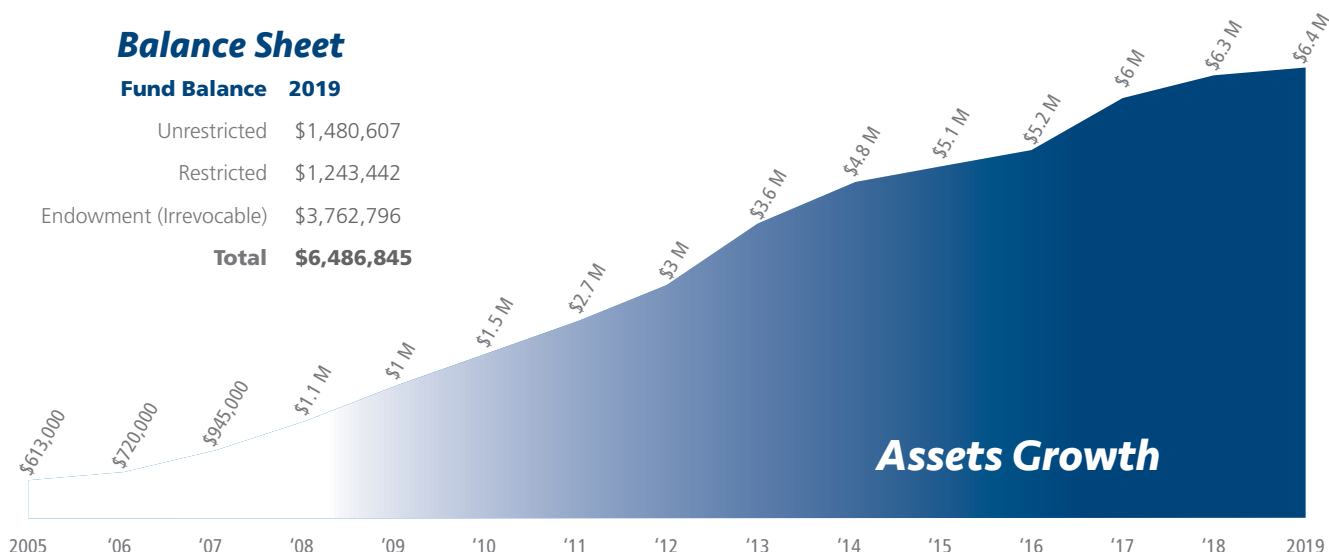


**= \$405,665**  
TO STUDENTS  
IN 2019

### Balance Sheet

#### Fund Balance 2019

Unrestricted	\$1,480,607
Restricted	\$1,243,442
Endowment (Irrevocable)	\$3,762,796
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,486,845</b>



**\$34,000**

IN PROCEEDS FROM  
2019 GOLF TOURNAMENT

**108**  
**STUDENTS**

Helped through the  
Student Emergency Fund

**\$54,557**  
Employees  
Contributed



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**“OTC is consistently striving to improve and adjust to meet the needs of the community. To me, that is the epitome of growth — evolving as an institution to help the most students achieve success.”**

***—Jennifer Kennally, Board Chair***



# 200,000

STUDENTS SERVED & GROWING

**OZARKS TECHNICAL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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