

Education fares well in Governor's annual address

In his fourth State of the State address, Gov. John Kasich placed high importance on learning initiatives in Ohio, specifically citing the move to postsecondary attainment.

"Governor Kasich's passion for lifting the lives of people, regardless of age, through purposeful and innovative education was most evident," said Dr. Kevin Boyd, President of Southern State Community College, who attended the annual event.

"It was music to my ears hearing his support for earlier career awareness among our middle school students, his challenge to prevent more students from opting out of school, and his belief that more high school students should have access to courses while in high school," said Dr. Boyd. He seemed particularly impassioned to help people who do not have a high school diploma attain that GED and continue on at a community college for additional credentials. Look forward to supporting these initiatives among our friends in the General Assembly."

Performance-Based Funding

Gov. Kasich praised community college and university presidents for working together on the initiative to move to a 100 percent performance-based funding formula.

"The presidents of Ohio's community colleges have worked diligently on this performance-based funding model for the past year, leading our nation's community colleges in this comprehensive outcome-based initiative," said Dr. Karen Rafinski, Interim President of the Ohio A T J T* [(i)-2(s)-1(s)-1(ue)4(of)3()]TJ (s)Tj 3.72 0 Td [(t)-2(ude)4(nt)-2()]TJ (s)Tj -

“Southern State Community College, along with colleges and universities across Ohio, has been promoting student success for years. This funding model is an important tool for making greater gains in this area,” said Dr. Boys. Credit Governor Kasich for transforming Ohio’s education funding model in such a progressive manner. He’s been clear about his goal to incentivize institutions to do more than simply enroll students. Dr. Boys is both pleased and honored to be included in the collaborative approach to build the model alongside a number of other college and university presidents. And even further appreciative to have our own Vice President of Academics, Dr. Ryan McCall, serve on the statewide implementation team through this work team that the model was brought to life and we can now begin seeing this results-based system in action.”

Workforce Development

Gov. Kasich proposed programs to support Ohio’s manufacturing workforce, particularly by expanding vocational education opportunities.

“Community colleges play an indispensable role in training future workforce,” said Dr. Boys. “Locally, Southern State provides both credit and non-credit training to thousands of future workers. We eagerly accept Governor Kasich’s charge to produce a highly trained and qualified workforce and prepare them not only for jobs today but also those in the future.”

ABLE-GED

Gov. Kasich proposed a new system in which two-year colleges will work with adults who need a high school diploma. The system will help to both assist adults in gaining that credential and to encourage them to attain more education and credentials.

“The on-campus delivery of Adult Basic Literacy and Education/GED programming offered at Southern State has long been a model for Ohio,” said Dr. Boys. “Initial access and seamless pathway to college has transformed lives since colleges inception in 1975.”

Southern State’s program has enrolled 19,450 people, ages 18-87, and served thousands more through GED practice tests and other services.

“Community colleges specialize in taking people from where they are to where they want to go,” said Rafinski. “We are pleased to learn of the pilot program and are grateful for the opportunity to further assist people who are trying to help themselves.”