



## **MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION A BETTER VALUE FOR OHIO'S STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS**

### *136th General Assembly Policy Agenda*

The OACC agenda addresses one question: ***“What policies and funding changes will make community colleges a better investment for Ohio students and employers?”***

Even though we already offer the best higher education value for Ohio students, community colleges want to enhance our ability to meet the state's current and future workforce needs. With ***easier enrollment, increased career-connected education and faster pathways***, more Ohioans can get the skills they need and into the career they seek with less time spent and little or no debt.

#### **EASIER STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

- Create a Direct Admission pilot, so high school students know their college options before they graduate, and can apply without having to track down their academic records.
- Further expand CCP flexibility so more students can participate in certain courses, even if they are not yet ready for college level English or math so that local capacity constraints can be addressed.
- Create a pilot program for community colleges and state agencies or increase need-based aid funding to help Ohioans on government assistance get on career pathways into the workforce.

#### **INCREASED CAREER-CONNECTED EDUCATION AND OPERATIONS**

- Increase funding for in-demand programming through the Talent Ready Grant & RAPIDS programs.
- Maintain SSI funding with current performance requirements, to continue to encourage community colleges to increase student success and credential completion.
- Allow community college trustees to raise tuition by no more than \$10 per credit hour in each year of the biennium, so they can keep up with inflation.
- Streamline duplicative regulatory reporting so community colleges can stay accountable and also devote more time to student success.

#### **FASTER PATHWAYS FROM COLLEGE TO CAREER**

- Create a pilot that better connects Ohio's secondary education providers and community colleges to create a faster pathway for students to complete an in-demand Associate Degree or credential.
- Fund grants for industry partnerships and community colleges to develop and align 1-year certificates in in-demand technologies and industries so students can get hired faster, and continue their education while being employed.

# THE TOP WORKFORCE PARTNER FOR OHIO EMPLOYERS

**1,000+**  
active partnerships  
with Ohio employers

## OHIO'S ECONOMY NEEDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION

TOP INDUSTRIES FOR MIDDLE-SKILLS JOBS IN OHIO BY 2030



**74%** of our students are **working while learning**... ... **half** of which are **working full-time** while learning.

# THE BEST HIGHER EDUCATION VALUE FOR OHIO STUDENTS

## OHIO COMMUNITY COLLEGES PROVIDE AFFORDABLE PATHWAYS TO CAREERS

**\$10,682**  
average tuition & fees to earn an associate degree in Ohio

**350,000+**  
associate degrees & certificates awarded in last 10 years

**85%**  
of our graduates stay in Ohio

**25**  
affordable 4-year degrees offered at Ohio community colleges

**NEARLY \$600M**  
saved in college tuition for Ohio high school students

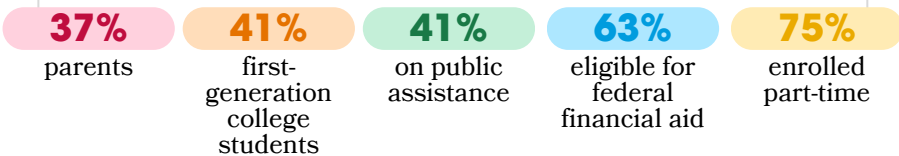
**60,000+**  
students enrolled in high school AND earning college credit

# WHO WE SERVE

**200,000+**  
**for-credit students** advancing their education each year

**40,000**  
**non-credit students** gaining skills for career growth

OHIO COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT



AMONG ALL OHIO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS



Data Sources include Lightcast, Ohio Department of Higher Education, and the Trellis Student Financial Wellness Survey. Last updated in December 2024.

