

**2023**  
ANNUAL  

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**REPORT**

THE  
*Community's*  
COLLEGE

**OZARKS TECHNICAL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



At OTC, there's no concept more important than

# Community.

What does that word mean to us? It goes much deeper than geography. It's a feeling we intentionally create on our campus, something our people can experience whether they are physically on campus or joining us online. Community is what happens when you build relationships and work toward a common goal. When you're in it together, community becomes one of your core values, and something that is critical for continued growth.

Since our founding in 1990, OTC has been able to point to our community — both on and off campus — as a driver of our success. It's fitting that the word has anchored our name from day one.

Whether you are a business partner interested in OTC's contributions to the region, an OTC graduate whose career path became clear thanks to your preparation here, or a person we see on our campus each day, thank you for the contributions you are making to our present and future.



## MESSAGE FROM THE

*Chancellor*

I am proud to be in my 18th year of leading the best community college system in the country. It is truly a badge of honor to be our community's college — an institution known for listening and responding to our region's needs. OTC is a blend of proactive and agile, operating in a way that allows us to be quick and confident in our decision-making. It is rare to be a force like that in higher education. But frankly, it is the best way to operate because it truly puts the students first.

As you will read in this annual report, the year 2023 was one of continued growth and progress. We broke ground on the Airframe and Powerplant Building in Springfield, a facility that will give our aviation maintenance students space to experience working with modern aircraft. We also announced the Alliance for Healthcare Education, an important partnership with CoxHealth, Missouri State University, and Springfield Public Schools that will provide health science students a smooth educational path from high school to a successful career. We received funding for the new Agriculture and Line Worker Building at the Richwood Valley Campus, and are opening a disc golf course for students and the community there. (The disc golf course was one of the many great ideas presented by employees at our Innovation Celebration).

We also made impressive progress this year with strategic planning. In August, we launched our plan for 2023-2028 —“Dream.Plan.Build.” This forward-thinking plan is focused on nine key areas — initiatives that will make OTC an even better place.

Progress like this occurs when people care, but it also takes the support of a great community. There's something special about organizations sparked by the efforts of the local community. The determination and grit it took to create OTC have become some of our best characteristics — a legacy we are proud to carry forward.

As we continue our growth into 2024, students remain the priority. Our focus should always be developing fully trained, well-educated citizens ready to contribute to society. For me, there is no greater purpose than to know we played such an important role in their lives, and no better way to give back to the community that made OTC what it is today.

Sincerely,

*Hal L. Higdon*

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

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# By the **NUMBERS**

## MEETING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

At Ozarks Technical Community College, we strive to meet our students' needs rather than make them adjust to the college's processes. For many of our students, class and homework are balanced with work and family obligations.

### Our students are busy.

By meeting our students where they are, OTC makes college accessible to more people and fosters an environment of success.



**60%**  
of OTC  
students  
work



**53%**  
of OTC students  
take at least one  
online course



**25%**  
of students  
are exclusively  
online



Thanks to OTC's breadth of online courses, even the busiest students have an opportunity to pursue the college's life-changing opportunities.

The college wants its students to thrive, so we offer wraparound services to help them with their coursework.

MORE THAN  
**6,000**



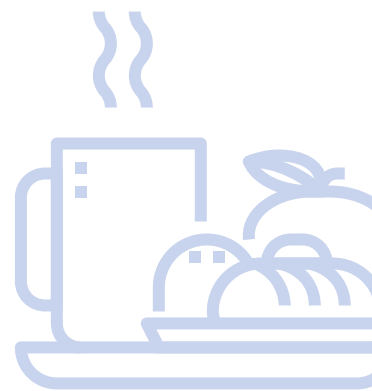
students visited various academic support centers on campus, including those focused on speech, writing and tutoring, and learning in the last academic year.

Meeting students where they are means addressing more than academics. Eagle Breakfast provides a free meal to any OTC student.

**3,948**

students ate  
Eagle Breakfast  
at least once

Those students completed their classes and had better grades than students who did not participate in Eagle Breakfast.



# Year IN REVIEW 2023



**JANUARY 24, 2023**  
**OTC receives grant, will launch plumbing program in 2024**

To meet the workforce needs of local plumbing companies, OTC will debut a plumbing program in 2024, pending HLC approval. OTC received a \$1.3 million grant from the Missouri Department of Economic Development for construction, equipment and scholarships.

**JANUARY 24, 2023**  
**OTC night at Missouri State**

At the annual OTC night at a Missouri State basketball game, OTC students and employees who braved a snowy evening in the Queen City were treated to a 63-59 Bears victory over Illinois-Chicago.

**FEBRUARY 12, 2023**  
**Ozzy celebrates Kansas City's Super Bowl victory**

Ozzy changed his blue shirt out for a Chiefs jersey to celebrate Kansas City's Super Bowl victory.





**FEBRUARY 25, 2023**  
**OTC graphic design students earn Addy Awards**

Students in OTC's Graphic Design Technology Program earned 25 medals at the 2023 Addy Awards. The event recognized the top advertising of 2022 for the Heartland Chapter of the American Advertising Federation. Overall, OTC students brought home six gold awards and 19 silver awards.

**MARCH 6, 2023**  
**Open Educational Resources save OTC students nearly \$1 million**

Since 2019, OTC has saved its students nearly \$1 million through Open Educational Resources (OER).

Open Educational Resources are no-cost teaching, learning and research materials. OER learning tools are either in the public domain or are released under an intellectual property license allowing their use.

In the spring 2023 semester, OER materials were used in more than 360 OTC course sections. More than 4,600 OTC students are enrolled in classes with zero textbook costs.

**FEBRUARY 22, 2023**  
**Great ideas were on display at the 2023 Innovation Celebration**

At the college's annual Innovation Celebration, OTC employees pitch their ideas to bolster student success. The best ideas earn funding to help make them a reality.



**FEBRUARY 23, 2023**  
**Handing out hardware for our regional SkillsUSA medalists**

More than 60 OTC students earned gold or silver medals in regional competitions to advance to the state SkillsUSA contest. Another dozen earned bronze medals.



**MARCH 24, 2023**

*Remembering*  
**OTC's first First Lady, Pat Myers**

The OTC community remembered Pat Myers, devoted wife of OTC President Emeritus Dr. Norman K. Myers, and a tremendous advocate for the college who died in March 2023.

Myers was a lifelong educator who spent more than 30 years expanding literacy and learning across the Ozarks. In retirement, Mrs. Myers continued to actively support OTC, including establishing the Effie Morrow Nobles scholarship in memory of her mother.

**MARCH 21, 2023**

## **Live Online expands opportunities for OTC students**

Dr. Trish White welcomes students to her calculus class at 10 a.m. on a Wednesday and dives right in with an equation.

The class is like any traditional math class, but only two students sit in front of White in the OTC classroom on the Richwood Valley campus. The rest of her students attend via videoconferencing technology from other OTC locations, some are in their homes, and one student appears to be in his car.

The calculus class is called a Live Online course, which students attend at a specific time of day, virtually or in person. Besides being convenient for students, Live Online courses aggregate enrollment across the OTC system, providing students with a wider variety of classes.

White, who also teaches mathematics online for OTC, says a traditional online math course is challenging because the students and instructor are never in the same “space” simultaneously.

“In an online course, you may be

lost and think you’re the only one who isn’t getting it,” White said. “In the Live Online course, just like a traditional in-person course, we’re all working on the problems together.”

White also notes that when the students get to know her and each other, they are more likely to reach out for help.

“We are human, social creatures. We learn better together,” White said.

OTC alumna Victoria Fink says she was more inclined to ask questions in her online classes with the “live meetup.”

Victoria’s first experience with Live Online was in the spring of 2020 when everything went online due to COVID-19. As the mother of five children in a blended family confined to their home due to the pandemic, she had to get creative when it was time for her calculus class.

“I would strategically time their naps for peace and quiet,” Victoria said. “Plus, if I had to run and pick



up a kid from school or take one to the doctor, I could still have the lecture pulled up on my phone and listen.”

Thanks to technology, students can attend classes from anywhere, and schools like OTC continue to innovate to offer students the best possible learning environment.

“Live Online has the potential to serve students who could not attend college due to childcare, lack of transportation or distance,” White said. “Live Online is a game-changer.”



**APRIL 5, 2023**

## **The Donor Reception brings together students and their benefactors**

OTC donors had the opportunity to meet the students who benefit from their donations at the annual Donor Reception.

For the 2023-24 school year, the Foundation provided nearly \$600,000 in scholarships to students.





### **APRIL 5, 2023** **Students get ready for commencement at the annual Grad Prep event**

There were lots of happy faces at the annual Grad Prep event at OTC's Plaster Manufacturing Center. The Class of 2023 picked up their regalia, received free OTC swag and created more memories to take on their journey as OTC alumni.



### **APRIL 13, 2023** **Ten OTC students honored by PTK**

Ten OTC students were honored at the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA) Student Leadership and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Awards Luncheon at Stephens College in Columbia.

The PTK All USA Team recognizes high-achieving two-year college students who demonstrate academic excellence, intellectual rigor, leadership and service that extends their education beyond the classroom to benefit society.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest international honor society for students at two-year colleges.



### **APRIL 3, 2023** **An ethics course for those who keep the electricity flowing**

In a recent State of the Student survey, 55% of undergraduate college students said they struggle to remain interested in their classes. The survey, conducted by the academic publishing company Wiley, found that a quarter of students said they would be more engaged if instructors could relate the material to their future careers.

When OTC Instructor MaryAnn Morris needed to develop a humanities class for the lineworker students at the Richwood Valley campus, she knew she had to take a unique approach to keep them engaged.

"These students spend their days outside, working with their hands and climbing poles," Morris said. "I knew I couldn't lecture about Plato and Aristotle and have them write papers. I needed a new approach."

Morris reconfigured a course called Introduction to Ethics, but informally, it's known as Ethics for Lineworkers.

OTC's lineworker students attend class two days a week back-to-back because many students drive from several hours away to attend classes. The two-day format minimizes their time away from family and work. The students spend their days learning how to keep the power grid running. They take the general education courses required for their associate degrees in the evening.

Morris was uniquely qualified to develop the class. The director of academics for the Richwood Valley campus is also an OTC philosophy instructor, and she previously worked as a college navigator, advising the lineworker students.

"I relied heavily on case studies, and all of these second-year students had completed their internships over the summer, so they had plenty of experience," Morris said. "I catered the case studies to ethical dilemmas they might face."

A lineworker might encounter a situation where a co-worker's lapse in safety and security could put the entire crew at risk. Morris's course examined how to handle that type of situation through an ethical lens. Much of the curriculum also focused on the characteristics that make a good leader. Morris emphasized critical thinking and being a good listener.

She also had each student write their own code of ethics. While the class focused on professional ethics, several students expressed that the subject matter affected their personal lives, too.

A few weeks into the class, one student told Morris, "This class is messing with my head. All weekend long, I kept asking myself — Does this match up with my values?"

During the final presentations, another student said, "I had no idea how much this would help me get along with my family."

Besides keeping her lineworker students engaged, creating a new way to teach ethics was a learning experience for the instructor.

"What good would it do if I lectured for two hours and they hated it?" Morris asked. "I only teach because I want my students to learn. I had fun developing a way to teach ethics to keep them engaged."



**APRIL 19, 2023**  
**More than 150 students earn their High School Equivalency diplomas**

In 2023, more than 150 students earned their High School Equivalency diplomas through the college's Adult Education and Literacy Department. Each graduate received a scholarship for a three-credit-hour college course at OTC.



**APRIL 21, 2023**  
**Spring picnics around the OTC system**

OTC students and employees enjoyed fun in the sun at the spring picnics.



**APRIL 21, 2023**  
**OTC provost earns PTK Distinguished Administrator Award**

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) honored OTC Provost Dr. Tracy McGrady with its Distinguished College Administrator Award. Dr. McGrady received the award during PTK Catalyst 2023 in Columbus, Ohio. Catalyst is PTK's annual convention.



**MAY 1, 2023**  
**OTC employees help students "Dress for Success"**

OTC students received free professional clothing through Career Services' "Dress for Success" event. OTC employees donated items for the students.



**MAY 2, 2023**  
**OTC's Second Annual Lineworker Rodeo**

The Lineworker Rodeo at the OTC Lebanon Center allowed Electrical Distribution Students from Lebanon and Richwood Valley to show off their skills.



**MAY 9, 2023**  
**OTC Esports completes its first full season of competition**

The 22-23 school year was the first full season of competition for the OTC Esports team. They competed in League of Legends, Super Smash Brothers, Rocket League, Valorant and Overwatch 2.



**MAY 17, 2023**  
**Middle College celebrates its 2023 graduates**

The OTC Middle College graduation saluted the achievements of 86 grads from seven school districts. On a night full of celebration at Springfield's Gillioz Theatre, 24 students also received their associate degrees.



**MAY 22, 2023**  
**OTC preschoolers graduate**

OTC's youngest graduates received their preschool diplomas from the Early Childhood Education Center before moving on to kindergarten.



**MAY 23, 2023**  
**OTC hosts homeschool open house**

More than 100 homeschool students and their families gathered at OTC's Plaster Manufacturing Center for the annual Homeschool Open House. The attendees enjoyed learning about student life, degree options and financial aid.



**JUNE 7, 2023**  
**OTC receives two grants from the Musgrave Foundation**

OTC received two grants from the Jeanette L. Musgrave Foundation totaling nearly \$86,000. The two grants benefited the college's nursery at Study Elementary and a student group focused on civic engagement.



**JUNE 24, 2023**  
**College families enjoy the second annual OTC Weekend at the Zoo**

Students and employees received free admission at the Dickerson Park Zoo for the zoo's third annual OTC Weekend at the Zoo. The college partners with the zoo on its eagle conservation exhibit.



**JUNE 27, 2023**  
**OTC receives Military Friendly designation for 23-24 school year**

Military Friendly®, an online information platform for military personnel returning to civilian life, designated OTC Military Friendly for the 2023-2024 academic year. OTC is one of only three community colleges in Missouri to receive the designation and the only community college in the state in the "large community college" classification.

**MAY 18, 2023**  
**OTC Commencement 2023**

More than 750 OTC graduates walked in the 2023 Commencement ceremony at Great Southern Bank Arena on the Missouri State University campus.

OTC conferred 2,243 degrees and certificates to graduates this year, including students who have completed or were pending completion of their coursework from the summer 2022 semester through the summer 2023 semester.

Missouri Governor Mike Parson delivered the commencement address to the OTC graduates.

2001 OTC Graduate Craig Dort was OTC's 2023 Distinguished Alumnus. Now, Dort works for Johnstone Supply — a wholesale dealer of heating, refrigeration, and air conditioning supplies. The ceremony featured 2023 OTC graduate Haydan Crall as the student speaker.

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



**JUNE 1, 2023**  
**Springfield Mayor praises PMC in his State of the City address**

At the 2023 State of the City address, Springfield Mayor Ken McClure

highlighted OTC's new Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing as a catalyst for economic growth.

Mayor McClure recognized two of the first graduates from programs located in the Plaster Manufacturing Center: Janie Dunkin and Solomon Council.

Chancellor Hal Higdon was also acknowledged. Dr. Higdon envisioned the PMC and what it would mean for the region years before a shovel went in the dirt to begin construction.



**JUNE 5, 2023**  
**Children's challenges lead mother to a career in respiratory care**

When Keisha Dean spoke to the hundreds of students and donors gathered at the OTC donor reception in April 2023, she discussed what her OTC education would mean for her family.

"I know there is a well-paved path of livelihood for my children and my husband because of what I have gained at OTC," Keisha said.

The following month, Keisha graduated with an associate degree in respiratory therapy. At 40, she was nearly twice the age of many of her fellow graduates. But those decades of experience are what ultimately led to her chosen career.

When Keisha graduated from high school in the small central Missouri town of Salisbury in 2001, she bounced between a few four-year colleges. She never settled on a major, but she met the man she would eventually marry while attending Southwest Missouri State University.

He is a lighting engineer for live music shows, and they ended up in the Music City of Nashville, Tennessee. At that point, Keisha found her calling and earned a bachelor's in social work at Middle Tennessee State University in 2010. She was pregnant with her oldest child when she graduated, but unfortunately, Keisha and her baby both became sick.

"She was born early and had some challenges," Keisha said. "I've been a stay-at-home mom ever since."

Keisha's other two children, a daughter and a son, were also born prematurely, and Keisha tended to their healthcare needs, which included respiratory illnesses.

With three children with medical needs, the Deans relocated back to Springfield to be near family who could help. When her youngest child started kindergarten, Keisha thought about returning to school.

"I had a lot of experience

in respiratory care," Keisha said. "I'd been through it three times with my children."

With a bachelor's degree, Keisha only had to complete a few prerequisite classes before starting OTC's respiratory therapy program in the summer of 2022. Despite all of the college education in her background, Keisha admits that the respiratory therapy program was challenging.

"These were the hardest classes I've ever taken in my life," Keisha said.

With her life experience and background caring for children with respiratory challenges, Keisha had an excellent bedside manner and a talent for communicating with patients, especially children.

"Keisha was able to balance motherhood with the nearly 900 hours of clinical and laboratory practicums required to graduate from the respiratory therapy program," said Brandon Burk, OTC program director for respiratory therapy. "Caring for her children instilled resilience in Keisha, and I know they were the primary motivation for earning her respiratory therapy degree."

**JULY 1, 2023**  
**Chancellor Higdon marks 17 years at OTC**

Hired in July 2006 to succeed the college's first president, Dr. Norman K. Myers, Dr. Hal Higdon is the longest-serving CEO of any public college in the state.





**JULY 17, 2023**

### In its second year, Eagle Breakfast serves more students

During the 2022-2023 school year, OTC's Eagle Breakfast program served over 800 more students than it did in the previous year. Program participants continued to achieve better grades and persist in their courses during the 22-23 school year. Eagle Breakfast is a no-cost meal for any OTC student at all college locations.

"The investment the college makes in Eagle Breakfast pays off in the success of our students," said Dr. Joan Barrett, OTC vice chancellor for student affairs. "Whether a student is food insecure or just too busy to eat before they rush out the door for an early class, Eagle Breakfast benefits everyone."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the college offered Eagle Breakfast as a pilot program at the Springfield campus throughout the spring 2021 semester. Eagle Breakfast was so successful and popular that the college expanded the program to all locations in the fall of 2021.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 3,948 students took advantage of

Eagle Breakfast, which was 802 more students than the previous year. Those students consumed over 43,000 meals — nearly 9,000 more than the 2021-22 school year.


Additionally, students who received Eagle Breakfast meals were more successful in the classroom than those who did not. For the 2022-2023 school year:

- 90% of Eagle Breakfast participants completed their classes compared to 83% of other OTC students.
- 82% of Eagle Breakfast participants

achieved a C or better in all their courses compared to 74% of other OTC students.

OTC has served Eagle Breakfast at all its locations for two years, providing 77,990 breakfasts to 6,444 students. Any student with an OTC identification is eligible to receive Eagle Breakfast items.

Eagle Breakfast is an example of the college's OTC Cares efforts, which strive to meet students' needs in and out of the classroom.



**During the 2022-2023 school year, 3,948 students took advantage of Eagle Breakfast**



**JULY 25, 2023**

### Dr. Ford earns spot on Esports board

OTC's Dr. Tiffany Ford was elected to the ten-person National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE) Board of Directors. Dr. Ford will serve a three-year term.



**AUGUST 1, 2023**

### Helping rural students succeed after graduation

Monett High School College and Career Advisor Samantha Towles was named rootEd Missouri's Advisor of the Year. The award recognizes exemplary efforts to help high school students in rural communities develop and achieve strong plans for life after graduation.

rootEd Missouri is a collaborative effort among national organization rootEd Alliance, OTC and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) designed to boost college and career outcomes for students in rural communities by placing dedicated advisors, called rootEd advisors, in rural high schools to provide students with college and career planning support.



**JULY 21, 2023**

## **OTC offers youth an opportunity to explore Advanced Manufacturing**

Michaela Foster looks out of place in the OTC welding lab. Well shy of five feet tall, her gloves, hood and welding jacket practically swallow her up. But she has plenty of time to grow into the protective equipment. The 12-year-old is only a seventh grader, but she's already welding.

"You take the welding torch and make slow circles, and it just fuses the metal," Michaela said in describing the welding process.

Michaela and 19 other 7th through 10th graders spent a week in mid-July on the OTC Springfield Campus attending the college's Explore Advanced Manufacturing Camp.

Besides welding, the students were introduced to computer-aided design, precision machining, electrical and other aspects of the manufacturing process. Due to its hands-on nature, welding was one of the camp attendees' most popular activities, and many showed a natural talent for wielding a torch.

"Welding was pretty cool," said camper Owen Plute. "I thought it looked hard at first, but after I got the hang of it, it was easier than I thought."

"Some of these kids are laying down

better welds than I've seen people get paid to do," said Hank Ryan, OTC welding instructor.

While learning about the manufacturing process, the students also created the parts of a stainless-steel, OTC-themed lamp they assembled and took home at the end of the camp.



**...the camps at OTC allow these kids to see if they're interested in a career in technology or manufacturing."**

**- Danelle Maxwell**  
*OTC Manufacturing  
Department Chair*

2023 marked the third year of the Explore Advanced Manufacturing Camp, which is funded, in part, by a grant from the Nuts, Bolts, and Thingamajigs Foundation and a sponsorship from Phenix Marble.

During the week of July 17, OTC debuted a brand new Explore Automation and Robotics camp for high schoolers. The week-long opportunity was free for the 19 participants thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation,

funding intended to increase awareness of automation and robotics careers for high school students.

"This first year went really well," said OTC Manufacturing Department Chair Danelle Maxwell. "The kids have had a great attitude and seemed to enjoy themselves."

The students even tried their hands at information technology infrastructure, which involved building cables, and they learned how to keep their data safe in the cybersecurity unit.

"It just showed us how easy it can be to hack someone's passwords," said Serenity Swinford, a senior from Clever. "Especially if you use the same password for everything."

While these young campers are years away from being ready to work in science, technology and engineering, the spark of interest lit during the camps may light a career fire for the students.

"To me, these camps are all about exposure," Maxwell said. "You don't know what you don't know, and the camps at OTC allow these kids to see if they're interested in a career in technology or manufacturing."

# SPOTLIGHT *Features*

AUGUST 16, 2023

## THE COLLEGE UNVEILS ITS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

OTC released its new Strategic Plan, “Dream.Plan. Build. 2023-2028,” at an employee kickoff event on Wed., Aug. 16. The new plan focuses on three commitments for the college: Student Success, Institutional Excellence and Local Communities. College leadership created the guiding document to establish OTC as a national leader among community colleges.

“OTC is committed to moving forward as an institution that is student-centered, data-informed, innovative, community-focused and driven by excellence,” Dr. Higdon told the gathering. “These values shape everything we do, and our new strategic plan is no exception.”

In developing the new blueprint for OTC’s future, the college sought feedback from stakeholders, including students, taxpayers and employees. OTC hosted engagement events across the college’s southwest Missouri service area throughout 2022.

An analysis of the data led to the strategic plan’s three fundamental commitments:

**Student Success:** The college will improve student outcomes by meeting student needs, enhancing

engagement opportunities and increasing accessibility.

**Institutional Excellence:** Through dedication to innovation and enhanced operations, OTC will support best practices in instruction to meet emerging academic needs and improve the student experience.

**Local Communities:** OTC will develop community partnerships to ensure the college offers accessible training opportunities in high-demand fields to meet southwest Missouri’s economic needs.

College task forces will support the implementation of “Dream.Plan.Build. 2023-2028”. The plan’s execution will be a collegewide effort focused on data analysis and frequent progress updates.

OTC plays a critical role in driving economic growth and educational opportunities in our region. The successful realization of the “Dream.Plan.Build. 2023-2028” initiative will result in sustained value for our students and communities, ensuring that their investment in the college, whether through attendance or support, yields significant dividends.





**AUGUST 29, 2023**

## **OTC JOINS ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHCARE EDUCATION**



The new Alliance for Healthcare Education is an unprecedented partnership between CoxHealth, Missouri State University, OTC and Springfield Public Schools. Leaders at these institutions recognize that by working together, they can achieve more than any one of them could alone.

When the partnership is fully realized, the Alliance will be the largest producer of health sciences professionals in the Midwest.

The joint announcement took place at Cox College, where the leaders of the four partnering institutions — Max Buetow, president and CEO of CoxHealth; Dr. Hal Higdon, chancellor of OTC; Dr. Grenita Lathan, superintendent of Springfield Public Schools; and Clif Smart, president of Missouri State University — came together to share the news.

“The Alliance for Healthcare Education will benefit an array of stakeholders — students, the healthcare sector and patients,” the leaders of the four institutions said in a joint statement. “This pioneering collaboration promises to improve access to training opportunities while maintaining affordability. By refining and simplifying these educational pathways, our community’s medical providers will have access to a larger pool of well-qualified professionals capable of fulfilling vital roles from administration to the operating room.

“Despite its composition as a consortium of educational institutions, the collective gains are far-reaching, for we will all inevitably engage with the health care profession at some point. This collaboration will enhance patient experience and outcomes, yielding mutual advantages for everyone involved.”

“Across the country, the health care sector is grappling with a notable workforce challenge, and our region is no exception. In southwest Missouri, we are uniquely positioned for collaboration with strong educational and health care professionals who are accustomed to working together.”

The creation of the Alliance will allow each institution to bring their strengths to more students than ever before.



The Alliance will inspire and prepare future health care experts by providing unsurpassed access to the highest quality interdisciplinary education and industry experiences. Students will achieve their full professional potential through seamless pathways that support them at every stage of their careers.

As part of the change, Cox College will be fully integrated into the Alliance. Current Cox College students will complete their programs. Pending approval of the Higher Learning Commission and other accrediting organizations, over time, Cox College will transition its bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral programs to MSU, and its associate programs to OTC.

Beginning in the fall of 2024, as many as 50 Springfield Public Schools students will enroll in a new healthcare pathway in OTC’s Middle College, which is part of the Alliance for Healthcare Education.

**AUGUST 3, 2023**

## **Army medic among the first to pursue a bachelor's degree at OTC**

Medic Daniel Bowles has seen his share of disturbing situations that would scare most people and make them queasy. During his first tour of duty in Afghanistan with a Cavalry unit, Daniel worked on his wounded comrades battling the Taliban. He also treated Afghan civilians caught in the crossfire.

Daniel was part of the inaugural class of students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy when the program debuted in January 2023. The degree pathway started following a multi-year process of permissions and accreditations as OTC and St. Louis Community College became the first two community colleges in the state approved to offer bachelor's degrees — both in respiratory therapy.

"I like the classes, and I've done well," Daniel said. "My 15 years in the Army have prepared me for the program."

Daniel brought some college credits and a career's worth of medical experience to OTC. He only had a few general education courses to complete besides his respiratory therapy classes.

"Daniel has proven to be an excellent student while still on active duty in the military," said Brandon Burk, OTC program director for respiratory therapy. "We thank him for his service to our country and are excited that he will be among the first students ever to earn a bachelor's degree here at OTC. His military training and leadership will serve him well in his future profession as a respiratory therapist."

The 33-year-old is still in the Army on a recruiting assignment in Springfield, where his wife is a nurse at a local hospital. Between school, his Army duties and six children, Daniel certainly has his hands full.



Daniel has five years left in the Army before he can retire, then he plans to become a full-time respiratory therapist where he can use his new skills and experience.

"When I think back on COVID, there's a real need for respiratory therapists," Daniel said. "What I like about respiratory therapy is that I can work anywhere in the hospital — intensive care, on the general floor or in the ER. Every part of the hospital can use my expertise."

**AUGUST 4, 2023**

## **Summer construction leads to a refreshed fall**

OTC's Lincoln Hall and Industry Transportation Technology Center both received remodels over the summer of 2023. Lincoln, constructed in 1931 to serve the African-American children of Springfield, received new finishes to reflect the Art Deco style of the era when it was built. The remodel also increased space for surgical technology and nursing.

When the Plaster Manufacturing Center opened in the fall of 2022, several programs moved into that new building, leaving space in the Industry Transportation Technology Center. With the added space, the technical education division was able to expand capacity in several programs. Most notably, welding added 36 welding stations.





**AUGUST 22, 2023**

**OTC receives nearly \$2 million in federal dollars for new Agriculture-Electricity building**

The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a \$1.7 million grant to OTC to construct a new workforce training facility on the Richwood Valley Campus. Additionally, the college received a \$2.5 million MoExcels grant. Less than 15% of the cost of the \$5 million facility will come from college funds.



**AUGUST 17, 2023**

**Ozzy turns five**

We celebrated Ozzy's fifth birthday in August!



**SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

**The 17th Annual Golf Tournament raises \$50K for students**

The 17th Annual OTC Foundation Golf Tournament saw 156 golfers hit the links at Hickory Hills Country Club. The event raised more than \$50,000 for student scholarships.



**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**  
**Mayoral proclamation for Table Rock**

Hollister Mayor Lamar Patton presented the OTC Table Rock Campus with a proclamation celebrating the beneficial impact OTC has bestowed upon the community throughout the past decade.

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

**Sock Stars**

OTC feet got a refresh with new Sock Star socks. Any OTC staff member, faculty or supporter can become a Sock Star by donating \$30 to the Student Emergency Fund.



**SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**  
**Student picnics bring the fun to the OTC system**

Student life took center stage at the end of September for the bi-annual student picnics. Each OTC location hosted free food and activities for students and the community.



**OCTOBER 2, 2023**  
**OTC announces Excellence in Education Award recipients**

OTC unveiled its 2023 Excellence in Education Award recipients on College Development Day. Dane Galloway received the Full-Time Instructor Award. The Adjunct Instructor Award went to Laura Harris. Bailey Lape received the Full-Time Staff Award. The Part-Time Staff Award went to Esteban Garces. Tara Hathcock earned the Excellence in Education Award for Administration.



Pictured from left to right: Tara Hathcock, Bailey Lape, Dane Galloway, Esteban Garces and Laura Harris.



**OCTOBER 5, 2023**  
**Rapid networking for manufacturing students**

On the eve of National Manufacturing Day, the Plaster Manufacturing Center hosted a networking event for students in the college's manufacturing programs, including precision machining, drafting and design, and robotics. The nearly two dozen employers in attendance met with small groups of students to tell them about their companies. Around 250 students took part in the event, and many received job offers that day.



**OCTOBER 12, 2023**  
**OTC Technical Education division hosts Explore OTC**

Around 1,000 sophomores from area high schools converged on the Springfield campus for Explore OTC, an event designed to introduce them to the college. Attendees learned about the Career Center and Middle College — programs that allow high school juniors and seniors to attend OTC and earn college credit while still in high school.



**OCTOBER 11, 2023**  
**Three students earn humanities awards**

The Community College Humanities Association honored three OTC students for their writing in the college's spring 2023 literary magazine "Go Anywhere: Time(s)." In the Central Division, Merry Barnett won for Best Short Story. Mackenzie Richardson won top honors for Best Creative Nonfiction, and Ameera Almahajeri took home third place in Best Poems.



**OCTOBER 13, 2023**  
**Students enjoy a Graveyard Smash**

The annual student Fall Ball took on a spooky theme in 2023. Nearly 200 hundred students attended the Graveyard Smash in the Plaster Manufacturing Center.



**OCTOBER 14, 2023**  
**Car and motorcycle show raises funds**

An OTC parking lot was full of 89 vintage and modern cars, trucks and motorcycles for the college's annual Car and Motorcycle Show. Proceeds from the event support students who attend the SkillsUSA competition for career and technical education.



**OCTOBER 21, 2023**  
**OTC Richwood Valley hosts run and fall festival**

The Richwood Valley campus hosted runners and chili lovers for a fall festival. The evening kicked off with a five-kilometer run to support scholarships for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Following the race, the Agriculture Program served up chili and s'mores around fire pits.



**OCTOBER 26, 2023**  
**Trunk or Treat draws the community to campus**

OTC's Trunk-or-Treat invited children from OTC's neighborhood to stop by the Springfield campus for goodies.



**OCTOBER 24, 2023**  
**PTK Induction Ceremony**

In a ceremony at the Gillioz Theatre, OTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, welcomed new students into its ranks.

**NOVEMBER 9, 2023**  
**OTC earned three awards at the MCCA Annual Convention**

OTC earned three awards at the Missouri Community College Association's (MCCA) Annual Convention; including OTC partner SRC and its CEO Jack Stack, the OTC Game Changer Grant Committee and rootEd advisor Nicole Thomas.



**NOVEMBER 16, 2023**  
**Fine Arts and Humanities presents "At Risk!"**

The college's Art, Design and Humanities Department staged its annual fall play. "At Risk!" is a hilarious murder mystery that takes place on a game show set.



**DECEMBER 1, 2023**  
**First Friday Art Walk**

OTC's Arts, Design and Humanities Department presented its fall student showcase for First Friday Art Walk in December.



**NOVEMBER 13, 2023**  
**OTC commemorates Veterans Day**

At the college's annual Veterans Day ceremony, the Sons of the American Revolution presented the colors, and OTC Trustee J. Howard Fisk presented the 2023 Outstanding Student Veteran Award to Army Medic Daniel Bowles. College employee Kaylyn Staats recalled her service in the Marine Corps, and in a moving tribute to veterans, the OTC Concert Choir sang patriotic songs, and OTC Instructor Philip Forrester played "Taps."

**DECEMBER 12, 2023**  
**OTC Choirs**

The OTC Choirs and Jazz Band celebrated the holidays at their winter concert at Drury University.



**DECEMBER 14, 2023**  
**OTC Foundation receives \$100,000**

The Jeanette L. Musgrave Foundation and Community Foundation of the Ozarks awarded the OTC Foundation with \$100,000 for the college's new Wingspan Initiative. Ten single parents will receive \$10,000 annual grants to help with living expenses while they attend OTC.



*(Amy Bacon, executive director of the OTC Foundation (center), receives the \$100,000 grant from Brian Fogle (left), outgoing president and CEO of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, and Danny Perches (right), grant-making committee member of the Jeannette L. Musgrave Foundation.)*

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Arica Timmons

Like many people who study healthcare later in life, their child's medical challenges can trigger an interest in the profession.

That is the case for Ozarks Technical Community College student Arica Timmons. When her son was born in 2007, he suffered a brachial plexus injury during delivery, which affected his ability to use his right arm. He had no feeling or movement in his right arm and required a nerve transplant at four months old.

"We had to go to St. Louis for surgeries and rehabilitation," Arica said. "That was when I first encountered an occupational therapy department. They taught me how to help stimulate the nerves in his arm to regain movement and feeling."

Seventeen years after that introduction to occupational therapy, Arica will graduate with her associate degree in occupational therapy assistant this May.

Arica came to OTC right out of Aurora High School in 2003 and attended for three semesters, but she had to leave school to go back and help out on her family farm.

"Sometimes I had three jobs at the same time," Arica said.

Then, not looking to enter healthcare, Arica applied for a job as a cook at a nursing home.

"They said, 'We need people to work on the floor,'" Arica said. "I told them I was not a certified nurse assistant (CNA), and they offered to train me."

It put her on a path to a healthcare career.

In 2006, Arica worked at the Mt. Vernon nursing home before switching to Mercy Home Care and Hospice in 2009, which had her traveling to homes

and facilities across southwest Missouri, offering clients nursing assistance. She found the work rewarding, but Arica needed to earn more to make ends meet.

"I often drove by the property in Republic and saw the sign that said OTC was coming to Republic. I was ecstatic," Arica said. "I found out my high school classmate James Ackerman was the Republic Center director, and he encouraged me to return to college."

"Like many adult learners, Arica lacked confidence in her ability to return to college," said Ackerman, who led the center from June 2020 to June 2022. "But I was a familiar face of support. The Republic center was close to Aurora, and OTC offered her scheduling flexibility to juggle work, family and college."

"Even through my self-doubt, I tried my best every day. I didn't just want a new career; I wanted to better myself, my community and my children's future. I'm

grateful for all the opportunities and encouragement from OTC and staff."

She never believed she would have been a college student once again. "This experience has taught me so much, including things about myself. I surprised myself."

"I went back to school because I was living paycheck to paycheck, and I wanted more for my kids," Arica said. "I've loved being an adult learner. You get the sense that things can change if you dream it, work hard enough and take advantage of opportunities. When life knocks you down, you must get back up and at least try. This is the legacy I hope to leave my children. Do your best and let God do the rest."



**Even through my self-doubt, I tried my best every day. I didn't just want a new career; I wanted to better myself, my community and my children's future. I'm grateful for all the opportunities and encouragement from OTC and staff."**





# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Ben Funderburk

When Lebanon-based manufacturer DT Engineering became the first tenant of the industry partner space inside the new Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing in the fall of 2022, it paid off almost immediately. The company found an experienced employee among the Ozarks Technical Community College students taking classes in the Plaster Manufacturing Center (PMC).

DT Engineering hired OTC student Ben Funderburk as a full-time automation technician just weeks after moving into the PMC.

Ben started his college career at a four-year university when he graduated from Ozark High School in 2017. Without a clear idea of what he wanted to study, he took a break after a semester and then decided to attend OTC to become an electrician. Before graduating, he landed a job at a local biopharmaceutical manufacturer.

"I built power and control systems, then I became interested in instrumentation," Ben said. "After getting a handle on that, I began looking at automation, which allows everything to work together."

A childhood friend helped foster Ben's curiosity about automation. The friend worked at an electrical supply company and allowed Ben to try things out in their automation training room.

"I felt like I was playing with really expensive toys," Ben said with a grin.

With a natural interest and knack for automation, Ben enrolled in the brand-new automation and robotics degree program at OTC in the fall of 2022.

DT Engineering moved into the industry-partner space a few months after the start of school and told instructors it was looking for someone to work at their operation in the PMC.

"Ben brought a lot of experience to the table," said Landon Vinson, OTC mechatronics instructor. "He was still working for his previous company, but DT Engineering made him an offer he couldn't refuse."

Now, Ben arrives at the PMC at 6 a.m. and works until 4 p.m. He clocks out for a few hours a day to attend class, just a few hundred feet from his workplace in the PMC.

Ben builds and tests automated pharmacies, which take orders, count pills and load medications into blister packs for customers. Besides the pharmaceutical equipment, Ben has also worked on equipment that installs truck beds for a local automotive accessory company. In addition, Ben worked on and installed a smart conveyor system for an egg company that pulls boxes off the line for inspection.

"When you start working with these devices and figure out what they are capable of, it really drives your curiosity," Ben said.

For a young man who started on a path for a bachelor's degree but quickly decided to go in a different direction, his education and career choices couldn't have been better.

"OTC has really worked out well for me," Ben said. "I feel fortunate. I was in the right place at the right time."

Ben plans to graduate in the spring of 2024 and continue his career at DT Engineering.



**OTC has really worked out well for me," Ben said. "I feel fortunate. I was in the right place at the right time."**



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Bryanna Shaffner

When Bryanna Shaffner enrolled in Ozarks Technical Community College's 20-week welding program in January 2019, she wasn't seeking a degree. The single mom needed a good job. Bryanna and her two young sons left Mississippi for Springfield to be closer to her family.

Before leaving Mississippi, a friend suggested Bryanna try her hand at welding.

"I just Googled, 'Welding schools near Springfield,'" Bryanna said. "And OTC was the first one that came up."

Hoping to get done quickly, Bryanna enrolled in the 20-week welding program. The 20-week welding course is an intense program where students can learn and get hands-on training to become a welder quickly. Students begin their days at 7 in the morning and are either welding or in the classroom until 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The 20-week welding classes are small, with a maximum of 14 students per session, and those small class sizes build camaraderie.

"By the end of the 20 weeks, we were all buddies," Bryanna said. "I still talk to several of the guys from my class."

Bryanna graduated from OTC in May 2019 and started working at Stainless Fabrication, Inc. that same month. Because of her OTC education, SFI offered her a spot in its apprenticeship program. After three years of on-the-job training, she was the first SFI apprentice to graduate with a certificate from the Department of Labor as a Master Welder.

"The 20-week welding program prepared me to feel confident when I walked into the job on my first day," Bryanna said.

She started building stainless steel tanks for the food and pharmaceutical industries on the day shift. Many of her male co-workers at SFI were long-time employees who had never worked with a female welder. From her first days on the job, she showed her co-workers she was willing to do hard things, from crawling in a tank, welding in a tight spot, to grinding a tank for 10 hours.

"I knew that to gain their respect, I had to prove myself," Bryanna said. "I asked for a transfer to the night shift for a position that would give me more responsibility and advancement."

Working from 6 in the evening until 4:30 in the morning comes with more pay and, for Bryanna, more opportunities for advancement and a chance to train new welders. In November of last year, she passed a certification test to become a Master Craftsman for SFI.

The night shift allows Bryanna to have breakfast with her young boys, take them to school, and attend programs and special events while other parents are at work.

According to the American Welding Society, only 5% of welders are female. Bryanna was SFI's first woman welder, and since her hiring, the company sought out and hired additional female fabricators.

Whether she intended to or not, Bryanna created a path for other females who want careers working with torches, sparks and fire.

"Before I was hired, SFI never had a female welder," Bryanna said. "Now we have five women welders. I'm proud I was the first."



**The 20-week welding program prepared me to feel confident when I walked into the job on my first day."**



## Alyssa Pritchard

When Alyssa Pritchard walked into classes for her first year at Washington University in St. Louis, it was not the first time she'd been a college student. In fact, the 18-year-old had already earned one college degree. Alyssa graduated from Ozarks Technical Community College in May 2023 with an associate degree and a certificate in drafting and design; at the same time, she graduated high school from OTC's Middle College.

"A few years ago, I never would have imagined I would be where I am right now," Alyssa said.

In the latest "U.S. News and World Report" list of Best Colleges, Washington University in St. Louis is ranked 24th. WashU's cost of attendance reflects its level of prestige. Without financial aid, the school's cost of attendance is more than \$80,000 a year.

Alyssa doesn't have to worry about paying for college thanks to a QuestBridge scholarship, which connects high-achieving, under-resourced high school students with some of the nation's top four-year universities. Students apply and rank which universities they would most like to attend.

"When I first applied for a QuestBridge scholarship, I was less concerned about where I went because I knew I couldn't afford to pay for college myself," Alyssa said.

Alyssa has overcome challenges most of her WashU classmates cannot imagine. At 16 years old, she experienced homelessness due to what she calls a "complicated relationship with her parents." She lived with a sibling for several months before a friend's family took her in.

A counselor at Logan-Rogersville High School encouraged Alyssa to attend the OTC Middle College, where she could study drafting and design. The Middle College allows juniors and seniors to attend OTC full-time while still in high school.

"Without drafting and the Middle College, I wouldn't have stayed in school," Alyssa said.

She stayed in school and then some, taking 20 credit hours during her final semester at OTC and working 30 hours a week at a restaurant.

That work ethic is paying off at WashU. During the fall semester, Alyssa had five classes, including calculus, college writing, art history and two architecture studio classes.

In the drafting and design program at OTC, Alyssa learned how to work with computer-aided design software. She mastered the craft and was equipped to start a career. To her surprise, she barely touched a computer in her architecture

classes at WashU.

"I'm designing things with paper and cardboard," Alyssa said. "We're even doing old-school drafting with pencils, drafting mats and t-squares. Creating physical models changes how I think about space and helps me pay attention to details."

Before attending WashU, Alyssa's only time in St. Louis was a brief one-day visit to the college after she was accepted. Now, this formerly homeless young woman from rural Missouri encounters the city daily through her coursework and in her free time.

"We were in Forest Park one day for my architecture class, and my art history class visited the St. Louis Art Museum. I even attended a hot air balloon festival," Alyssa said. "I am experiencing things I never thought I would experience. I feel like I'm living in a movie."



**A few years ago, I never would have imagined I would be where I am right now... Without drafting and the Middle College, I wouldn't have stayed in school."**



## Rick and Karen Hughlett



**B**efore Ozarks Technical Community College existed and before Rick and Karen Hughlett invested their time and treasure in the institution, OTC and the Hughletts were connected.

In the 1970s, Rick Hughlett attended the college's precursor Graff Area Vocational Technical Center, where he learned automotive technology while attending Parkview High School.

"Every day, I would come to pick up Rick from Graff," Karen Hughlett said. "Rick and his buddy would be waiting for their rides down by the bridge that goes over Jordan Creek."

Married at 17, Rick and Karen opened Rick's Automotive in 1980, just five years after graduating from high school.

"I knew college wasn't an option due to the cost," Rick said. "Graff gave a regular guy like me a chance to learn a skill, and it was up to me to make the most out of that skill."

Rick and Karen made the most out of their opportunity. More than 40 years later, Rick's Automotive has become one of Southwest Missouri's most recognized and trusted automotive service providers. Rick's Automotive now has 40 full-time employees who service more than 1,500 vehicles monthly, including hundreds of fleet vehicles for local organizations.

Not long after the college opened its doors in 1990, Rick became involved with OTC on the automotive technology advisory board. Later, the college asked the man from

humble beginnings who waited for his wife to pick him up after school to join the Foundation Board, where he would help guide OTC's fundraising efforts.

"I didn't think I was at that level," Rick said humbly. "But the other board members welcomed me with open arms."

Now retired, Rick stepped away from most of his board positions and even stopped attending his Rotary Club, but there was one organization he couldn't quit.

"After a year away, I told Karen, 'I've got to get back on the OTC Foundation Board,'" Rick said.

Those OTC roots run deep. Roy Lanham was the buddy who would wait with Rick for his ride after classes at Graff Vo Tech. Roy is about to retire from Rick's after working with his old friend for 34 years. Rick's top fleet technician is an OTC graduate. Several of Rick's employees still serve on the automotive technology advisory board. And many new Rick's Automotive technicians are OTC trained.

For the Hughletts, their giving is not only inspired by what OTC has done for them and their business but also for the community they call home.

"We continue to donate to OTC because we know that every dollar invested will come back many times over in keeping Southwest Missouri supplied with a professionally trained and skilled workforce," Rick said.

"Our gifts to OTC are donations from the heart," Karen said. "It is money we are happy to give."



## SMC Packaging Group



Springfield's SMC Packaging Group employs an ESOP or Employee Stock Ownership Plan. As employee-owners, every worker's motivations and interests align with the company's.

The idea that what is suitable for the individual is beneficial for everyone also permeates SMC Packaging's philanthropic philosophy. Ozarks Technical Community College has benefited from SMC's generosity through the years. SMC is proud to help the college, whether it helps their business or someone else.

"As communities grow and thrive, so does our business," said Kevin Ausburn, SMC Packaging chairman and CEO. "By helping OTC, we may be helping a student become

a great employee for another company that uses packaging and that helps the community prosper, which helps us."

Southern Missouri Containers (now SMC Packaging Group) was founded in Springfield in 1972 by Kevin's father, Ross, and his partner, Chuck Bachus. SMC Packaging makes corrugated containers, and it now has locations in Kansas City, Conway, Ark., and Tulsa, Okla., employing more than 500 employees in those three states.

From the beginning, SMC and OTC were partners. Even before the college existed, the company hired students who learned skills at OTC's precursor, Graff Area Vocational Technical Center.

OTC began offering classes in 1991 just as SMC Packaging approached its two-decade anniversary. As the company expanded, so did OTC's educational offerings.

"The expectations of our customers continued to grow, and we had to keep up the pace and efficiency," said Mark McNay, SMC senior vice president and general manager. "OTC's Workforce and Short Term Training Department helped us learn how to tighten things up and train our current employees on technological advancements."

With a decades-long relationship, it made perfect sense for SMC to be involved in developing OTC's new Robert W. Plaster Center for Advanced Manufacturing. Kevin served on the advisory committee for the PMC to help determine the vision for the state's first advanced manufacturing training center.

SMC was an enthusiastic partner when the college sought donors for the 120,000-square-foot facility. The Plaster Manufacturing Center opened in 2022, the same year SMC Packaging celebrated its 50th anniversary. Before anyone walks onto the PMC's manufacturing floor, they first walk through the SMC Packaging Gallery.

"We saw the Plaster Manufacturing Center as a good way to give to manufacturing in general and the community," Kevin said. "The PMC is a positive message that manufacturing is a growing industry in southwest Missouri."

# DONOR HONOR ROLL



# Thank You

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 Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2023 are included in this report.**

*\*Deceased*

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## EMPLOYEE GIVING HELPS STUDENTS

Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) stands out for its commitment to academic excellence and the dedication our employees show our students.

The Employee Giving initiative is a powerhouse for positive change. Over the years, OTC faculty and staff have contributed more than \$850,000 in student financial support.

This year, the OTC Foundation launched a new campaign — LEAGUE: Leaders Establishing Annual Gifts Underwriting Education. Launched in October, the LEAGUE Superfriends campaign garnered enthusiastic participation. Half of the college's 644 full-time employees pledged to contribute a portion of every paycheck in 2024. This represents an increase of almost \$30,000 compared to previous years.

What makes the Employee Giving initiative at OTC truly special is the culture of caring and collaboration it fosters. Their belief in the transformative power of education echoes throughout the college.

**OTC's employees are not just educators but truly Superfriends, heroic champions of student success.**



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# SCHOLARSHIPS

Charitable scholarships administered by the OTC Foundation impact the lives of hundreds of students each year. Some honor the philanthropy and memory of individuals, while others are funded by generous businesses, organizations and community members who want our students to succeed.

**This list represents newly established and active scholarships at OTC in 2023.**

3M Foundation Scholarship	Jackie and Matt McKinsey Memorial Scholarship	OTC Foundation General Scholarship
Ann Hartman Cobb Scholarship	Jarred Welch Memorial Scholarship	OTC Foundation Golf Tournament Scholarship
Anton "Tony" Mario Diullo Memorial Scholarship	Jennifer Wishon Memorial Scholarship	Ozarks Antique Auto Club Scholarship
Betty Thompson Memorial Scholarship	Jerre and Lloyd Edwards Memorial Scholarship	Parkcrest Dental Scholarship
Bob and Susan Beine Scholarship	Jim and Barbara Towery Scholarship	Pay It Forward Scholarship
Burrell Behavioral Health Scholarship	Jim E. Frank Memorial Scholarship	Pepsi Performance Scholarship
Carol Jones Memorial Scholarship	Joe and Betty Jo DeLong Memorial Scholarship	Ralph and Helen Ramsey Memorial Scholarship
Chancellor's Scholarship	Joe and Pat Jenkins Memorial Scholarship	Randy and Julie Humphrey Scholarship
Charles Parks "Chuck" Searce, Jr. Memorial Scholarship	John and Elizabeth Mole Memorial Scholarship	Reliable Springfield Automotive Scholarship
Charles T. Banta, Sr. Memorial Scholarship	John Lambert Memorial Scholarship	Richard Glenn Staats Memorial Scholarship
Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly Scholarship	Judge Russell Clark Memorial Scholarship	Rick and Karen Hughlett Scholarship
Christian County Elks Lodge 2777 Scholarship	Judy Breeding Accounting Scholarship	Robert and Frances Keever Trust Scholarship
Christian County Master Gardeners Scholarship	Lander James Johnston Memorial Scholarship	Roy W. Slusher Foundation Scholarship
CoxHealth Scholarship	Lee H. Cruse Charitable Trust Scholarship	Russell "Kelly" Campbell Memorial Scholarship
David James Moore Memorial Scholarship	Lelia Heuer Charitable Trust Foundation Scholarship	Sam F. and June S. Hamra Scholarship
Dean, Anna Mae, and David D. Lewis Memorial Scholarships	Linda Gingry-Clark Memorial Scholarship	Samuel Pinkley Memorial Scholarship
Dental Programs Scholarship	Linda Joyner Johns Memorial Scholarship	Scott's Scholarship
The Dr. Hal Higdon Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship	Linda Mae Bailey Memorial Scholarship	Sgt. Joseph M. Peters Memorial Scholarship
Dwight Chism Memorial Scholarship	Lineworker Scholarship	Shady Inn Scholarship
Edmund and Darlene Haun Scholarship	Lisa Reece Memorial Scholarship	Smith-Glynn-Callaway Health Sciences Scholarship
Effie Morrow Nobles Memorial Scholarship	Marine Corps League Detachment 993 Scholarship	Southwest Missouri Code Officials Scholarship
Enactus Scholarship	Marion Bissett Hoblit Scholarship	Staff Association Scholarship
Fine Arts Scholarship	Marti Speckman Memorial Scholarship	Strive Forward Scholarship for First-Generation College Students
Foundation Credit Union Scholarship	Mary M. Harrison Scholarship	Talbot Family Scholarship
Frances Collins Memorial Scholarship	Max and Fern DeForest Memorial Scholarship	The Paragon Fund Scholarship
Frank Shepard Study Abroad Memorial Scholarship	Michael F. Kavanaugh and Rosa Kavanaugh Davis Scholarship	Theodore J. "Ted" Andrews Memorial Scholarship
Fuller/Moody Family Scholarship	Michael Pulley Scholarship	TransLand Scholarship
Gene Haas Foundation Scholarship	Missouri Dental Assistants Association Scholarship	Trustees Scholarship
Gravelle & Harris Scholarship	Musgrave Foundation Scholarship	Turner Family Foundation Scholarship
Hartmann Foundation Construction Scholarship	Nancy Higdon Memorial Scholarship	Veterans Upward Bound Scholarship
Hulston Family Foundation Scholarship	Nina Myers Memorial Scholarship	William N. Bunselmeyer Memorial Scholarship
Hutchens Industries Scholarship	Norma A. Carolla Memorial Scholarship	Women Connect4Good - Suit Yourself Scholarship
Integrity Home Care and Hospice Scholarship	Nursing Scholarship	
J.E. (Ed) Jenkins Memorial Scholarship	OTC English Department Scholarship	
Jack Stack Scholarship		

# IN HONOR

# in Memory

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

**In memory of Meredith  
Blake Lenty Adams**

Jim and Debby Baugh

**In memory of Donna M. Amundson**

Wayne Hansen

**In memory of Linda Mae Bailey**

Howard Bailey

**In memory of Charles T. Banta, Sr.**

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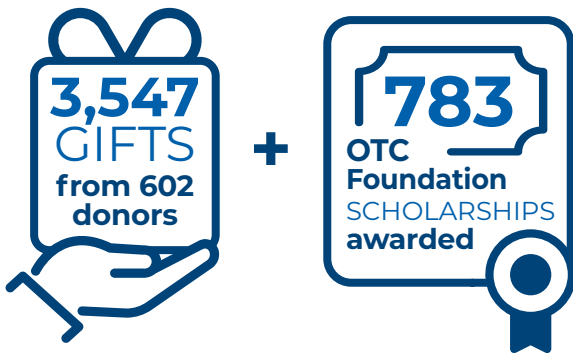
**In memory of Debby Westcott**

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# OTC 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.



**\$679,623**  
awarded to  
students



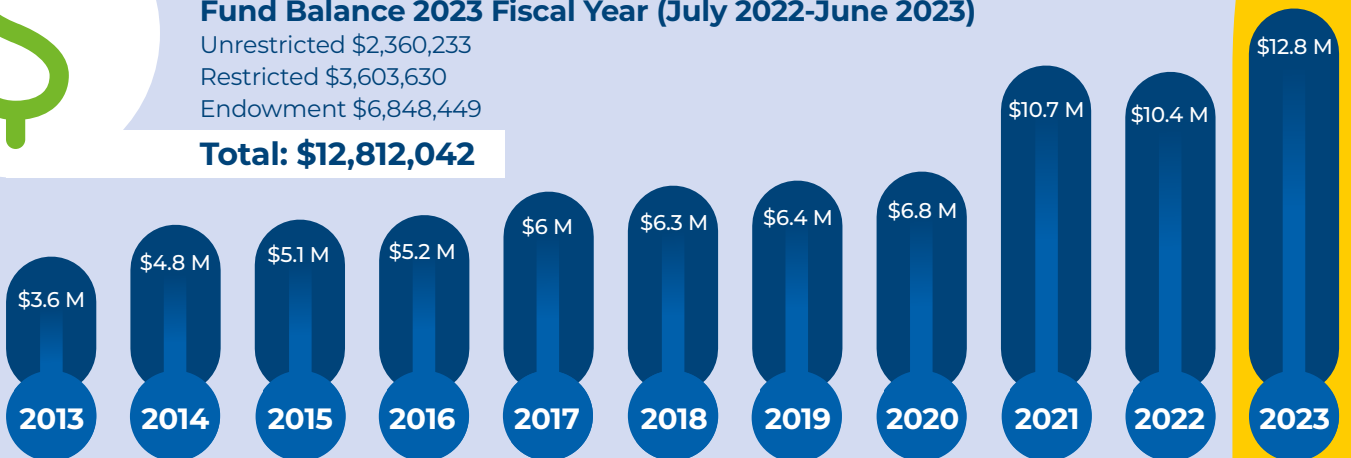
## 10 YEAR BALANCE SHEET



### Fund Balance 2023 Fiscal Year (July 2022-June 2023)

Unrestricted \$2,360,233  
Restricted \$3,603,630  
Endowment \$6,848,449

**Total: \$12,812,042**



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).



As an OTC graduate and the Chair of the OTC Board, I am proud to say that OTC is a part of the communities we serve. We educate the people of the Ozarks, we partner with area businesses and institutions, and we hire local people. **OTC is the community's college.**  
- Paul Sundy, OTC Board Chair.



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